



Winning, Highly Commended &
Commended
Entries

5-7 Age Category

The 17th Elmbridge 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 Elmbridge Literary Competition, The R C Sherriff Trust and Elmbridge Borough Council were looking for short stories and poems that unravel riddles, disentangle conundrums and resolve enigmas.

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

2005:	Cook Up A Story
2006:	On My Way
2007:	A Life In Colour
2008:	Once Upon A Time
2009:	A Symphony of Life
2010:	The Elmbridge 100
2011:	Breaking The Barrier
2012:	A Dickens of A Christmas
2013:	One Act Radio Play
2014:	Dear Diary
2015:	Flights of Fantasy
2016:	Love
2017:	Luck
2018:	A Shiver Down The Spine/Things That Go Bump In The Night
2019/20:	New World
2021:	Music

1st Place Story: The Adventures of Addward

Joshua Allen

“Edward, time to wake up” called Edward’s mum.

“Coming mum” Edward said

“Well hurry up then, you’re going to be late for school, come down and have your breakfast.”

“What is it today?”

“Today we are going to have a quick meal of a slice of toast and jam.”

Hi, I’m Edward and I have a very uninteresting life, usually. My favourite subject at school is maths and my least favourite is English. It hurts my hand all the time when I write but I love maths because I know my times tables very well and I like being able to help my friends when they are stuck on it.

I used to have a normal life until something very strange happened, let me tell you.

One day I was going to school on my bike with my friends, when we got there the teacher said we were late and it was already time for English. I groaned, grrr.

After English, we had science and break and then it was time for maths, which is where all the fun happened.

I was doing my normal maths and was just finishing the last question, which was work out five vortexes, plus five vortexes. I put in the answer which was 10 vortexes and all of a sudden, the pages turned into a real vortex and sucked me into the textbook.

Chapter 2 Mathville

I was transported into the maths book to an enigmatic world where I saw a sign saying Mathville. I met a few mysterious villagers who were friendly and let me stay in their house for the night. They told me about the overlord called Denominate-er who was trying to delete all maths from the universe and was trying to escape the maths books to destroy earth entirely. If that happens, half the world would go to the humans and half to Denominate-er which would destroy half of the worlds food and water supply. This would kill all humans as they would not have enough resources and they would start feasting on each other.

I said I would help and they asked me what my name was. They couldn’t pronounce Edward so they called me Addward instead.

Chapter 3 The Maths People

Let me introduce you to Add, Subtract and Time each one with a unique power. Add could double things, Subtract could halve things and Time could rewind and fast-forward time.

We went to Denominate-er's layer and set traps. Add, added force to move Denominate-er onto Subtractor's trap and Time froze him on these traps. Subtractor's trap halved his power until he had no power left.

Chapter 4 The Return

I had to then say my goodbyes and set off to the real world. When I got back no one knew I had gone, as Time had stopped time, as if nothing had happened. No one knew how close they were to the Earth and humans being destroyed, forever.

THE END

1st Place Poem: Nym Dim, Ryoun Dim
Vendantika Chakraborty

Do you know the most mysterious thing in the world?
The thing that can't be sensed, it's so curled,
The thing which is nowhere, but is in everywhere,
The thing which can be here, and then may disappear.

Do you know the most enigmatic thing you ever see?
What is that which decides to be or not to be!
Its BFF is the brain, and so is its sworn enemy,
It makes us all what we are, a human being.

Do you get it? You may be right.
It's the one thing which turns us bright,
And when everything is dark, it acts like a light
You can term it as magic, if you might.

Here's another clue, though it's meaningless
But it's for you, so you can finally guess.
When it's mine, it's known as 'nym dim'
When it's yours, it's called 'rouyn dim'.

Now you must have gotten the wind,
That my poem is all about our mind.
You can't even see it, it's so small,
But surely it's the most enigmatic among all.

