

*So what is Ely 501?*

It's a story-writing competition for children up to the age of 14 living or going to school in the area

*So as long as I'm 14 or younger I can enter?*

Yes; some of our prize winners last year were just 6 years old!

*Ooh, prizes! What are the prizes?*

We divide the entries into three age groups: 7 and under, 8 to 10 and 11 to 14. The best stories will be printed in a specially commissioned book which will be available for anyone to buy. We'll give certificates and gift vouchers to those chosen for the book, and for each age group there will be a trophy winner as well

*Gift vouchers, brilliant! Where will I be able to use them?*

Ely 501 has been organised by Burrows Bookshop Ely and Mr Simms Ely; it's at those shops that you'd be able to use your vouchers

*What can my story be about? Anything?*

Absolutely anything

*Can I get help with my story?*

The idea for the story needs to be all your own work. But if you need help with spelling, for example, then we're sure your teachers or parents or carers will help

*Does it need to be written, or can I write it on my tablet, iPad or PC?*

You can write it however you want to! On the application form are details of how to send it in electronically

*Can I add pictures to my story?*

Yes. We love seeing pictures!

*Does it need to be a story or can I write it as a film or TV script?*

Whatever suits your style! It could even be a short graphic novel

*Can my story be less than 501 words?*

Gosh, yes. Some of the best stories are very short indeed

*Is my story title included in the number of words?*

Yes, but your name isn't.

*Can I partner with someone to write my story?*

Yes, why not. You can partner with a maximum of two other people if you'd like to

*Anything else I should know?*

Yes. The closing date is on the application form. It's Friday 30 March

*And when's the awards ceremony?*

That's going to take place on Saturday 7 July at 1.30pm at St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Ely. It should last no more than an hour

*Who's judging the stories?*

Our judges are the brilliant children's writers Julian Sedgwick and Mark Lowery. Maybe you've read their books!

*Where do I get an application form? I want to get writing now!*

Cool. Just ask at school, or pop into Burrows Bookshop or Mr Simms in Ely and they'll give you one And good luck! Let your imagination fly! We're really looking forward to reading your stories.

Burrows Bookshop Ely 01353 669 759  
Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe Ely 07914 789 868