

Spread the Story Competition

Who would you like to share a story with — and why?

Think about a story that matters to you.

Who would you choose to share it with?

How would you share it?



The Prizes!

First Prize (x1):

- £3k of inclusive books provided in consultation with the BookTrust books team and inclusive books expert, Sanchita Basu De Sarkar
- An in-person school visit by an author of colour, organized by BookTrust in consultation with your school
- A book to keep of the winner's choice
- 100 copies of the visiting author's books so that children can have a signed book to keep after the author visit

Runner up Prize (x2)

- A book to keep, chosen by each winner
- 100 inclusive books for each winner's school

Highly Commended Prize (x10):

- A book to keep, chosen by each winner

All winning entries will be published on the BookTrust website



Learning Objectives

- **Choose** a story you would like to share
- **Explain** who you would like to share it with and why
- **Think** about different ways stories can be shared
- **Plan** an entry using words, pictures, or both

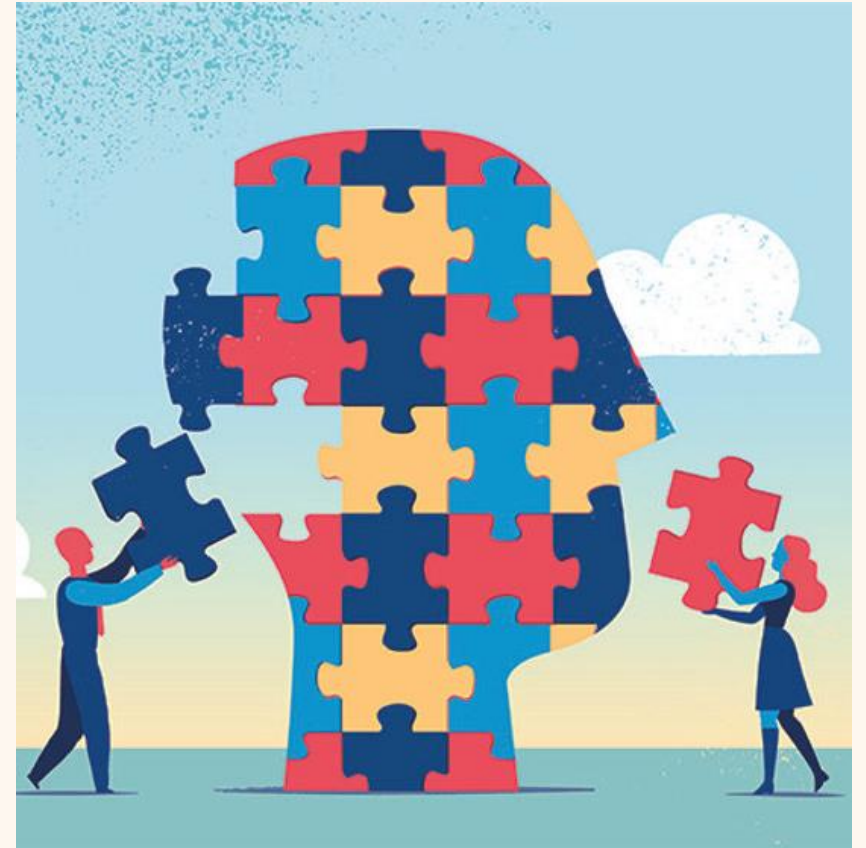
Key words:

connection

choice

audience

When we share a story, we are
making a **connection** with others by
sharing ideas, feelings, memories
and imagination.



Why do we share stories?

We might share a story because we want to:

Make someone laugh

Help someone feel understood

Spend time with someone we care about

Introduce someone to a favourite character

Talk about a big idea

Remember a special moment

Help someone see the world differently

Discussion question:

**Think of a time when
someone shared a story
with you.**

How did it make you feel?

