



Hungry Writers Wanted

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 with a flair for creative writing and we want you to enter for the chance to become 2019's **Young Food Writer of the Year**.

Prizes

If you are successful, you could win:

- Winners' lunch with judges in central London in July 2019
- £100 book token, 5 cookery books, and a box of apples for your school
- £150 worth of cooking utensils for the school
- Pink Lady® goody bag, article featured on Pink Lady® and the Guild's website
- Announcement in the Guild of Food Writers' Awards brochure
- Certificate
- **Plus:** 10 and under and 11 - 14 winners will both visit The Week Junior's offices to curate their own page in the magazine, including their winning story, as well as receive a free 12 month subscription to the magazine.



The theme for 2019 is **Food for Sharing** and we have some tips to help you get started.

- Your entry can be fiction or non-fiction
- If you are aged 10 or under, you can write up to 250 words (but you don't have to write as much as that)
- If you are aged 11-14, you can write up to 500 words.
- Please note all entries must be submitted through pinkladyapples.co.uk/competitions/write-it-2019
- Don't forget the closing date is 30th April 2019!



Writing tips from 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. And have a look at your favourite books or novels for scenes when characters are eating. Take some tips from fiction writers.
- 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.

Here's some occasions that you could write about on the theme 'Food for Sharing':

- Beach BBQ
- Camping
- Communal feast
- Bonfire BBQ
- Picnics
- Sunday lunch (for extended family/friends)
- Buffet
- Langar (sharing your food with people in the community) Sikhism
- Food banks
- Soup kitchens
- Box of popcorn at the cinema
- Eid al-fitr, the big feast at the end of Ramadan.

We've also got some ideas around food. Do you know what you're going to write about yet?

- Fondue
- Raclette
- Tear and share, such as some breads, both savoury and sweet
- Cheese boards
- Dips
- Tapas
- Christening cake
- Wedding cake
- Fried egg – some people like the white (only) and some the yolk (only) which means this is a perfect food for these people to share!

You can also find previous winners' entries at gfw.co.uk and pinkladyapples.co.uk to give you inspiration and an idea of what is expected. We can't wait to read all of your entries! For further information visit: pinkladyapples.co.uk/write-it-2019