2nd Place Story: The Real Banksy

Eva McAnelly

The mystery of Banksy is all unknown but will now be revealed, all of the paintings they did were very clever and talented, most of them signed "Banksy", who is it? What is it? Where did they come from? Young, old? Boy, girl? Woman, man? We don't know, until now, but the true story is that Banksy was really a mythical creature living on Fraymodormia, a moon in the Andromeda galaxy, long before the galaxy was even discovered. He is actually a 300 year old boy (which is actually quite young for a Fraymodormian, in fact only 9 years old on Earth) He does his graffiti's as messages to home, to warn about something or tell them somethings good. Banksy got to Earth by using the wings on his shoulders and brought NO air with him because he doesn't breathe air. When he got to Earth the first painting he did was a red balloon, it was painted on the Crystal Palace before it was burnt down. Banksy may have set it on fire as he had left one of his spray cans open near a radiator in the women's cloakroom where the fire started, where he was hiding from anyone who may have seen him.

But just as he was about to leave, one of the women spotted him sneaking towards the door and in shock he finally reveals his secret powers deep within and turns her into stone. She now stands in the British museum today. He flew all the way to America using his wings, where he painted a poster on someone's house. It was a fine picture but then since it was midnight he couldn't find his way home! So Banksy had no choice but to break in and steal a torch, so he got inside, checked for a torch and guess what.....there was no torch! He wanted to leave as little evidence as possible, so no-one would suspect he was in their house, but rushing around, he accidentally left all of the drawers, cabinets and doors open! Plus to make things worse he dropped a torch in the house that was hiding in his pocket all along! He got home, but got caught by the police and sent to jail. He got out again in 5 years, and wanted to go back to Fraymodormia. He did one last painting to show people that he was coming home. He then flew back to Fraymodormia and was never seen again. But since the paintings are still being done today, you're probably wondering, who is doing all of the paintings, well, ever since Banksy went home, his brother who was also called Banksy, came to Earth and he does all of the paintings now. The Real Banksy is now a decorator on Fraymodormia.

2nd Place Poem: I Wonder Why
Conifer Green

I wonder why I've never seen a unicorn

Is it because

Unicorns didn't want us to see them

So they put a spell on our eyes

So we can't see them now?

I wonder why I've never seen a unicorn

Is it because

Humans used to see them

But an evil penguin was so mad

That he put a spell on the unicorns

To be invisible forever?

I wonder why I've never seen a unicorn

Is it because

A giant locked all of them up

So the humans couldn't see them ever again

And all of the humans

were sad forever?

Highly Commended: I Wonder Why

Adel Uzum

I wonder why the sky is blue
Is it because an owl of sapphire
Dropped his magical feathers
And covered the sky
In ultramarine dust.

Highly Commended: The Forest of Mythical Creatures

Hadassah Krishniah-Davies

Once there was a little girl. She was in school learning about myths. And her name was Rana. "Oh my, I need to bring facts about myths." So she ran home and studied myths.

She went to her new computer. It was magic but she didn't know. "Aaaahhhhhhhhh.... Ummmmmmmmmmmmmmmm this IS kind of fun. Oh, I am in a wormhole." It was spinning and bouncing and fast. It was musical and very unusual for a wormhole. It felt soft and smelt like candy floss.

She had seen a worm hole but not in real life. "So this is what it is like in a wormhole." She wondered where the wormhole was taking her. The wormhole talked and said "I am taking you to a forest called the Forest of Mythical Creatures."

But when she got there, no one was there. Someone said something but they mumbled. So she followed the sound but it moved too much. "Huff, huff, puff, puff." She had brought some milk and she splashed it at the sound. And she discovered it was the Cragon. And then the Cragon said, "I will fly away to get more milk for you to drink." As he flew away, Rana said "Oh well, well, what is that creature?" When it came back, she asked and the Cragon said "Well, I am a Cragon. As you can see, I am a crocodile and a dragon."

