

## The Pen to Print Illustration Competition 2023

Last Updated: 31 October 2022

### First Prize: Tablet PC

The winning entry will also be published online in Write On! *Extra* and in our Write On! magazine and will get the opportunity to guest illustrate for articles for Write On! *Extra*.

### How to Enter

Please read *all* the Rules and T&Cs below carefully.

Use any visual art form i.e. painting, sketch, drawing or photograph to illustrate one of the four following pieces. (Select only one story or poem to illustrate.)

Please interpret the piece with one image.

#### **A: Top Deck On The Number 5 by Amanda Wynne**

*The bright Number 5 bus finally emerged from the purple-tinged evening. Sara, a young woman in a blue tunic with hennaed hair, joined the silent shuffle to climb on board. Downstairs was standing room only, so she reluctantly coaxed her tired legs up the stairs.*

*Happily, the seats by the bulging front window were free. Sara dropped gratefully into the seats on the right and rested her cloth bag in her lap. Someone behind her kicked a bottle as they made their way to the back of the bus. The glass rattled over the floor, coming to a stop against a metal pole.*

*Sara sighed.*

*The bus whirred to life, and they were off, winding through the town centre as the night drew in. The bottle rattled across the floor with each turn, occasionally kicked by a passenger to help it on its way.*

*Sara slid her hand into the cloth bag and touched the small string-bound circle, made of metal tacks and a willow twig, at the bottom. The circle charm was supposed to shield her from such daily annoyances as glass bottle footsie. It was only a mild charm, but it should have been enough for a situation like this.*

*The bus had only made it as far as Barking Station, and she already had a headache from the relentlessly rattling glass. The bus shook as people filed on.*

*Sara stared blankly ahead, fingers still touching the charm in her bag, willing the seat beside her to stay vacant. A man came and sat in the seats on the front left, but no one came to take the empty seat beside Sara on the right-hand side.*

*Small mercies, she thought. Maybe she wouldn't need to completely re-do the charm when she got home. Always hard to get the potency right, she mused, when you didn't want to use magic to cheat too much.*

*The man on the left was shifting in his seat as the bus drove on. He pulled his phone from his back pocket.*

*“Hey there, how are you?”*

*Sara jumped. She looked over to see the man holding his phone at arm’s length. He was grinning at the screen. A connectivity-slurred voice greeted him loudly in return.*

*Unbelievable! Sara sniffed and turned her attention back to the window, as the bus continued its slow stop-start journey through the streets.*

*She hadn’t realised how hunched her shoulders had become until the man ended the call. Silence, with the undercurrent of the electric bus engine, returned to the top deck.*

*Out of the corner of her eye, Sara saw the man turn his phone to the side and tap the screen.*

*Oh no. Oh no, no, no!*

*The sound of gunshots and shouting streamed out from the tiny speaker at the bottom of his phone.*

*Oh no. Sara sank into her seat.*

*The gunshots and shouting were replaced by high-paced frantic music.*

*Sara felt her pulse quickening. She said a silent prayer for someone to come and tell him to turn it off, but when she looked back she saw that it was only the two of them left.*

*Just them, and the glass beer bottle that had rolled to the front of the bus and rested in the aisle between them.*

*She looked at the bottle. Then looked at him.*

*No, come on now, she scolded herself. She shook her head to clear her thoughts, then cleared her throat.*

*“Excuse me,” she said, looking towards the man.*

*He didn’t seem to notice.*

*“Excuse me,” she repeated, leaning over and waving.*

*The man moved his weight from one buttock to the other, positioning his back to her as he continued to stare at tiny figures dancing on the phone screen.*

*Bottle it is then, thought Sara.*

*She closed her eyes; the world around her glowed a thick, fierce orange.*

*When she opened her eyes, the man’s seat was empty.*

*Sara rolled her shoulders and moved her head slowly from side to side, waiting for the orange smoke to dissipate.*

*She nudged the glass bottle with her shoe. Inside, just barely visible if you knew what you were looking for, was a tiny man flailing in the dregs of the beer.*

*Sara smiled and kicked the bottle to the back of the bus.*

© Amanda Wynne, 2022

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***B: Strange Girl by Amber Hall***

*One of the earliest memories I have also happens to be one of the most defining experiences of my life. I'd just started primary school, which means I would have been four years old.*

*It was the first term. I know this to be true, because we were asked to draw ourselves in our winter coats. We'd then take these self portraits, our teacher explained, and mark them with finger-painted 'snow' – amorphous blobs of white acrylic sullyng our previous work.*

