

# Short-story and Art competition 2022

Sopley Primary School are launching a Short-Story and Art competition for Children aged 4-11.

Children can take part in either writing a short story (500 words max), or the art competition, or submit entries for both! **Each entry is £1.**

## How to enter

Please include:

- full name of entrant
- address
- age of entrant
- contact email,
- and £1 entry fee

Submit entries by 13th June by hand or post to:

‘FAO Competition Entry, Sopley Primary School, Ripley, Christchurch BH23 8ET.’

Or email: [friendsofsopleyschool@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofsopleyschool@outlook.com) with your entry and details.

Please pay the entry fee of £1 via the FSS PayPal account using the email

‘friendsofsopleyschool@outlook.com’, please put the payment through as ‘friends and family’.

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

**Short-story entries:** Write a short story, maximum 500 words, about ‘**The Outdoors**’

The story could concern animal habitats, conservation, a journey, a day out, or any type of story you like which is set outside somewhere. It can be electronic or handwritten, illustrated or just text... whatever your imagination wants it to be!

**Tips from our expert judge Chris Connaughton:**



“The writer's imagination is like a witch's cauldron. You add ingredients from the world around you, (overheard conversations, your own memories and experiences, descriptions of people and places you know) mixed in with other books you have read, films you have seen, games you have played. Then you stir it all together and hopefully the potion you have made gives you the idea for a new story. The main piece of advice for young writers is of course: read, read, read. And when you have finished, read something different.”

**Art Competition entries:** Draw a picture or produce a piece of artwork inspired by the theme of 'The Outdoors'. You can paint, draw, collage, or make a sculpture. The most important thing is to have fun creating!

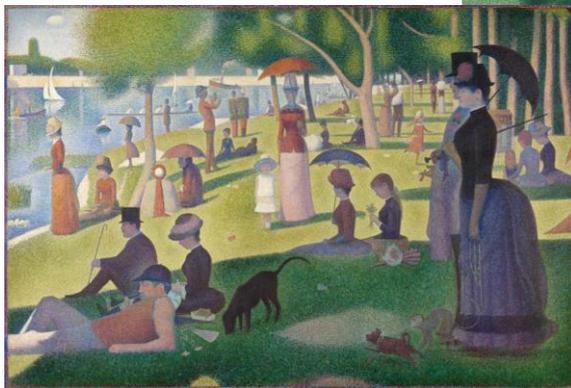
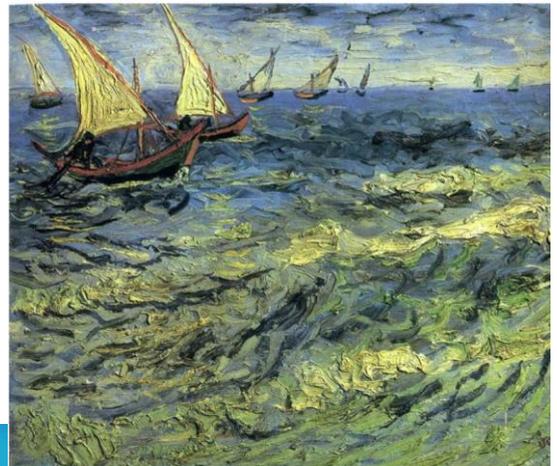
**Our expert Judge Cathy Morris says:**

“Many Artists have been inspired by the theme of ‘The Outdoors’

Vincent VanGogh painted many outdoor scenes including boats on the water.

David Inshaw painted people playing Badminton and Georges Seurat painted people out in the park.

What will you do?”



Our fantastic judges have donated some wonderful prizes, we have also had generous donations from Lunns of Ringwood and The Works....

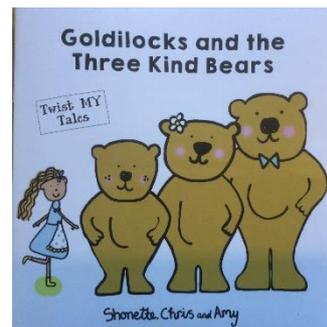
## Short-Story Competition Prizes

Alongside the prizes below shortlisted, and winning entries will be exhibited at **Ringwood Library!** Work will be exhibited from 2<sup>nd</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> July with the winner's ceremony on 16<sup>th</sup> July at 11am.



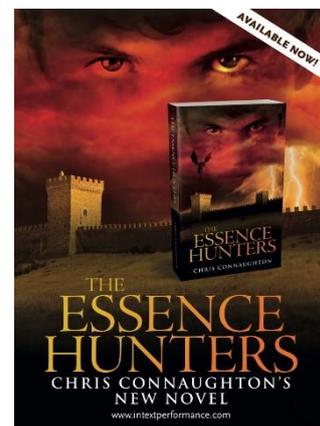
All winners will receive the ARC Newt pin badge, A set of Newt Snap cards and a copy of the ARC Trusts' book 'In Search of Old Uncle Blue' - This educational storybook is beautifully illustrated with hand-painted artwork and teaches the reader about our fascinating wildlife, especially reptiles, and the habitats that can be found on our doorstep.

