



## **Firsts – Terms and Conditions:**

1. This is a competition being run by Primadonna Festival and the University of Suffolk. The first prize(s) for this competition is £250, a one-to-one creative writing tutorial with Ashley Hickson-Lovence, and formal feedback from the children's editorial team at HarperCollins ('Winner' means the winner of the first prize.) There will be one winner from each of two age groups: years 7-9, and years 10-13.

2. The prize will be awarded for the most original and exciting work (the 'Content Criteria').

3. Entrants to the competition must be students in any secondary school in East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex) and must be resident in the UK. These requirements are referred to as the 'Entrants Criteria'.

4. Entrants are required to submit either:

- 800 words of prose
- a poem or song lyrics of a minimum of five stanzas
- a play, film or TV scene of a minimum of five pages
- a cartoon strip of a minimum of five pages

Work must be on the subject of 'happily ever after'. Submissions must be in English and must be double spaced where appropriate.

5. Entry to the competition is free. Entries can be submitted online at <https://primadonnafestival.com/firsts> or emailed directly to [emergingwriters@uos.ac.uk](mailto:emergingwriters@uos.ac.uk).

6. Entries will be judged on the originality of the writing not on the standard of grammar or accuracy of spelling. Judges will not be looking for a perfectly polished piece but for something that shows imagination and writing skill.

7. A shortlist of up to 30 submissions (the 'Shortlisted Submissions') will be chosen from entries received in accordance with these Terms and Conditions by members of the English department faculty at the University of Suffolk. The Shortlisted Submissions will be submitted to a final set of judges comprised of professional literary editors at HarperCollins – they will choose the winning entry in each age category.

8. Winning entries will be the ones that best meet the Content Criteria, have the best quality of writing and the most potential, and are from entrants who meet the Entrants' Criteria. The Judges' decision is final.

9. Primadonna Festival and the University of Suffolk reserve the right to not select any winner from the Shortlisted Submissions if a suitable entry that meets all the criteria set out above cannot be found.

10. By submitting their work entrants undertake and warrant that their Submissions will consist of their own original work and will not infringe the intellectual property rights of anyone. If a third party's material is used – such as lyrics of a song – the entrant will secure the necessary permission and will provide it on request. The entrant further warrants that the



work will not contain any material which is defamatory, private or confidential or which is unlawful in any way. Any entry in breach of this clause will be disqualified from being considered for the shortlist or by the Judges.

11. Entries may be submitted only between 12:01am BST on 29 January 2024 and 11.59pm BST on 10 May 2024. Any entries received outside these specified times and dates, and any entries that do not meet the requirements of these Terms and Conditions, will not be eligible for entry to the competition.

12. The winner(s) will be announced at the 2024 Primadonna festival.

13. The competition is not open to employees of Primadonna Festival or the University of Suffolk or their families, or to anyone professionally connected to the competition or to the judges either themselves or through their families.

14. An entrant may only submit one entry. Further entries will be disqualified. Entries will not be accepted via agents, third parties or in bulk.

15. Primadonna Festival and the University of Suffolk are not responsible for contacting or responding to entrants who provide unclear or incomplete information or for entries that are lost, misdirected, delayed or destroyed.

16. Primadonna Festival and the University of Suffolk reserve the right to cancel the competition and to alter the details of the Prizes or judging panels without notice. No cash alternative or other alternatives to the Prize will be provided.

17. The names and email addresses of entrants ('Information') will be collected by Primadonna Festival and the University of Suffolk and will be used in accordance with GDPR rules. Information will not be shared with anyone outside Primadonna Festival or the University of Suffolk. The Winner(s) will be asked for their bank details so that their prize money may be sent to them. Such details will be deleted after the money has been sent except insofar as it is necessary for Primadonna Festival to keep them for its financial records.

18. By entering the competition, each entrant agrees to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.

19. These Terms and Conditions and any disputes or claims (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of these Terms and Conditions shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of England, whose courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

20. This competition is being organised by Primadonna Festival CIC, Laffitts Hall, Pettaugh, Suffolk, IP14 6DT and the University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, 19 Neptune Quay, Ipswich IP4 1QJ