

## The Pen to Print Book Challenge Competition 2020/21

Updated 23 March COVID-19 Updates

### Open to new entries from 27 June 2019.

**First Prize: Tablet PC**

**All finalists have the opportunity to get their completed book published.**

**The Challenge is to write a novel in a year!**

If you have an idea for a novel that you would like to write or have written a book and not sure what the next stage in the process is, this is for you. To enter send in your book idea we will review the entries with industry experts and select for best 10 ideas to be paired with a professional writer as a mentor to work with you to complete your book to get it ready for publication. Your commitment is to work with your mentor for 12 months and finish your book!

We commit to providing you with free mentoring support and pay to publish your completed book in partnership with New Generation Publishing at the end of the 12 months. A package worth approximately £5,000. We will also host a book launch for your book and offer further opportunities to work with us in the future.

We have to date published over 14 books and our Book Challenge writers have been successful in getting literary agents and publishing deals and won other writing awards. The mentoring will begin in January 2021 with the final submission of your completed book is due in December 2021. The shortlisted 10 books will be judged, and the winner will be officially announced in June 2022.

### Pen to Print: The Book Challenge Rules

- Entries must be the exclusive work of the author.
- Entries must be typed in English, not have been published before and not be currently entered in any other competition.
- Scripts must be typed using double-spaced text in a Microsoft Word document format.
- Printed entries must be on A4 size paper.
- All entries will be judged anonymously: do not include your name on the document. All entries must have entrants, Name, Address, contact telephone number and/ or email address and the title of their submission **on a separate sheet.**
- The title of the book and a page number **must appear on every page.**
- Entrants should not have had a full-length work of fiction or non-fiction published before.
- Winning writers and finalists of previous Pen to Print Book Challenge competition (those who have already benefited from mentoring through the Book Challenge) are ineligible to enter again.
- Entries which exceed the stated length will be disqualified.
- The judges' decisions are final.
- No correspondence can be entered into.
- The competition is for a full-length work of fiction. An opening chapter and a plot synopsis of the book will be required by **Friday 25 September 2020**. The opening chapter should be no longer than **2,500** words. The synopsis of the work should be no longer than **1,000** words.

- Amendments cannot be made to entries after they have been submitted, nor substitutions made.
- Please note that scripts cannot be returned, so you are advised to keep a copy of your work.
- By entering the competition, you agree that the Pen to Print and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham have permission to publish and/or reproduce in full or part any of your work submitted in any format using any media it chooses.
- Any breach of the rules at any stage will result in your entry being disqualified from the competition.

**Entries must be submitted by Friday 25 September 2020, 5pm.**

The short-listed entries will be announced at the end of **December 2020**.

(Final submission deadline for completed books is **Monday 20 December 2021, 5pm**. After a year of mentoring to complete the book.)

The winners will be formally announced in and will receive their prizes at the Pen to Print Awards Ceremony in June 2022 date to be confirmed.

Email your entry in a **Microsoft Word document format** to **pentoprint@lbbd.gov.uk** with the **Subject line: The Book Challenge 2020/21**.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we ask that you only submit entries by email.

(Once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, hard copies can be delivered to:

**The Book Challenge.**

Pen to Print, Dagenham Library, 1 Church Elm Lane, Dagenham, RM10 9QS

Entries can be delivered in person or can be posted. If receipt of a script is required, please provide a stamped and self-addressed envelope.)

Pen to Print also offer an ongoing programme of free writing classes and workshops please go to **pentprint.org/events** for details of the latest sessions on offer to support your writing. Whilst COVID-19 restrictions are in place all our activity will be online only.