Winners of the Age 4-6 category will receive a signed copy of Chris Connaughton's book **Goldilocks and the Three Kind Bears**



Winners of the Age 7-9 category will receive an outdoor inspired set of 10 DKFindout! Science Series with fun facts and amazing pictures!

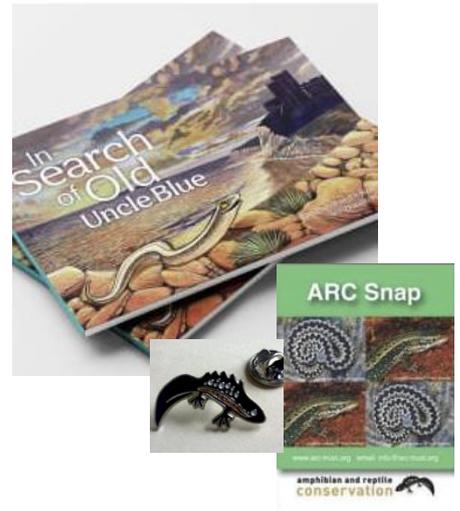
Winners of the Age 10-11 category will receive a signed copy of Chris Connaughton's book **The Essence Hunters**.



# Art Competition Prizes

Alongside the prizes below shortlisted, and winning entries will be exhibited at **Avon Heath Country Park!** Winner's will be invited to open the exhibition on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

All winners will receive the ARC Newt pin badge, A set of Newt Snap cards and a copy of the ARC Trusts' book 'In Search of Old Uncle Blue'



Winners of the Age 4-6 category will win an art and craft supplies bundle.

Winner of the Age 7-9 category will win a bumper drawing set from The Works and a £10 voucher to spend on art supplies at Lunns of Ringwood Art Store



Winners of the Age 10-11 category will win a voucher for a free art workshop run by The Paintbox.

## Meet the judges

### **Our Short-story expert judge is Chris Connaughton:**

To date, Chris has written more than 17 stories and 7 plays for young audiences.

In 1997 he set up his own company, Intext Performance, to write and produce his own stories for young audiences. He now presents over 120 performances and workshops every year in schools throughout the UK. He has been writer-in-residence at West Horndon Primary in Essex and Hummersea Primary School in North Yorkshire.

His series of fantasy novels The Beltheron Sequence has received a great response from Upper KS2 and KS3 students and teachers. His latest novel for Upper KS2 The Essence Hunters has been used as a class reader in several schools. Chris is currently completing his first murder mystery thriller, A Fault Against the Dead which is aimed at a young teenage/ young adult readership.

He is co-author of the Twist My Tales series of story books with Shonette Bason-Wood.

Most recently he wrote Hospital by the Hill for children's bereavement charities Winston's Wish and Simon Says. The book, dealing with the loss of a parent who is a key worker during Covid, includes a foreword by Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex.

Chris Connaughton trained as an actor and has worked in all sorts of theatres and arts centres up and down the country. He has performed as Hamlet, Romeo, Macbeth, and Uncle Vanya, as well as Widow Twanky, the Mad Hatter and Mr Spoon on Button Moon! His television credits include Byker Grove, Throwaways and Harry for the BBC, Call Red, The Tide of Life and The Man Who Cried for ITV, and Tales from the Piano for Channel 4



<https://www.intextperformance.com/> has more information on Chris' theatre and schoolwork.

## Our Art expert judge is Cathy Morris from The Paintbox Arts:



My name is Cathy Morris and I have been the head of the Art Department for over 30 years in a Dorset Secondary school. A year ago I set up 'The Paintbox' Which offers Art Workshops for Children and Adult's in the Wimborne area.

Workshops aim to be small, fun, and friendly while supporting children and Adults in developing their creativity through a range of media and techniques.

Being involved in Art activities can provide a range of benefits, Art builds self-esteem and encourages children to think in new ways and explore ideas, it requires problem solving and develops manipulative skills.

Please visit my website to find out more:

[thepaintboxarts.com](http://thepaintboxarts.com)

I am looking forward to Seeing your art entries in response to the theme of 'The Outdoors'

## Our 'Outdoor' expert who will judge across both the short-story and art competition entries is Owain Masters from The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC).

Owain Masters is an Education Officer at Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC). His role involves teaching children and adults about nature, and he has worked for several organisations in the UK and overseas including the Wildlife Trusts and the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority. Now



based in Dorset, he is especially keen that children learning about biological principles do so using examples from the wildlife of the UK.

At ARC he is focused on the amazing heathland habitats in the south of England and the extraordinary plants and animals that make heathland home. When not delivering lessons and guided walks, he is involved in creating the signs you see up at nature reserves, writing blogs and social media posts about snakes and lizards and he is one of the authors of the nature focussed children's story book 'In Search of Old Uncle Blue'. Go to [ARC-Trust.org](http://ARC-Trust.org) for more information.