*I wore a navy blue coat, with bold pink, purple and green plaid all over it. Calf-length and heavily padded, it was the only thing that kept the biting northern chill at bay as my mum walked me to school each morning. I was captivated by how visible my breath was at that time of the year; I remember thinking how warm I must have been inside, shrouded in my coat, for my breath to linger in the air that way. It reminded me of my dad smoking; his mouth puckered to make rings that would float above his head like strange little halos, or rise up in wisps like cirrus clouds.*

*I only vaguely remember the school. In the end, I would attend for less than a year before we packed up and moved counties, which is a lot like moving countries when you live in a small, rural community. If you leave, you are left out there, beyond the dry stone walling and the herds of livestock.*

*I remember how big the classroom felt. The school building must have been Victorian, because the ceiling seemed to tower above me. My home – a humble two-bed terrace in the neighbouring village – was den-like in comparison, but felt much safer than the classroom. With its vast ceiling and too-polished floorboards, the classroom had a hardened edge; it truly was a place designed for chastising unruly children.*

*I am, and always have been, a stickler for detail. My writing takes me forever, because I spend so long thinking about where to insert semicolons, or end paragraphs and sentences. And, when asked to recreate myself in Crayola, I did so in earnest. In fact, I took it very seriously, carefully drawing the colourful plaid of my coat until it actually resembled the real thing. That's what had been asked of me, after all. In truth, I spent bloody ages on it, but I enjoyed the process. I loved being creative and I especially loved to draw.*

*But, of course, the other kids were already adding their snowy dollops while I was still finishing off my coat, and my teacher grew concerned with my stubbornness; with my ardent belief in the*

*thing I was making. She invited my mum in to talk about it. I suppose my teacher couldn't understand why I didn't just do away with the plaid halfway down the bodice, so that I could catch up with my peers and get it done with. But I only remember being confused by her apparent concern. I remember being spoken about as though I were not in the room; as though the coat had latched itself onto my brain, so that I was incapable of hearing or seeing anything else.*

*It was the first time I was made to feel different. I've quite often felt on the periphery of things. I grew up in a place where my tastes were rarely, if ever, reflected back at me; where my familial situation was deemed unusual (single mother, convict father). But I often trace this sense of 'otherness' back to that Victorian classroom, to the bewildered look on my teacher's face.*

*Today, I celebrate strangeness, in myself and the people around me. My eye for detail helps me to write. My staunchness – and occasional stubbornness – means I get things done, eventually. Even if I do spend hours thinking about those dastardly semicolons!*

*(c) Amber Hall, 2022*

\*\*\*\*\*

***C: Tulips by Gloria Maloney***

*Spring is in full swing  
Tulips have burst upon the scene  
A gay eclectic mesmerising spectacle, for us to peruse as we pass by  
Deep velvety purple Cuban Nights  
Elegantly dressed up in frills and ruffles for their opening night  
Treading lightly on their heels, a Foxtrot who likes to take a solo performance  
Clusters of pink candy-floss faces jostle for position  
Up against the orange fiery-red Emperors; sunburst pouting lips shouting out  
"We're here!"  
Dolls Minuets with pink-magenta pirouette pointed ballet slippers  
Dance in the slipstream breeze to our delight  
Last but not least to be outdone, red, yellow rimmed swaying Calypsos  
Positively glowing with a promise of summer's sun to come*

*© Gloria Maloney, 2022*

\*\*\*\*\*

**D: Distraction Sonnet by Mary Walsh**

*I sit down at my desk to write some lines  
The virginal paper ready for its ink  
While outdoors the sun beckons and shines  
Luring me out until my soul can't think*

*I stand and sip my coffee now gone cold  
I watch the blooms and blossom shake their heads  
The dog gambols about happy and bold  
My work lies sleeping softly in my head*

*I sigh and sit once more my fingers poised  
I wait for inspiration to appear  
At last, a pause in all the urban noise  
A word, a line, and thought rise in my inner ear*

*And so, I write a sonnet when I feared  
My muse had left me never to come near.*

© Mary Walsh, 2022

---

We reserve the right to reject entries on grounds of taste, decency and where the legality or morality of content is in question.

Submit your entry on our competitions page: [pentoprint.org/competitions](https://pentoprint.org/competitions) or you can email your entries to [pentoprint@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:pentoprint@lbbd.gov.uk) with the Subject Line: **The Pen to Print Illustration Competition**. *Contact us if your files are too big to download or email to arrange an alternative method of delivery.*

You can enter more than once but no more than three entries will be accepted in the order in which they are received.

Entries must be submitted by **Friday 31 March 2023, 5pm**.