Then she saw a very flashy thing. It looked like gold. It was the Merbird's tail. And then the Merbird's beak and head splashed out of the water and she said "My, my, what kind of myth are you?" And Rana replied "I am not a myth; I am a person." And then they saw something pink and fluffy. It was the Rose Lamb. And then they saw something very weird. It was the Bume, half bunny and half human.

Then Rana discovered something very nice looking and the Cragon said it was the magical blossom. Every summer, everyone gathers around it. All the myths. If they are myths. And then she saw something else which was a huge bumble bee that was sucking all the nectar from all the flowers on the magical blossom. That was the only bee that was in the Forest of Mythical Creatures.

Rana said "I want to live here forever and ever." Then Rana found a daisy. And Merbird said "Not any kind of daisy but a magic myth daisy!" The Merbird was there before everyone else and knew a lot about the myth forest. Rana went to touch the myth daisy and turned into a

mermaid! Whenever a human comes near a magic myth daisy, it glows and makes them a flower princess or a flower prince or a mermaid princess or a merman prince. It was magical and it made Rana a mythical creature.

Commended: The Nightmare Before Christmas

Zara Milton

On a dark eerie evening Santa was getting ready for Christmas Eve. Meanwhile the elves were polishing Santa's sleigh. The elves arms were tired and weak because they hurt from wrapping presents. The next day was Christmas Eve and when the elves had finished polishing the sleigh Santa and Ella (which is Santa's favourite helper) were ready to set off. Just one more present said Ella which they put into the sleigh and set off into the night sky feeling really excited.

Santa was whizzing through the sky ready to make his first delivery but he didn't know that he had forgotten his phone so couldn't keep the elves updated. Unfortunately, when they delivered the first present, he got stuck up the chimney!!! This was a terrible disaster! How can he deliver the presents? What can Santa do? Just then, the elves realised that Santa and Ella weren't moving as they checked the Santa track and wondered what could be wrong? Could Santa have been caught because someone thought he was a thief? No that surely couldn't be possible! They felt terrified because Santa had never ever stopped before, what had happened?

Soon the elves thought of a plan, they could use their old sleigh and fly it with Santa's retired reindeer to where Santa was. When they were ready, they set off hurriedly. One minute later they came to the house where Santa was stuck. They pushed Santa out of the chimney with a giant heave and all of the elves shouted yippee!!! Santa was finally free, now in a rush they delivered all of the presents! Yay, Christmas was saved for all the children in the world.

Commended: Dog, Cat and The Worst Witch
Aarya Devasher

In the nice cosy house laid the ginger cat, he slept on a soft and fluffy mat.
In his warm bed in the loft he carved a mould, because stripey Mr Soft does not like the cold.
Dreaming of the local steam train, he would rather be sleeping than in the heavy rain.

On that cold wintery day in the forest was running a dog, he was scared and he stopped to sit on a rough log.
The chocolate brown dog was running from a mysterious witch, when she spoke she cackled in a high pitch.
But the wicked witch was very old, and the small puppy dog felt brave and bold.

Clever dog remembered his friendship and ran to Mr Soft, to escape the nasty witch they hiked up the steep steps of cat's house, up to the dark loft.
Jumping dog told Mr Soft what he saw, Mr Soft got scared and slammed the loft door.
They both couldn't decide on a plan and had a fight, and then they fell asleep forgetting to say good night.

Tossing and turning all night long, scared cat and dog decided to sing a cheerful song.
Would they be gentle with the horrible witch or would they be rough, they decided this mission was not going to be tough.
They heard her climbing the stairs and quickly thought of how to beat the unkind witch, but when they finally saw her suddenly she disappeared with a flick of the light switch.

Commended: I Wonder Why

Rhys Hobbs

I wonder why stars twinkle?

Is it because

An alien was juggling with sparkles

Then he spilt them.

I wonder why stars twinkle?

