



CHAMBERLAYNE COLLEGE FOR THE ARTS

Expect More. Achieve More.

www.chamberlayne.org

This year is the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, and Southampton Solent University is running a short story competition, for your students, in years 10 and 11 in her honour.

Much as it may seem like Jane Austen's works were all about dances, piano-playing and marriage, her novels often had a lot more to them. She showed her contempt for the patriarchy by writing ironically – a great example of this can be found in *Pride and Prejudice*, where Austen wrote in the first line that: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." This is despite the fact that it is the Bennet sisters, not the men, who are looking for somebody to marry.

We'd like students to take the first line of *Pride and Prejudice* (given above), and give it their own spin. It must be set in Southampton, but how they interpret that line is up to them. What if Mr Darcy wanted a husband instead of a wife? How about if Mr Bingley turned out to be poor? What if Lydia Bennet came to modern Southampton and started texting boys? You tell us!

How to enter

We'd like between 1,000-1,500 words, written entirely by your students, that will not have been published anywhere before. Please instruct students to include the following at the end of their story:

- A word count
- Their name
- Their age and year group
- The inspiration behind their story.

To enter, please can students save their story and the above details with their name as the file name, and send it to their teacher by Wednesday 18 October 2017.

We'll only accept one entry per person. Entries will be published in a small anthology* that will be made available on Thursday 7 December. Winners and runner ups will be announced on Friday 24 November.

This competition is open to students in years 10 and 11, and there will be a winner and two runner ups announced from each year group. The winner of each category will receive a free copy of the anthology, as well as the prize listed below. Everyone else will be able to buy a copy at a small cost.

*If students do not want their entry to be included in the anthology, please can they mention this in their email.

Prizes

1st place: Free copy of anthology, £50 book token

2nd place: £25 book token

3rd place: £10 book token





CHAMBERLAYNE COLLEGE FOR THE ARTS

Expect More. Achieve More.

www.chamberlayne.org

Each winner's school will also receive an anthology and set of Jane Austen novels.

Details for teachers

If you decide to participate, please promote this competition to your students, collate their entries and send them to stepintosuccess@solent.ac.uk by 10pm on Sunday 22 October 2017.