Choosing your story

The story you choose could be:

A picture book

A chapter book

A graphic novel or comic

A poem

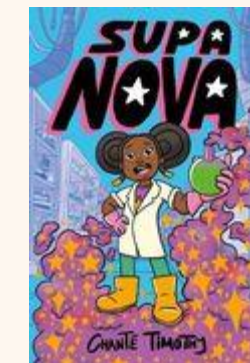
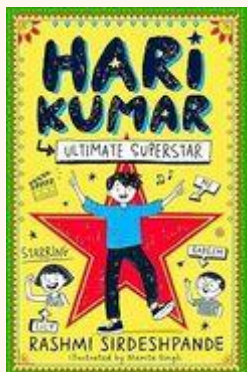
A traditional tale

A story from your family or community

A story you have made up yourself

A book you loved when you were younger

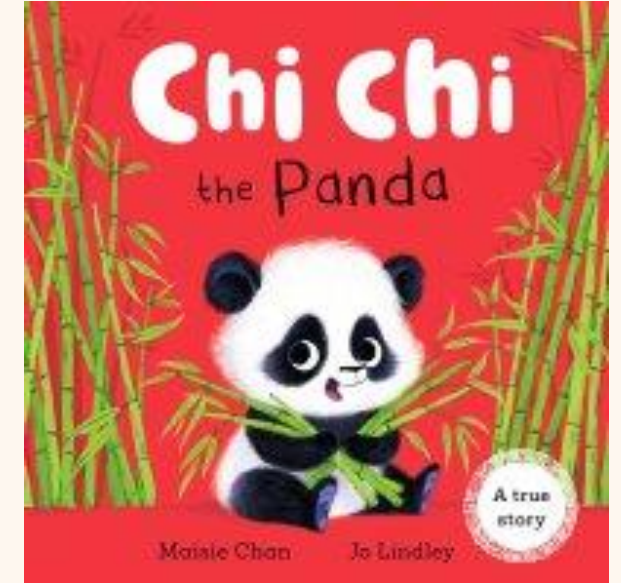
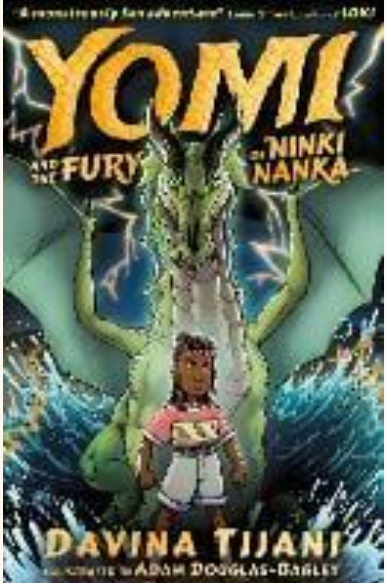
A story you think someone else would enjoy



What makes a story worth sharing?

A story might be worth sharing because it is:

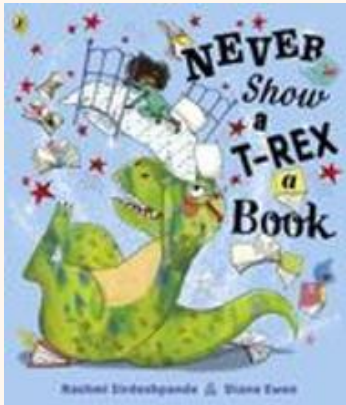
- Brilliantly illustrated
- A story that made you think or feel differently
- Full of interesting characters
- Linked to your life or memories
- About something important to you



Discussion question:

Think of three stories you know.

What makes each one special?



Complete this sentence:

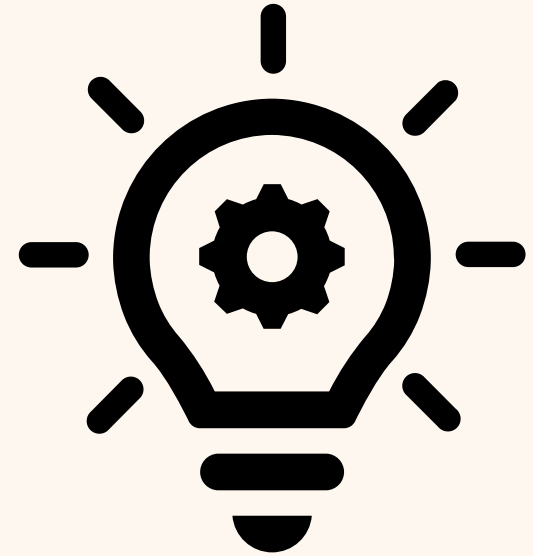
The book I would like to share is because

If you know the author and illustrator, you could add their names in too:

The book I would like to share is written by
and illustrated by because



When we choose a story to share,
we also need to make a **choice**
about *who* we want to share the
story with.



Who would you like to share a story with?