Is it because a silver rocket

Flew up into space

And instead of fire

It sprayed out sparkles.

Commended: I Wonder Why

Jayden Giles

I wonder why there is no water on the moon,

Is it because there isn't taps on the moon,

I wonder why there is no oxygen on the moon

Is it because there is no air on the moon,

I wonder why there is no internet on the moon,

Is it because there are no plug sockets on the moon.

Commended: Who

Iris Gowland

Who howls at the moon
Only at midnight
Mysterious dark fur
Using their sense for food
As loud as an elephant
Sneaks like a spy
As fluffy as a feather
Straight black leaf flashes
Through the frosty white snow
Scary hunter
Wolf!

Commended: Who
Cooper Foreman

Who climbs in the trees
As slow as could be
Sleeps all day
Tan brown
Eats all day
Slow on land
Fast in water
Hangs around
Lives in rainforest
In America
Its claws are sharp
Its fluffy one side
One side is hard
They can hang on one claw
Tan brown sloth

Commended: The Mystery of The Magical Children
Alexa Thompson

Once there were seven children in Surrey. The children were called Isla, Sophia, Joe, Ian, Scarlett, Liam and Alara. Isla was the youngest and Alara was the oldest. Ian and Scarlett were twins. They were all sisters and brothers.

One summer's morning with lots of nature sounds in the garden, the children woke up and stretched their arms. A flash of powers flew out of each of their arms. The children were shocked as they did not know how that happened. Isla fainted and Alara started running around the bedroom with all her power flashing around her, lighting up the whole room.

The five others flew into the room. Scarlett said "What is going on here?" Nobody knew how this happened. They were all confused. Suddenly Isla had a thought to herself which she didn't say out loud, so as not to scare the others. "I wonder if it was the lightning flash I saw last night out of my bedroom window?" Isla was quite sure it must have been a magic thunderbolt that had struck all the children whilst they were sleeping and gave them super powers. Ian got bored of the flashing and wanted breakfast. "I'm hungry" he said. Ian was always hungry even when they had just eaten. This new super power wasn't going to get in the way of his breakfast.

The children kept their super power a secret from their parents and all day they kept their arms down so as not to be discovered.

There was a robber in the neighbourhood and one of the children heard a scream coming from house number five. Sophia with her super vision saw a robber climbing the ivy. She was the only one who saw the crime. Sophia had a plan. Her, Isla, Joe and Ian would slip out of the window. Joe could fly up with Sophia on his back. Sophia will point where the robber is to Isla while Ian covers Isla with his invisibility blanket.

Then Isla would walk forward and try to freeze the robber. Sophia went to tell Joe, Ian and Isla what her plan was.

The others thought it was an amazing idea and they all agreed to do it.

Then the plan went into action. It all went well until when Isla got to the part where she had to freeze the robber with the invisibility blanket, the invisibility blanket fell off her back, and the robber saw her and started running away.

Isla had to chase after the robber, until Joe flew down and put Isla on his back and flew after the robber together but what the children didn't know it was Santa. His sleigh broke down and that is why he was climbing the ivy to the chimney. The bad thing was, Isla had already frozen him before she noticed it was Santa.

Isla put him near a fire and he warmed up, melted, and the children would never forget how they saw Santa.

THE END

The R C Sherriff Trust is an independent charitable trust, established through the terms of the Will of playwright, R C Sherriff. It has been promoting and developing the arts in the Borough of Elmbridge, for 25 years. Further details about the Trust can be found at www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk

Elmbridge Borough Council's Arts Development seeks to increase opportunities for people to engage in the arts, culture and heritage of our Borough, either individually or through partnerships, such as those with the R.C. Sherriff Trust that make Elmbridge Primary Schools Festival possible. With the aim of engaging residents, Elmbridge Borough Council's Art Development supports arts organisations and presents arts-based activities that improve the physical and mental health of people who live and work in Elmbridge.