**Pen to Print: Illustration Competition Rules, Terms and Conditions**

- The competition is open to all residents of the United Kingdom, i.e. England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. There is no minimum age. However, entrants under the age of 18 must provide contact details of a parent or guardian when entering.
- Employees, Officers or Council Members, their immediate families (including any live-in partner or household member) of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham may not enter. This also includes:

- Any company/organisation involved in the organisation, management, promotion, or administration of the competition or its entry routes or donation of prizes or their agents or subsidiaries.
  - Any company/organisation involved in any capacity in the sponsorship of a competition or competition prize.
- Where an entrant requires the details of his/her parent/guardian, LBBB Pen to Print may ask for proof of age.
  - LBBB Pen to Print may ask for evidence to verify the identity of an entrant at any time and may use any channels and methods available to carry out checks of any details provided.  
**Entrants may only enter the competition in their own name.**
  - By entering the competition, you agree that the LBBB Pen to Print and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBB) have permission to publish and/or reproduce in full or part any of your work submitted in any format using any media it chooses.
  - Entries must be the exclusive work of the author. By entering the competition entrants confirm that all information submitted by them is true, current, and complete. Entrants also confirm that they are the copyright owners of any copyright works submitted, e.g. photographs and drawings, and LBBB Pen to Print's use of such works (which you will permit) will not infringe the rights of any third party.
  - Entries must be the exclusive work of the artist.
  - Entries must be typed in English; images must not have been published before and not be currently entered in any other competition.
  - You must be an amateur artist.
  - Cover information must be typed using double-spaced text in a Microsoft Word document format in 12pt size Arial font.
  - Send your image files as .png or .jpeg files.
  - Name your image file with the title of the illustration and your initials. (i.e. Title\_YZ.png)
  - All entries will be judged anonymously: **do not** include your name in the illustration or in the image file name.
  - All entries must have entrants, Name, Date of Birth, Address, contact telephone number and/or email address and the title of their submission and the title of which piece it is illustrating **on a separate cover sheet.**
  - Winners of previous Pen to Print Illustration competitions are ineligible to enter again.
  - The judges' decisions are final.

- No correspondence can be entered into.
- Amendments cannot be made to entries after they have been submitted, nor substitutions made.
- Please note that images/ scripts cannot be returned, so you are advised to keep a copy of your work.
- Neither Pen to Print nor its servants, agents, nor any other party or organisation involved in the management, promotion, or administration of the competition or its entry routes or donation of prizes or their agents or subsidiaries involved in the competition will accept responsibility or liability for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operation or transmission, communications line failure, theft, destruction, alteration of, or unauthorised access to entries, or entries lost or delayed whether or not arising during operation or transmission as a result of server functions (including but not limited to security functions by software used by Incisive Media or any third party), virus, bugs, or other causes outside its control.
- Entries submitted through agents or third parties or in bulk (i.e. more entries than a human being could submit in the time available without the use of software or other devices designed to make automated entries or, in the case of postal entries, more than one entry submitted under the same postage stamp) will not be accepted. Entrants may enter as many times as they like unless otherwise indicated in the competition information but no more than one prize per person per competition will be awarded.
- Any entries which are incomplete, incorrect, inaudible, incomprehensible, or not received by LBBB Pen to Print will be void.
- In the event of any fault, mistake, misunderstanding or dispute concerning the correctness or acceptability of the entry or any answers given by entrants (if applicable), or the operation of any part of the competition (in the case of postal entries, a postal strike for example), network or phone system, the decision of LBBB Pen to Print shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- LBBB Pen to Print will not be liable to reimburse expenses incurred in making an entry in any competition. Where LBBB Pen to Print decides in its sole discretion that an entrant is eligible for a refund, eligibility for refunds will be notified to relevant entrants. LBBB Pen to Print reserves the right to refuse to refund any fee or costs incurred where it suspects dishonest or fraudulent conduct on the sender's part or where the entrant has not complied with the rules of the competition.

## Prizes

- The prize is as specified in the competition information.