You could choose:

- A friend
- A family member
- A teacher
- Someone in your class
- Someone who lives far away
- A group of people
- Someone who you have never met in person

Think about:

Why this person?

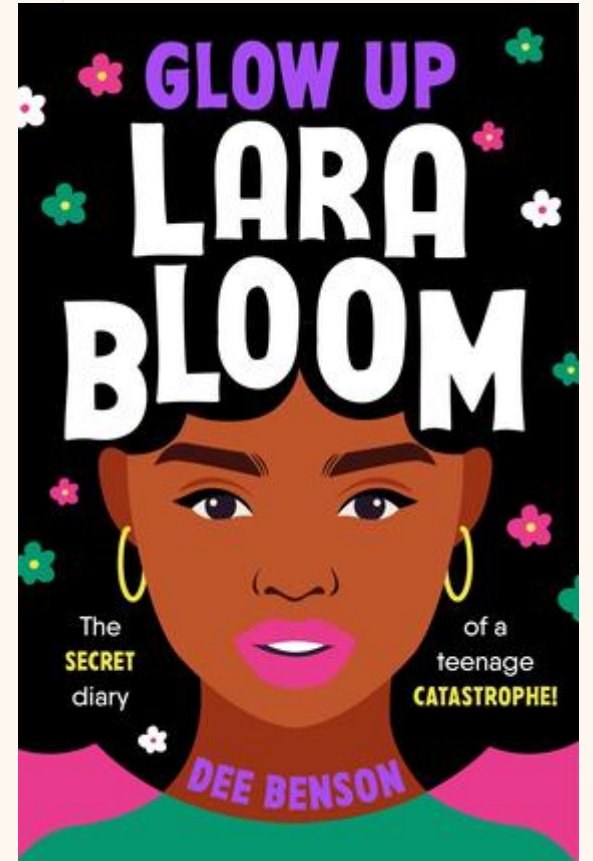
Why this story?

Why now?



You might want to share your story with someone because:

- You think they would enjoy it
- It reminds you of them
- You want to cheer them up
- You want to help them understand something
- You want to spend time together
- You both like similar stories
- You want to introduce them to a new kind of book
- The story connects to something you have shared together



Complete these sentences:

I would like to share this story with

I chose this person because

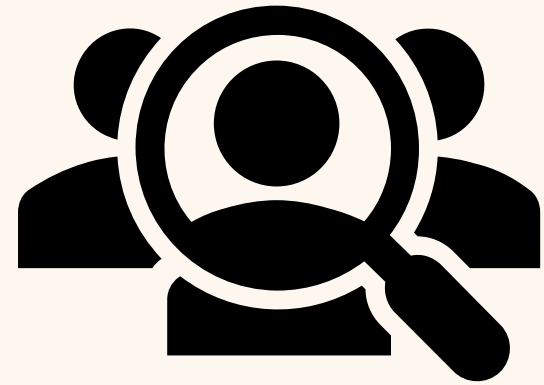
I think they would enjoy this story because

Extension:

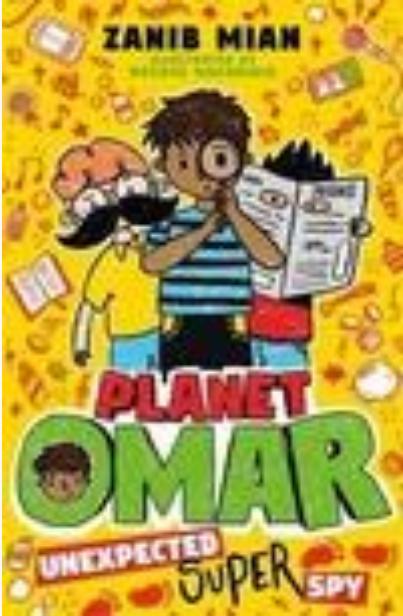
This story reminds me of them because



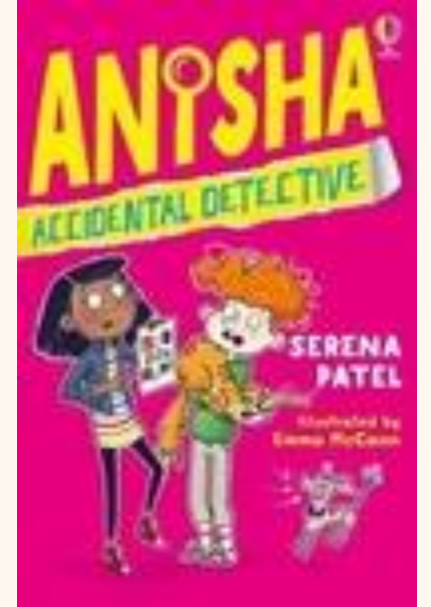
Thinking about the person you are sharing with – the **audience** - will help you come up with the best ideas about *how* to share the story.



