



# Castle Loch and Lockerbie Writers 2020 CHILDREN'S SHORT STORY COMPETITION

**Calling all children aged 5 to 9 years and 10 to 13 years**  
– can you write a story inspired by Lochmaben's Castle Loch?

Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust (CLLCT) and the Lockerbie Writers have joined together to run a fun children's writing competition. For more information about each of the groups:

Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust: <http://www.castleloch.org.uk/>

Lockerbie Writers: <https://lockerbiewriteranthology.wordpress.com/about>

The prizes are for **1<sup>st</sup>** a £10 Waterstones voucher for each category and **2<sup>nd</sup>** stationery items, plus a selection of books and a certificate for all winners.

## HOW TO ENTER

- Entry is free, but donations to the work at Castle Loch is appreciated.
- **Number of words** – up to 500 words and all stories must be your own work, which must not have been published.
- The deadline is midnight on **Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020**.
- Please complete an entrance sheet and include with your story – either attached here or download from [www.castleloch.org.uk](http://www.castleloch.org.uk).
- If you are a youth group you can complete one entrance sheet and write the child's name and age is on the back of each story.
- If you want to post your story, send it to Darren Flint, CLLCT, Lochfield Cottage, Priestdykes, Lochmaben, DG11 1LP.
- If you want to email your story, send it to [darrenflint@castleloch.org.uk](mailto:darrenflint@castleloch.org.uk)

Members of the Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust and Lockerbie Writers will read all entries and select the final winners from each age category. The judge's decision is final and the winners will be notified by mid October 2019. The copyright of the works remains that of the writer, but the CLLCT and Lockerbie Writers' will publish the winning stories and a selection of other entries on the Castle Loch and Lockerbie Writers websites and Social Media pages. Works may also be used for future event promotion.

### **A few words of advice...**

For those new to short story telling – don't leave entering the competition too close to the deadline and don't send in your first attempt. Put the story away for a little while after completion and when you review it, improvements will normally be seen immediately.

Before starting your story, you could take a walk around the loch (3-miles) or make multiple visits each time picking a new spot. One time try the castle area, on another visit walk along the sculpture trail, perhaps through the woods and over the grassland on another.

Don't just rush ahead looking at the big things like the views, loch and sky. Sometimes stop, take a seat on a log and look at things close-up. Are the leaves, plants, mosses all the same colour? What you thought was all the same shade of green or brown is actually made up of lots of different colours.

### **Some ideas for things to write about...**

...life of a butterfly, the coming and going of birds, flowers in bloom, the castle ruins, how the castle once was, history, kings & queens, battles, how things might differ during the night from the daytime, fish, a fisherman trying to catch a big fish, sailing a boat, wood carvings, what lives under the board walk or in the loch waters or high above in the tree tops...

The only limit is your imagination.

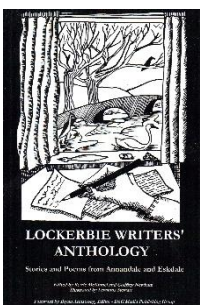
For more ideas see: <https://lockerbiewritersanthology.wordpress.com/>

### **Donations:**

If you would like to support the community's work at Castle Loch  
Donations can be handed into Lochfield Cottage or at our online Virgin Money Giving page - [www.virginmoneygiving.com/castle\\_loch](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/castle_loch)

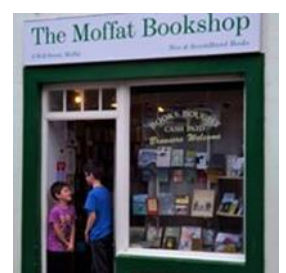
**GOOD LUCK AND THANK YOU FOR ENTERING**

**Thank you to the following for all their support:**



**W**  
WATERSTONE'S  
Dumfries

**TESCO**  
Lockerbie



## Castle Loch and Lockerbie Writers Creative Writing Competition 2020

### Entry form

All individual entries should be accompanied by a completed entry form. For school entries, please complete one form and write pupil's name, age and class on each entry.

<b>Entry Category:</b> (Please circle) Age 5-9 years / Age 10-13 years	
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Date of Birth:</b>
<b>Postal address:</b>	
<b>Postcode:</b>	
<b>Email address:</b>	
<b>Telephone/mobile number (incl. area code):</b>	
<b>Parent/guardian Name:</b>	
<b>Parent/guardian telephone number and/or email address:</b>	

Title of story:
Word Count:
Please describe in one sentence what inspired this story:

How did you hear about the competition? (please check appropriate box)			
Website	<input type="checkbox"/>	poster/flier	<input type="checkbox"/> where? .....
Mailing list	<input type="checkbox"/>	word of mouth	<input type="checkbox"/>
other	<input type="checkbox"/>	please specify: .....	

**Parents/Guardians:** Please read the following terms and conditions, and ensure that you and your child understand them. By submitting this entry, it is assumed that you agree to all of these points. If you have any questions, please get in touch before submitting an entry.

By submitting your entry, you agree that:

- The story is your own work and has not been previously published.

- The story does not contain anything which might be considered offensive to others.
- You have permission from your parent/guardian to enter.
- You retain copyright of your story.
- You can enter as many times as you like.
- There are two age categories (5-9 years, and 10-13 years). You must be aged between 5-13 years on the deadline date, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- For each age category, there will be one winner and one runner-up. These will be decided by members of Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust and Lockerbie Writers. Winners will be notified by the end of September. The judges' decision is final. Prizes may be subject to change.
- The winning stories will be published on the Castle Loch and Lockerbie Writers websites and social media pages. Details of the competition and winning entries will be shared with the local press. If you need any further information, get in touch (contact details are below.)
- Deadline for all entries is 11.59pm, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- Individuals should enter using this form. For school entries, please submit one entry sheet and include the school and class details on the story.

Entrant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrant Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**POST YOUR ENTRY WITH THIS COMPLETED ENTRY FORM TO:** Darren Flint, Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust, Lochfield Cottage, Priestdykes, Lochmaben, DG11 1LP. If you want to email your story, send it to [darrenflint@castleloch.org.uk](mailto:darrenflint@castleloch.org.uk)

**Questions? Queries? Problems?** Write to the address above, email [darrenflint@castleloch.org.uk](mailto:darrenflint@castleloch.org.uk), visit [www.castleloch.org.uk](http://www.castleloch.org.uk) or [www.lockerbiewritersanthology.wordpress.com](http://www.lockerbiewritersanthology.wordpress.com), or search for 'Castle Loch' or 'Lockerbie Writers' on Facebook.

Title of story:

Insert your story here or add an extra page (maximum 500 words):