- LBBB Pen to Print will attempt to notify the winner within 21 days after the closing date, or as otherwise indicated in the competition information, and where time is of the essence for such a period as LBBB Pen to Print shall in its absolute discretion deem reasonable. He/she will be contacted on the phone number, email address provided when entering the competition. The winner will have a specified fixed time period in which to claim his or her prize. If LBBB Pen to Print is unable to notify the winner, or if the winner fails to respond within the fixed time period as specified and/or provide an address for delivery of the prize, this may result in forfeiture of the prize and LBBB Pen to Print reserves the right to select an alternative winner in accordance with these terms and conditions and the competition information.
- LBBB Pen to Print may in its sole discretion refuse to provide a prize, or seek its recovery, in the event of non-entitlement under these terms or an entrant's breach of these terms.
- Any entrant who enters or attempts to enter the Competition in a manner, which in LBBB Pen to Print's determination is contrary to these terms and conditions or by its nature is unfair to other entrants may be removed from the Competition at LBBB Pen to Print's sole discretion.
- LBBB Pen to Print reserves the right to modify, cancel, terminate or suspend the Competition in whole or in part, at its sole discretion, if it believes the Competition is not capable of being conducted as specified in these terms and conditions or in the event of a virus, computer bug or unauthorised human intervention or any other cause that is beyond the reasonable control of LBBB Pen to Print that could corrupt or affect the administration, security, impartiality, or normal course of the Competition.
- LBBB Pen to Print reserves the right in its sole discretion to withhold delivery of the prize until such proof of eligibility and identity has been confirmed or if such proof is not produced on request or to disqualify the entrant from the competition.
- LBBB Pen to Print shall try to deliver the prize to the winner within 28 days from the date of the announcement unless otherwise specified to the winner. Delivery restrictions may apply. No cash equivalent (where applicable) or alternative prize will be given and the prize is non-transferable and non-exchangeable. However, LBBB Pen to Print reserves the right to change the prize due to circumstances beyond its control or to offer an alternative of similar value.
- In relation to all competitions, the first name and surname of the winner may be published by LBBB Pen to Print and entrants grant to LBBB Pen to Print a non-exclusive licence to use and publish their entry in any media for the purpose of announcing the winner.

## Data Protection and Publicity

- LBBB Pen to Print (or any third party nominated by LBBB Pen to Print) may exercise its sole discretion to use the winner's (and if applicable their companion's) name, address, and image and their comments relating to the prize and competition experience for future promotional, marketing and publicity purposes in any media worldwide without notice or without any fee being paid.

- Information, data (“personal data”) which is provided by entrants when they enter will be held and used by LBBB Pen to Print and their suppliers and contractors in order to administer the competition, for the purposes of evaluation and to report to funders.
- We will also use Information, data (“personal data”) to contact you about future opportunities to work with us in the future. You can opt out of this contact by emailing us at [pentoprint@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:pentoprint@lbbd.gov.uk)
- By submitting their personal details, the entrant agrees to LBBB Pen to Print processing those details in accordance with the purposes made known the entrant at the time of collection and in accordance with LBBB privacy policy which can be viewed at <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/general-privacy-notice>.
- LBBB Pen to Print shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, any successor legislation or other applicable law.

## Liability

- Nothing in these terms and conditions shall exclude or limit LBBB Pen to Print’s liability for death or personal injury caused by their staff or supplier’s negligence or for fraud. Subject to this, LBBB Pen to Print cannot accept any responsibility for any damage, loss, injury or disappointment suffered by any entrant entering the competition or as a result of accepting any prize. LBBB Pen to Print is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer on-line systems, servers, or providers, computer equipment, software failure of any email or entry to be received on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet, telephone lines or at any web site, or any combination thereof, including any injury or damage to entrant’s or any other person’s computer or mobile telephone related to or resulting from participation or downloading any materials in the competition.
- LBBB Pen to Print cannot promise that the services relating to the competition will be free from errors or omissions nor that they will be available uninterrupted and in a fully operating condition. These services may be suspended temporarily and without notice in the case of system failure, maintenance or repair or for reasons reasonably beyond the control of LBBB Pen to Print. LBBB Pen to Print will not be liable in the event that all or any part of the service relating to the competition is discontinued, modified or changed in any way.

## Standard terms

- By entering a competition entrants accept these terms and conditions together with any specific instructions and terms for such competition which may be mentioned in any electronic messages, or on the website, or communicated to entrants in any other way (“competition information”). Such competition information shall prevail in the event of there being any inconsistency between these competition terms and conditions and any competition information.

- London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD) Pen to Print may cancel or amend any competition, competition information, or these terms and conditions without prior notice. Any changes will be posted either within the competition information or these terms and conditions.
- In the event that any entrant does not, or is unable to, comply with and meet these terms and conditions and the competition information, LBBD Pen to Print shall be entitled at its sole discretion to disqualify such entrant, without any further liability to such entrant. In these circumstances, any prize(s) won by the entrant may be forfeited and LBBD Pen to Print reserves the right to reclaim any prize(s) already distributed to the entrant. Any entrant must comply with any directions given to him or her by LBBD Pen to Print including but not limited to any and all relevant laws, rules and applicable regulatory codes.
- The promoter of the competition is LBBD Pen to Print, Dagenham Library 1 Church Elm Lane Dagenham, Essex RM10 9QS.

**Any questions about the competition should be emailed to: [pentoprint@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:pentoprint@lbbd.gov.uk)**

- These terms and conditions were last updated on 31 October 2022.