

Activity

GENERATION LOCKDOWN

Share your story on life in lockdown. If you are 7+, you may like to enter the Generation Lockdown writing competition for a chance to become a published author!

*what should I do?*Find out about the competition

Generation Lockdown is an exciting writing competition for ages 7-17. Take a look at the website here to find out all the details: <https://generationlockdown.co.uk/>.

You have until midnight on Friday 17th July 2020 to write about life in lockdown during the coronavirus crisis, and submit your work to be judged by a published author. You can write about your own experience, craft a poem or a story – the choice is yours!

You don't *have* to enter the competition but, if you do, your entry must not go over 700 words. You can handwrite or type it but if you want to enter the competition, your work will need to be copied and pasted into the online form so you may want to ask for some help in typing it up when you are finished.

Grow your idea(s)

You will need to start by thinking *what* you will write about. Once you have a good idea, you should then consider *how* to write about it - what type of writing you'd prefer to try...

1. What to write about

Professor Joe Moran offers some great advice about taking time to *notice* what's around you: <https://generationlockdown.co.uk/2020/05/10/inspiration-comes-from-opening-your-eyes/>. Sophie Minchell also has tips on finding ideas for your writing: <https://generationlockdown.co.uk/2020/05/06/sophie-minchell/>

You might also like to think about and make some notes on...

...change, similarities and differences:

- What is the same as and what is different from before: daily routines; what you eat; when and where and how you play; what you dream of...?
- What do you like and dislike about lockdown?
- Your inside thoughts and feelings versus your outside actions (what others see of you)
- What experiences are you having that everyone shares and what ones are unique to you and your family?

...points of view. Can you imagine how a different person might think and feel?

- Follow one thing throughout a day in lockdown – your dog, a drinks mug, the sofa, your front door/letterbox...
- Could you write about two different people's opinions on something or imagine how they might see an object or action differently from different positions – areas of the same house, or places in the same room?
- Imagine somebody else's experience of lockdown – a homeless woman, an elderly man living alone, your younger/older brother or sister, the family cat, birds in the garden or public parks.

2. How to write about it

Before you begin to write, decide what form you will be writing. The Generation Lockdown suggestions include

- a recount
- a poem
- a story

but you are free to choose and submit writing in other forms too!

What about...

- **Stories, e.g.**
 - science fiction stories
 - magical stories
 - adventure stories

- a fairytale...?
- **Non-fiction texts, e.g.**
 - a newspaper report
 - instructions
 - an advertisement
 - diary entries
 - a letter to a friend, or to a politician
 - information text for a non-fiction book...?
- **Playscripts?**
- **Poems, e.g.**
 - haikus
 - a narrative poem
 - limericks
 - poems to perform
 - poems without rhyme
 - shape poems...?

Whatever you choose, you must be clear on what you hope to achieve. It can help if you talk about this with someone first. What do you want your reader to think? How do you want your reader to feel?

Draft your writing

You can find Generation Lockdown Top Tips from Teachers on how to draft your piece of writing. Read these on the competition website (under the 'Inspiration' tab's drop-down menu): <https://generationlockdown.co.uk/top-tips-teachers/>.

You can watch some of the author videos (under the same drop-down menu) to get even more advice: <https://generationlockdown.co.uk/video-inspiration/>

Produce your final version

Remember, if you wish to submit your writing to the competition, it will need to be typed. You can enter your work here: <https://generationlockdown.co.uk/enter/>.

You **MUST** have your parent's/carer's permission to enter the competition; ask them to help you complete the entry form online.

GOOD LUCK!

Share your work

How might you also share your work with your friends and your teacher(s)? Can you film yourself reading your writing, or take photographs, then email or upload to a shared area? Could you create a copy of your work to post?

You can tweet what you've been up to using the Twitter handle @BabcockLDPEng and the hashtag #BabcockEnglishAtHome. The Generation Lockdown Writes' Twitter handle is @lockdownwrites so don't forget to tag them too!

IMPORTANT: If you decide to share your finished work publicly, just remember everything you have been taught about staying safe online, and do check with the person who looks after you before posting anything.

Things that
could help me

Ask for someone's help to explore the competition website fully and get as much information and as many ideas as you can.

You can find a good online dictionary at <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/>.

Change it up!
...Go further!

A) Find out more about the judge who will be reading your work: <https://generationlockdown.co.uk/judges/>. Discover what they have written and the sorts of books they enjoy.

Notes for
parents and
teachers

If your child would like to enter the competition, check you are happy for some of their details to be shared. Under 16s will need your permission to submit work.

Get them to talk through their ideas with you before they begin as this should help them become clearer on what they're hoping to achieve. The plot of a story in particular will need to be very carefully thought through and planned in order to fit within the word count and still feel satisfying to the reader. When they are editing and improving, ask your child to keep checking back to make sure their writing is clear and makes the reader think and feel what they'd wanted it to.