

Tell your story in nature

Our guide to getting creative!



Your Story in Nature

Nature is incredible. Our planet provides us with the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, and nature also helps us stay healthy and happy. From the lofty majesty of an oak tree to the miniature wonders of the smallest ant, the roar of a rushing river to the world contained within a single tree root, there is so much to learn and to love about the natural world.

And now, nature needs our help. As our planet heats up and more and more species find it difficult to survive, **it's up to all of us to make our voices heard - and make sure that nature's voice is heard too.**

That's why The Tree Council and The Week Junior Science+Nature have joined forces for our exciting Story in Nature competition. Whether you write a poem about your favourite hedgerow, tell a story from the perspective of a tree or describe a green space near you that you really love, you'll be letting everyone know just how important nature is and what we can do to protect it.

In this guide, you'll find creative writing tips and some prompts to get you started!

We can't wait to read all of your incredible creations.



Our top writing tips

When you're writing, it can be hard to know where to start. You might have lots of ideas whizzing round in your head, or you might be looking at a blank page wondering what to do. These tips should help you begin!

1. Don't get stuck on your first sentence or line. Just go for it!
2. What you write doesn't need to be sound a certain way or use certain words. You're writing something that's yours, no-one else's.
3. Use a prompt! On the next page, you'll find lots of ideas to give you a helping hand.
4. If you're feeling stuck, talk to your family, friends or teachers about your ideas. They might have some good advice for you!
5. Try not to worry. This competition is all about writing, thinking and having fun - not creating something perfect.



Advice from our Young Ambassador

Our [Young Ambassadors](#) are incredible, united by their desire to help young people connect with trees and nature and inspire them to be a #ForceForNature.

Muhammed, a keen writer and one of our Young Ambassadors, shares some of his best advice.

Imagination and creativity: Think about what to write about and how to approach it in an interesting way. Make connections between different things and find interesting metaphors and similes.

Dedication and patience: Writing can take a lot of research and planning. One of my poems took three months to complete!

Reflection: We live busy, noisy lives in a fast-moving world with constant interruptions. To produce something of creative value, it helps to be able to switch all this off.

For inspiration, I would recommend reading poems like [I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud](#) by William Wordsworth or [Dreams](#) by Langston Hughes.



Let's get started!



What is your favourite place outside to explore and why?

Imagine you're outdoors in your favourite place. What can you see, smell, touch and hear?



What will the natural world look like in the future? Perhaps we have greener cities or gardens in space!

Think about how nature changes over the course of a day. What does the view from your window look like at 9am and 9pm?



Write about your favourite season. Why do you love it?

Look out of the window. Describe what you can see. Are there trees in the distance, clouds in the sky, birds flying past?

Write a poem about how we can all work together to protect the natural world.

If you could be any species other than human, what would you be and why?



Tell a story about the most fun you've ever had in nature.



If a tree could talk to you, what might it say? What would you ask them?

Write a poem from the perspective of a tree. What can the tree see, feel and hear?



You wake up one day as a bumblebee. Where would you go? What would you do?

Imagine you were born 100, 200 or even 300 years earlier. What might the natural world have looked like?



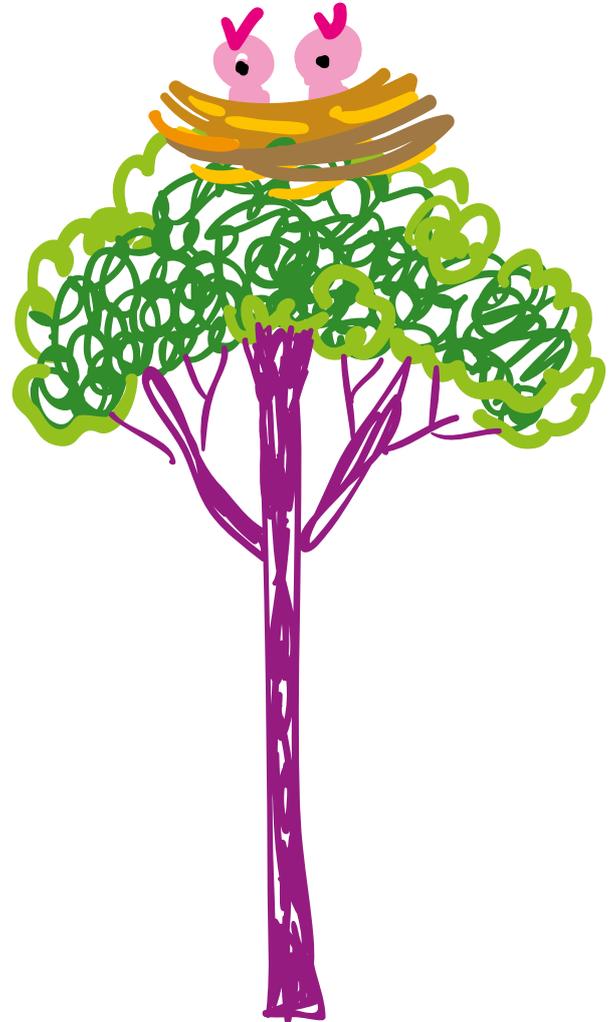
Describe your favourite type of weather.



How to enter

Your Story in Nature can be a poem or a piece of prose (up to 500 words) and can be fiction or non-fiction. The competition is open to all children in the UK aged between 8 and 15 and **all entries must be received by 23.59 GMT on 25 November 2021**. There will be two age categories: under 11s and 11-15. The winners from each category and shortlisted entries will be revealed on 5 December 2021.

Entries can be submitted online, via email or via post. To submit your entry or to find out more about the competition, visit treecouncil.org.uk/story-in-nature. Each entry must be submitted by the child's parent/guardian or a teacher with parent/guardian consent to submit on their behalf. Each child may only submit one entry. Please visit our website for the competition's full terms and conditions: treecouncil.org.uk/story-in-nature/terms.



**By telling nature's story,
we can all make a difference -
so let's get creative for our planet!**

treecouncil.org.uk/story-in-nature