How would you share the story?



There are lots of ways to share stories. Think about the person you have chosen and what would make the story special for them.



How would you share the story?

You could:

Read it aloud together

Tell the story in your own words

Show the pictures and talk about them

Act out part of the story

Draw a scene and explain it

Make a comic strip version

Record yourself reading it

Send it as a letter, postcard or recommendation

Discussion question:

Which way of sharing would make your chosen person most excited about discovering the story you want to share?

Complete these sentences:

I would share the story by.....

This would be a good way to share it because.....

I hope this story would make them feel.....



Developing your ideas

Before you write or draw your final entry, think about these questions:

- What happens in the story?
- What do you like about it?
- Why did you choose this story?
- Why did you choose this person?
- How do you hope they will feel when the story is shared with them?
- What would you talk about together afterwards?
- What makes your choice personal or meaningful?

You can answer using:

- Up to 350 words
- Pictures
- A mixture of words and pictures

You do not need to write a book review.

Focus your entry on your choices and explain them clearly.

Final checklist

Remember to include:

- The story you would like to share
- The person you would like to share with
- How you would share the story
- Why you made these choices
- Words, pictures, or both
- No more than 350 words, if writing

BookTrust Represents

Spread the Story

A worksheet template for 'Spread the Story' featuring a 2x3 grid of six rectangular boxes for drawing or writing.

BookTrust Represents

Spread the Story

A worksheet template for 'Spread the Story' featuring a large rectangular box for drawing or writing, followed by seven horizontal lines for text.

BookTrust Represents

Spread the Story

A worksheet template for 'Spread the Story' featuring a series of horizontal lines for writing.

BookTrust Represents

Spread the Story

A worksheet template for 'Spread the Story' featuring a large rectangular box for drawing or writing.

Read on to find out how some of our favourite authors would Spread the Story...



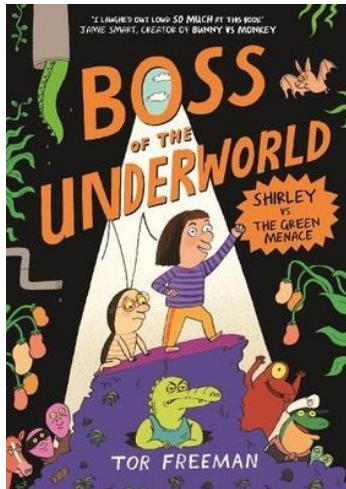


Spread the Story x Lui Sit

The book I would like to share is ***Boss of the Underworld: Shirley vs The Green Menace*** by Tor Freeman.

The person I would like to share it with is **my friend Caroline** who is scared of cockroaches like me. There is a friendly cockroach called George in this book and now I see them differently.

The way I would like to share this story is **dressing up myself and my friends as the characters in the story and communicating it through interpretive dance.**



Lui is the author of *Land of the Last Wildcat*, *The Wildcat and the Gathering Storm*, and *The Lucky House Detective Agency*



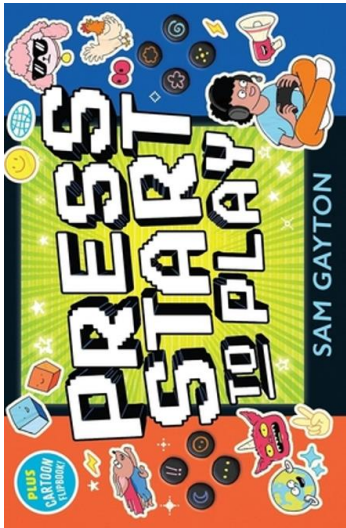
Spread the Story x Luan Goldie

The book I would like to share is ***Press Start to Play*** by Sam Gayton. It's a poetry book, but the poems are all based on games and set within the world of gamers.

