

2025 Creative writing Competition

The RDA Creative Writing Competition is now in its **Ninth** year and as in previous years, we are offering three classes of poem, letter or short story and the theme for each class is simply 'RDA.'

Your entry could be a story about an exciting experience you've had whilst at your RDA Group, or a poem about your favourite horse or pony.

The focus should be on your thoughts, imagination and the content – we don't mind at all how you present your work. We just want you to be able express yourself in a way that is accessible to you.

Who can enter?

The RDA Creative Writing Competition is open to all RDA participants (riders, carriage drivers and vaulters), of all ages and abilities. **We cannot accept entries from volunteers, unfortunately, unless they are also current RDA participants.** Classes are open to individual entrants only. You may enter more than one class if you wish, but only one entry per participant, per class will be accepted.

How can pieces of writing be entered?

Entries can be submitted in any format (e.g. computer-printed, pencil, pen or typewriter copy). Braille entries can be submitted but please also supply a printed transcription. Printed or drawn Makaton symbols can be used. Entries in languages other than English are encouraged, too, but please provide an English translation to assist the judges. The competition is also a great opportunity to involve families, schools/ colleges or care centres too, as participants are welcome to create their entries at any time; in RDA sessions, in the classroom or at home.

How much will it cost to enter?

Entry is completely **FREE!** Simply send all entries with a fully-completed entry form (one form per entry) by **Monday 3rd March 2025**. There will be no regional rounds of judging.

Please ensure that you keep your own copies of each entry safely, as we will be unable to return any work sent into National Office. RDA National Office cannot be held responsible for any entries not received in time, lost, or damaged. All entries are sent entirely at the entrants' own risk. Late entries cannot be accepted.

How and when will entries be judged?

Entries may or may not be accompanied with illustrations or decoration, however they will purely be judged on their written content by the judges.

Each entry will be considered on its own merit; the judge will be looking for **specific relevance and reference to RDA**, along with charm, imagination and appeal - not just simply an equestrian theme.

The closing date for receipt of entries at National Office will be **Monday 3rd March 2025** and the winners will be announced as soon as possible afterwards, in **April 2025**.

Class 1: A poem about RDA

Your poem doesn't necessarily have to rhyme, but must have an RDA theme. Maximum 350 words. Open to all ages/ abilities - all entries will receive a rosette and congratulations letter!

Class 2: A letter about RDA

Perhaps to someone special at RDA telling them about an achievement that you or someone else has had? Or maybe a letter thanking your favourite volunteer...or horse? Maximum 500 words. Open to all ages/ abilities – all entries will receive a rosette and congratulations letter!

Class 3: A short story about RDA

It could be fact or fiction, but aim to inspire, entertain and amaze! You can be as imaginative or creative as you like, but make sure you don't go over the limit of 500 words. Open to all ages/ abilities - all entries will receive a rosette and congratulations letter!

Prizes for all classes to be announced.

Creative Writing Competition 2025 Entry Form

Please complete clearly in **BLOCK CAPITALS**, or tick the appropriate box.
Completed forms, along with competition entries, will need to be sent to
Katie O'Brien at RDA National Office by **Monday 3rd March 2025**

ENTRY IS COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE

RDA Group		RDA Region	
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Correspondent Details

	Title	Forename	Surname
Name			
Address			
Postcode		Email	
Telephone		Mobile	

Entry Title			
Writer's Name	Forename/s	Surname	

Category Details (please tick one only)

CLASS 1	An RDA Poem – maximum 350 words, must have an RDA theme	✓ <input type="checkbox"/>
CLASS 2	A Letter – maximum 500 words, must have an RDA theme	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLASS 3	A Short RDA Story - maximum 500 words, must have an RDA theme	<input type="checkbox"/>

We would like to use any entries received for promotion and publicity for the next 12 months on our website, in our publications and on social media which will be in the public domain. This can include the writer's name, the writer's group name and the contents of your entry.

If you, or your parent, guardian or carer (if under 18 or relevant) are happy for us to do this, please tick this box clearly.

✓

We would like to display a selection of entries in the Arts and Crafts tent at the National Championships 2025. This can include the writer's name, the writer's group name and the contents of your entry.

If you, or your parent, guardian or carer (if under 18 or relevant) are happy for us to do this, please tick this box clearly.

Instructions

Please send all entries (only one entry per participant, per class please) with a **fully-completed entry form for each entry** to Katie O'Brien at RDA National Office, Lowlands Equestrian Centre, Old Warwick Road, Shrewley, Warwickshire CV35 7AX (or email the completed entry form and the competition entry itself to **kobrien@rda.org.uk**) by the closing date of **Monday 3rd MARCH 2025**. There will be no regional judging.

Please ensure that you keep your own copies of each entry safely, as we will be unable to return any entries sent into National Office. RDA National Office cannot be held responsible for any entries not received in time, lost, or damaged. All entries are sent entirely at the entrants' own risk. **Late entries cannot be accepted.**

DATA PROTECTION/ PRIVACY

In order to run this competition, we have to process the personal data (correspondent name, contact details, writer's name) you provide to us in this application form and in your entry (any personal data included as part of the entry). We have a legitimate interest in doing so. If you do not provide this personal data we cannot contact you about your entry or identify you if you have won a prize. Any personal data you have provided will only be used in correspondence directly related to this competition and will be retained for a maximum of 12 months for promotion and publicity purposes if you have given us permission to do so by opting in on the application form. After this 12-month period this information will be deleted. We will not share your personal data with anyone outside RDA including any external judges of this competition.