



## The 17<sup>th</sup> Elbridge Literary Competition 2022

# ENIGMA

The disappearance of Agatha Christie, the Mona Lisa's smile, Banksy; These are some of the most famous, sometimes infamous, enigmas in history. Whether it's the Mary Celeste's missing crew, the Famous Five exploring a treasure island or the nasty thing lurking in Cold Comfort Farm's woodshed, mysteries have always fascinated us. For the 2022 Elbridge Literary Competition, The R C Sherriff Trust and Elbridge Borough Council are looking for your short stories and poems that unravel riddles, disentangle conundrums and resolve enigmas.

Following the success of 2021's 'Music', The Elbridge Literary Competition is once more open to national and international submissions. Run in partnership between The R C Sherriff Trust and Elbridge Borough Council, it is open to all ages.

Entry for adults is £5 with under 18s free.

Alongside the prizes for each age category The 2022 Competition includes The Elbridge Prize for the best story or poem in the adult category submitted by an Elbridge resident.

The Competition will once again run in partnership with publishers Sampson Low, who will publish the winning entries as a Chapbook. (Small and affordable forms of literature, Chapbooks historically were sold on the streets, and covered a range of subjects from fairy tales and ghost stories to news of politics, crime or disaster.)

For further details about Chapbooks visit:

[www.bl.uk/romantics-and-Victorians/articles/chapbooks](http://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-Victorians/articles/chapbooks)

**The closing date for entries in Monday 28 February 2022.**

Full details, terms and conditions are available at [www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk](http://www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk) and [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/culture](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/culture) or by contacting 01932 229996 or emailing [arts@rcsherrifftrust.org.uk](mailto:arts@rcsherrifftrust.org.uk) or [arts@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:arts@elmbridge.gov.uk)

## Terms and Conditions of Entry

Please read these carefully as some of the terms and conditions regarding lay out and submission have changed. Entries that DO NOT comply to the conditions set out below will not be accepted.

- Entry to the Elmbridge Literary Competition for adults is £5 with under 18s free. **Entry Fee:** Adult Entries, once submitted, the £5 entry fee should be paid via PayPal on the R C Sherriff Trust Website. Please ensure you use your name as reference. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to The R C Sherriff Trust.

### Age Categories:

- Ages 5 – 7; Little rhymes and stories.
- Ages 8 - 11 (Junior); Poems and short stories.
- Ages 11 (Secondary) - 13; Poems and short stories.
- Ages 14 - 18; Poems and short stories.
- Ages Adult; Poems and short stories.

A panel of professional authors, the Director of The RC Sherriff Trust and the Arts Development Officer for Elmbridge Borough Council will judge the entries.

### Submission Format:

- All entries must be typed, using **Arial font** and double-spaced on single sides of A4 paper. **Entries that do not adhere to these conditions will not be considered.**
- **Short stories** must be in English, previously unpublished and a maximum length of 1000 words (8-13 years) or 1500 words (14+). **Entries that do not adhere to these conditions will not be considered.**
- **Poems** must be in English, previously unpublished and a maximum length of 30 lines typed, using a standard, legible font, double-spaced on single sides of A4 paper. **Entries that do not adhere to these conditions will not be considered.**
- **Little Rhymes and Stories for the 5-7 years** group should be no longer than 20 lines (Rhymes) or 500 words (Stories) and can be hand written (but must be legible). Where possible we suggest a typed copy is attached. **The Judges will not consider any entries which they cannot read.**
- All entries **must** be accompanied by a cover sheet stating: age category being entered, the title of the story/poem, word/line count, author's name, age (if under 18), a postal address and daytime telephone number and email address. **This should be the first page of all entries and NOT on a separate sheet or embedded in an email.**
- A maximum of one story and one poem per person can be entered.
- Where possible please email your entry.
- Entries must be submitted as a Word Document or a PDF. **Please do not send scanned PDFs.**
- Email entries to [elmbridgelitcomp@outlook.com](mailto:elmbridgelitcomp@outlook.com)

- For posted or hand-delivered submissions, please provide **six** copies.
- Entries cannot be returned.
- The Judging Panel's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The closing date for entries is **Monday 28 February 2022 at 5pm. Entries received after this time and date will not be accepted.**
- Postal/hand-delivered entries to the RC Sherriff Trust, Office 25 CBS, 2nd Floor, Hersham Place Technology Park, Molesey Rd, Hersham, KT12 4RZ
- Please mark your envelope and email title '**ENIGMA**'.

#### Prizes:

- All prizes for Children's entries are in the form of book tokens. Entry to the Competition is free.
- 5-7 Year Olds:      1<sup>st</sup> £12      2<sup>nd</sup> £10      3<sup>rd</sup> £8
- 8-11 Year Olds:      1<sup>st</sup> £15      2<sup>nd</sup> £12      3<sup>rd</sup> £10
- 11-13 Year Olds:      1<sup>st</sup> £20      2<sup>nd</sup> £15      3<sup>rd</sup> £12
- 14-18 Year Olds:      1<sup>st</sup> £25      2<sup>nd</sup> £20      3<sup>rd</sup> £15
- All successful Adult entries are in the form of cash prizes.
- Entry to the Competition is £5. Payment can be made via the R C Sherriff Trust website: [www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk/competitions](http://www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk/competitions) (please ensure that the name by which you make the online payment is on your submission front page *if it differs from the name by which you have entered your short story or poem*) or by cheque made payable to 'The R C Sherriff Trust' and sent to: The RC Sherriff Trust, Hersham Technology Park, Sterling Suite, Molesey Rd, Hersham, KT12 4RZ (please ensure your name, the title of your short story/poem and age category in written on the reverse.)
- 19+ (Short Story):      1<sup>st</sup> £250      2<sup>nd</sup> £150      3<sup>rd</sup> £100
- 19+ (Poem):      1<sup>st</sup> £250      2<sup>nd</sup> £150      3<sup>rd</sup> £100
- **The Elmbridge Award**  
£50 Book Token  
Presented to the best adult short story or poem from an Elmbridge resident.

#### Winners: Short Story & Poetry Category:

The winning entries in each age group will have their work printed by Sampson Low as a Chapbook. (Chapbooks are A6 size (landscape or portrait orientation), 16 page (1x back cover, 1 x front cover, 14 x inner pages), full colour, ISBN, in plastic sleeve.)

100 copies printed per winning entry.

20 copies to Sampson Low (6 to send to deposit libraries - British Library, Oxford, Cambridge, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. 14 to recoup ISBN costs, plastic sleeve costs etc.)

**60 copies to the author**  
**10 for The RC Sherriff Trust**  
**10 for Elmbridge Borough Council**

- The winning, highly-commended and commended entries will be showcased online on the RC Sherriff and Elmbridge Borough Council websites.
- A Celebration of the Competition, featuring prize-giving and readings of winning and highly-commended entries, to which winning, highly-commended & commended writers and their guests will be invited, will take place in April 2022.
- There is a **£10** charge if you would like to receive written feedback from the judges, **£25** if you would like a full written critique of your piece by one of the professional authors. (Payment must be made in advance via PayPal on the R C Sherriff website. Cheques must be made payable to The RC Sherriff Trust.)