The person I would like to share it with is **anyone who thinks poetry is dry!** Okay, some poetry is very dry, but Sam Gayton's poems are clever, funny and often interactive.

The way I would like to share this story is by starting off with the disclaimer that I'm not a gamer. Aside from the odd game of Mario Kart, I have very little to do with games, but I know loads of children are obsessed with gaming. This book is a great way to **get gamers reading, writing and 'playing' with poetry.**

Luan is the author of *Skylar and the K-pop Headteacher* and *Oops, I Kidnapped a Pharaoh!*





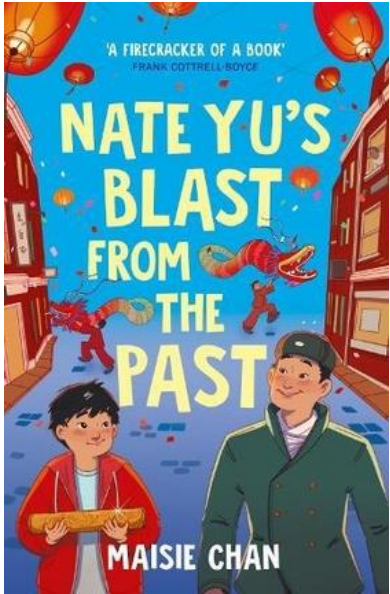
Spread the Story x Eric Huang

The book I would like to share is ***Nate Yu's Blast from the Past*** by Maisie Chan because it's a spooky mystery that's laugh-out-loud funny.

The person I would like to share it with is **my neighbour's son, Paul who loves all of these elements, including the Nintendo Switch, which Nate also loves.**

The way I would like to share this story is to **spend an hour being Nate, which would involve playing on the Switch, observing ants, and researching Chinese dragons.**

Eric is the author of the *Guardians of the New Moon* series.





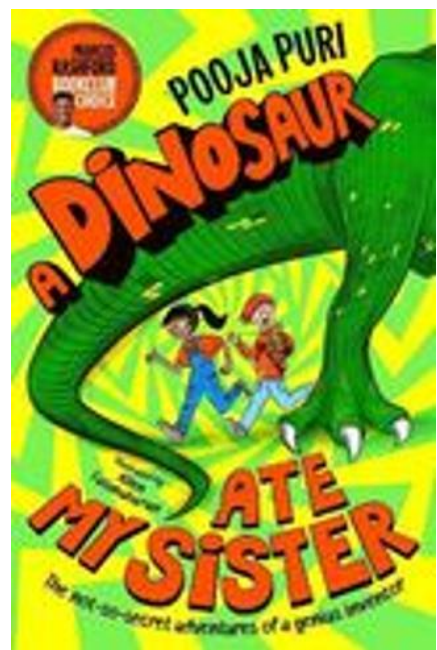
Spread the Story x Rashmi Sirdeshpande

The book I would like to share is ***A Dinosaur Ate My Sister*** by Pooja Puri and Allen Fatimaharan because it's fast-paced, funny and wildly inventive!

The person I would like to share it with is **my friend who loves funny books, illustrated books AND time travel stories (a triple hit)**. AND if they love it, there are two more books in the series.

The way I would like to share this story is by **designing and decorating a time machine with all the funky little buttons, levers and labels** (because surely EVERYONE needs to do this at least ONCE in their life, right?)

Rashmi is the author of picture books, poetry, fiction and factual books including the *Hari Kumar* series, *Amazing Asia*, *Super Uma*, *This Is Who I Am*, and *Never Show a T-Rex a Book*.



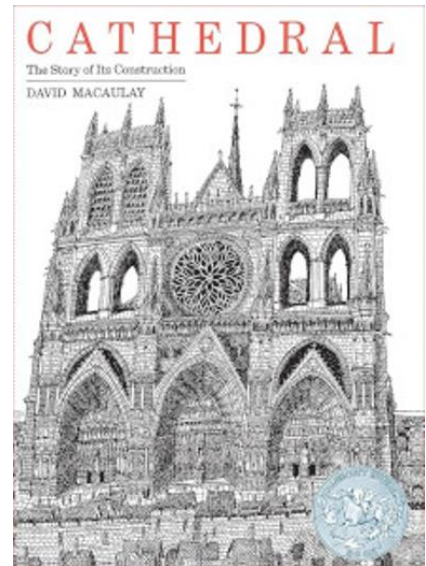


Spread the Story x Kengo Kurimoto

The book I would like to share is ***Cathedral*** by David MacAulay. It's about the building of a great cathedral during the Middle Ages and has spectacular drawings of its construction.

