

KILL YOUR DARLINGS

School Writing Prize Some final advice

- Keep your language clean and uncluttered—the best writing is specific in its description, rather than loose and rambling.
- Choose your nouns, verbs and adjectives wisely and deliberately.
- Be as focused as possible in your description. For example, instead of someone walking quickly, perhaps they could be rushing instead? Avoid adverbs when possible.

Handy Hints Before Submitting Your Piece

- Print out a copy of your story to proofread for the final time. Remember: you pick up many more typos when you're reading hard copy.
- Do a spell check and grammar check.
- Make sure your language is consistent. Eg. if you're using '10' for numbers, don't mention 'ten' later in the piece. Or if you're using single inverted commas for dialogue, keep it that way throughout.
- Ensure names and places are spelled correctly.

Submission requirements

- Submissions must be no more than 1500 words, and no less than 1000 words. Entries outside these lengths will not be considered.
- Submissions must include at the top of the first page: title, genre (fiction or non-fiction), word length, author's name and email address.
- Entries must be submitted as a single PDF or Word document. Please use A4, double-spaced formatting in 12pt Times New Roman font.
- All submissions must include a biographical note (no more than 30 words) at the end of the document, which includes your school, year of study, who you are, where you live, and any other information you'd like to include. (This biographical note is not included in final word length count.)
- Submissions must not have been previously published in a publicly circulated outlet (such as a magazine or website). Pieces published in a personal or school capacity (such as personal blog or school website, newsletter or magazine) will be accepted.
- Entries must be submitted using the *Kill Your Darlings* School Writing Prize Submission portal, found at killyourdarlings.submittable.com. Using this service requires the creation of a Submittable account. Visit submittable.help for more information on creating an account, or seek assistance from your teachers
- Only one entry per student will be accepted. There is no limit on the amount of entries per school, or teacher submitting on students' behalf.