



Hungry Writers Wanted

And we need you to find them.

Write It, a national food writing competition run by the Guild of Food Writers and in partnership with Pink Lady® apples, is open again for 2019.

The competition rewards children and young adults with a flair for creative writing and we want you to get involved to help us find 2019's **Young Food Writer of the Year**.

The theme for 2019 is Food for Sharing and we'd love you to inspire the next generation of writers by hosting your own writing workshop for children in your local area.

Don't forget the closing date is 30th April 2019.

This guide includes information on:

- 1** How to approach your local school /library/organisation
- 2** Available resources for when you secure a talk
- 3** Details of Prizes
- 4** 2018 winners and quotes
- 5** Writing Tips



THE GUILD OF FOOD WRITERS
WRITE IT
young food writer of the year
In Partnership with Pink Lady®



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How to approach your local school/organisation

- Select your school and give them a call (number should be on the website) and ask for the school secretary.
- Introduce yourself as a local author who would like to talk to the children (from writing age up to 18 yrs) about a national writing competition – Young Food Writer of The Year. The competition links into their literacy curriculum or any food education.
- Offer to do a short talk (10 – 15 mins) in their school assembly or in the classroom (perhaps literacy)
- There are prizes for the school including £150 worth of cooking equipment and prizes for the winning children.
- Be sure to emphasise how easy it is to enter! (If it helps, have a look at 'how to enter' on the Pink Lady® website pinkladyapples.co.uk/competitions/write-it-2019 so you can say this with confidence!)
- Mention the closing date is 30th April 2019
- It would also be good to mention if you have a current DBS (Basic disclosure check). Previously known as a CRB.
- You may need to follow this up with an email.
- **Please note all entries must be submitted through pinkladyapples.co.uk/competitions/write-it-2019**

How to approach your local library or organisation/ groups such as Scouts and Girl Guides

- Best approach is to go into the library (or group). Explain you are a local author who is helping to publicise a national writing competition for children.
- Could they put up a poster about the competition?
- Have they got any events in their calendar aimed at children where you could be included so you can talk to the audience about how to enter?
- Obviously, this is an ideal opportunity to tell them about your current books, why not see if they have a copy on the shelf?
- Please note all entries must be submitted through pinkladyapples.co.uk/competitions/write-it-2019

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What resources are available to you?

- A4 or A5 posters that you can download from [here](#) to post around the school once you've given your talk
- Or email guild@gfw.co.uk and posters can be sent to you by post
- A short PowerPoint, including ideas specifically on this year's topic, Food For Sharing - see link on Guild website
- Website links for the school/children to use to enter - pinkladyapples.co.uk/competitions/write-it-2019 and gfw.co.uk/2019/write-it-2019-call-for-entries

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Prizes

It could help mentioning there are prizes for both the children and the school when trying to arrange a workshop.

For the full list of prizes, visit the Pink Lady® website

pinkladyapples.co.uk/competitions/write-it-2019



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2018 Winners and Quotes

These could help persuade the school/library of the growing success of the competition:

Quote from a teacher of a winning pupil

The Write It competition is exciting as it challenges children to create a story for a real audience and to entertain potential readers.

I was delighted for Sohan when he won, as the recognition boosted his confidence and encouraged him towards future endeavours. At St Martin's School we all shared the thrill of seeing Sohan's writing in print.

Linda Flynn

Head of English at St. Martin's School, Northwood.

Quote from winner of 15 – 18 yrs group following her half day visit to delicious. magazine

Thank you for giving me such a fantastic prize - this is something that I would never have been able to see, so it truly is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Christiane Hitchcock



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Writing Tips

Tips supplied by award winning food writer Felicity Cloake.

1. Write about what you know and love (or hate!) – you'll always write better about subjects you care about. And remember, good food writing doesn't have to just be about the food: think about the people who made it, or the place where you ate it.
2. If you're stuck for the perfect beginning, just start writing, even if you end up deleting it later - sometimes it's the best way to get your creative juices flowing!
3. Describe what you see (or feel, or taste, or smell) rather than what everyone else says they see – chocolate cake is always described as dark, or fudgy: it's much more interesting for the reader to know it reminds you of damp earth in the garden after a rain shower, or that it tastes so different to a Milkybar that it's like they're made from completely different things (and why is that?)
4. Don't be afraid to play with words: some of the most successful writers break lots of the rules they were taught in school!
5. Once you've finished writing, you haven't quite finished (sorry!) – take a break, go and do something else, then go back to your work and read it again with fresh eyes to see if you want to make any changes. This is one of the most important bits of the process, and I promise, it always makes things even better!

This is what judge Sherry Ashworth says she will be looking for when she reads the entries:

1. I'll be looking for scene-setting. Eating takes place in a context, particularly when it's shared. Who are you eating with? Where? Why? And once we readers are with you around the table, what is the one killer detail that will bring it all to life? Is it a colour, texture, flavour, smell? Don't try to tell us everything - be selective. Make an impact.
2. If you've ever cooked, you'll know the most meaningful moment is when someone else tastes what you've eaten. Your pleasure is enhanced by their reactions. Before you start writing, spend a meal observing other eaters, and talk to them about the food they're eating. Remember you can be humorous. Sharing food can be messy, and there's always someone who eats more than their fair share.
3. Here's a foolproof tip for starting writing, Just write. Write anything. Even your own name and what you had for breakfast. Break the evil spell of the blank page. All good writers write more than one draft. Your first draft is supposed to have all your mistakes in it. That's what first drafts are for. If you don't make a mess, you're not doing it properly. Once you've got something written, you can then start adding to it, or taking things away.