The person I would like to share it with is **my nephew Blaze. He loves architecture and his favourite building is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai; the tallest building in the world.**

The way I would like to share this story is **to climb 275 steps to the top of the tower at Yorkminster Cathedral, gazing down at the enormous ancient building. From there, we would open the book, and see how they built it, so long ago with such simple tools and only muscle power.**



Kengo is the author-illustrator of the graphic novel, *Wildful*.



Spread the Story x Maisie Chan

The book I would like to share is ***The Guardians of the New Moon*** by Eric Huang because it is a book that has adventure AND you also learn about Chinese mythology at the same time.

The person I would like to share it with is **my niece Jia-Mei because she loves animals (she has a dog and a cat) and the book is full of brilliant animals who speak!**



The way I would like to share this story is **I would dress up as one of the characters from the book (maybe Miaow the cat!) we could think about a 13th Zodiac animal together and draw it. Then we could create a comic about that animal and its superpowers.**

Maisie is the author of *Chi Chi the Panda*, *Nate Yu's Blast from the Past*, *Keep Dancing*, *Lizzie Chu*, *Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths*, and the *Tiger Warrior* series.



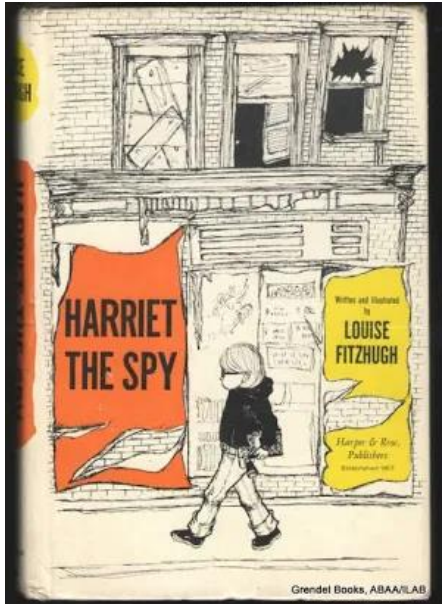
Spread the Story x Iqbal Hussain

The book I would like to share is ***Harriet the Spy***, by Louise Fitzhugh, because it's funny, clever and Harriet is the person who made me want to become a writer. She carries a notebook and makes notes on everyone and everything. She isn't always kind, but she's always true to herself. She made a big impression on me as a kid

The person I would like to share it with is **all of you who don't fit in, who feel different, or who sometimes wonder where you belong.**

The way I would like to share this story is **I'd give you a spy route to follow, just as Harriet does in the book. Along the way, you'd collect clues in your own notebook, and if you worked out the final destination, you'd discover the book waiting for you!**

Iqbal is the author of *The Night I Borrowed Time* and *The Day I Stole the Future*.





Spread the Story x Sharna Jackson

The book I would love to share is ***The Runaways*** by Ruth Thomas. That was my favourite book when I was growing up. It's an adventure story where two regular kids, Nathan and Julia, find a lot of money in an abandoned house. After trying to buy friends with sweets, they fear that the police are going to catch up with them, so they become...Runaways.

I'd share the Runaways with **anyone who's curious, is up for going on a little adventure, who wants to discover stories in the streets around them.**

We'd share this story in lots of ways – **we could look at maps of places we'd love to go to or go on a walk or bike ride. Maybe we could even share it on the ship I live on and go sailing as we read it.**

Sharna is the author of books including *The Street Art Mystery*, *The Nine Night Mystery*, *The Good Turn*, *Mic Drop*, *High Rise Mystery*, and *Black Artists Shaping the World*.



Important Dates

Competition opens: 7th September 2026

Deadline for entries: Midnight on Friday 23rd October 2026

Winners announced: January 2027



How to enter:

By email: send entries to Booktrust.Represents@booktrust.org.uk including 'Spread the Story Competition' in the email subject line

By post: send entries to Spread the Story Competition, BookTrust, 29 Clerkenwell Road, Farringdon, London, EC1M 5RN

Please include the name and age of each entrant but ensure no names/ages are visible on the entries themselves.

Note: Entries are restricted to a maximum of five entries per year group for each school.