

WEST BERKSHIRE MUSEUM

West Berkshire Museum short story competition 2020

Calling all young budding writers to get ready and get your #WriteOn!

This summer West Berkshire Museum are running an exciting short story competition for young people. It's a chance for young writers to create their own story inspired by eight very different museum objects (pictured below).

We have included some basic information about each object, but you can have fun finding out more about them. Your story can be a maximum of 500 words in length and of any genre, such as science fiction, mysteries and detective, or fairy tales and myths, to name but a few. Whatever the genre, the challenge is to include every object in the narrative – let your imagination run wild! If you're not certain how to start your story, please see the 'top tips for short story writing' factsheet.

There will be two categories: 7-11 years, and 12-16 years. One entry per writer.

Please submit your entry by email to clare.bromley@westberks.gov.uk including your name, age, title of your story, word count, and a contact email and/or telephone number of a parent/carer. Alternatively, you can drop in your entry at the museum reception desk (addressed to the Learning and Participation Officer).

The winning entries from each category and a few other select stories will be showcased in a special exhibition in Gallery 5 of West Berkshire Museum in September. All exhibited stories will receive a 50% discount on one item in the museum gift shop. The first prize and runner-up competition winners will be awarded one item from the West Berkshire Museum gift shop up to the value of £20. **The deadline for all entries is 4pm on Thursday 20th August 2020.**

Good luck budding writers! #SpinaYarn #MuseumStories #CuratingTales #YoungCurators

Terms and conditions:

The judges' decision is final. The unrestricted rights to publish, print and display any of the competition entries will be held and retained by West Berkshire Heritage.

First row from left to right:

Ancient Egyptian ushabti figure, about 3000 years old. They were usually placed in the tombs of the deceased. Where does this appear in your story?

Stag beetle brooch decorated with turquoise beads. Perhaps this a clue or hidden treasure?

Roman thumb pot, found in Thatcham, that contained a coin. It is thought it might have been used as a child's rattle. Perhaps you find evidence this is true?

Clockwork gramophone player manufactured by HMV in the late 1920s. The oak base has a drawer for storing records. Does one of its records play a secret message?

Small medieval casket key. What does this key unlock?

Second row from left to right:

A hand axe made from flint and dating from the early Stone Age. How will you use this tool in your story?

Half of a two-piece wooden mould, used for shaping butter. Do you use this item as it was intended or in a very different way?

Wood and metal ice skates that were put over top of shoes or boots, about 150 years old. How might these be useful to your story?

