

50
WORD SHORT STORY
WRITING COMPETITION



Thank You

For all your Entries

2020 Winners

Caterpillars Are Like Us **by Cooper Doddy**

Age Category 6-9 yrs

Before Covid everyone was happy until 2020 came. Boris Johnson announced a virus is going around. He said. "get into your cocoons"
Soon we will emerge into a better society where you will have more freedom to spread your wings and travel again like a butterfly

Click!

By Chris Wylam

Age Category 18+

Click! my car door latches shut against the world. I settle low into its leather seat and twist the key. Instantly exhausts rumble behind me and dials twitch in front. Vital signs of cold metal summoned to life. I emerge onto the sunlit empty road free to travel at last!

All Entries

Once I saw a butterfly coming out of its cocoon.
It was a beautiful sight. Its wings stretched out.
I still don't know what kind of butterfly it was.

Alice Talbot

I sped through the water. I saw loads of different fish and coral.
It felt glorious. I felt the urge to do something exciting.
Something surprising. Something amazing.
Even though I was only a baby,
I felt I could do it. I leapt out of the water. I had emerged.

Anna Talbot

Emerging from lockdown's learning curves.
From a retiree's volunteering busy whirl.
I'd become anxious, perhaps living on my nerves.
Covid stopped all that to a gentle paced curl.
Still productive days with hobbies and learning,
About friends close by, family far and wide.
Ever watchful, our fragile new world emerging.

Brenda Bonnage

First match

'The ball is a natural vector of disease'.
Down it came – the opening ball. I did not hear the sweet summer
sound of ball on willow, only the rattle of the stumps.
I walked off smiling, the happiest of men.
I was playing the noble game again.

Brian Cole

Witches Emerge

Ella always dreamed of being a witch. One morning she heard her little brother screaming. "Harry, shut up you annoying slug!". Suddenly, after a puff of smoke...silence. There was no Harry, only a big, slimy slug. OMG, she was a witch! Next morning, yawning, Ella yelled "Ribbit"..."HARRY!"

Clara Richards - age 7

Cut Short

Emerging from the chrysalis of my flat,
where I have been cocooned for twelve weeks,
I rejoice by wearing my brightest colours.
My friends stare as I enter the cafe.
"You've put on weight" one remarks,
I sigh.
A Butterfly's first day out is far too short.

David Gregory

The Sunflower

This year's summer sunflower droops;
a single yellow petal defies the wind.
We planted it in March; watched it grow towards the sky,
feed the bees and bed them down for the night.
Under each tiny floret there now lies a dormant seed.
Next year there may be sunflowers again.

Elaine Aldridge

The Invisible Hour Glass

No one knows when time started or when it'll end.
Sometimes it's slow sometimes fast.
People today feel it's stopped altogether.
Covid stops for no one, like the NHS.
As we break out of this loop we emerge triumphant turning
the tides of time once more.

Harris Doddy

Autumn. Looking out he said “I shall die when the last leaf falls”.

Surely not. We must do something.

Spring. A time of emergence. The man finally smiled and got up.

He had survived the winter – as had the last leaf - the one his good
friends had glued on.

Hazel Cole

Emerging from Lockdown

The cocoon feels good,
do I really have to go out?

Some are out and about
in the sunshine.

The garden has the sunshine too.

Be brave, walk, run.

Expand the chest.

Flap wings slowly, then faster,
feel the freedom.

Break out, meet friends.

Heather Hunter

My eyes glanced briefly at the alarm clock
as he brought the axe down towards my head. 12:57.
I jumped bolt upright in my bed, relieved that it had been a dream.
I looked at the clock. 12:56.
And then I saw the hand emerge from the wardrobe...

John Fowler

Emerging

“I’m really looking forward to going out.”
“Do you think it’s safe?”
“I don’t know, what do you think?”
“We could always wear a mask.”
“OK, let’s risk it. You take the food waste and I’ll put out the blue bin.”

John Yates

Metamorphosis

Boy, am I glad to be out. Months I've been stuck in there.
First thing I'm gonna do, is get me a drink of nectar - wash away the taste
of those damn cabbage leaves.

Then, I'm gonna find me a little 'love action' - I'm feeling kinda... 'flighty'.

Kevin Cheesman

Potholes

Trapped, I dig a silent well of worry
To emerge early, early one spring Saturday
And walk, walk, walk.

Surprised, a fluorescent-clad skinhead
Leaks hot, black marshmallow, the shape of Venezuela
On the lane to the Great Hall and
Wondered, the ease some holes are filled.

LAP

Emerging Into The Adult World

I am 18 next week! No exams; no reliable results;
no hugs from friends; no confidence
that next year's teaching will be face to face.

Still I smile for the cameras and vow to vote when the next election comes.

Politicians beware! In time we too will rule the world.

Margaret Watkins

Once there was a human and the human was hungry
and do you know what it did? It emerged out of the
door in to the kitchen.

It found the kitchen and started throwing
food into its mouth. The end.

Elliot Philpott (aged 6)

There was an owl which wasn't keen to go out of the tree.

It really wanted fresh air. One day it was brave.

It had mixed feelings, excited, scared and hot

but it knew it needed to do it, so it did.

It flapped and flapped and felt so refreshed.

Martha Philpott (aged 8)

Emerge

Life is not all that it seems,

We've all got wishes and dreams.

Each one of us is special plus unique

Find the thing that you seek.

Although lockdown was not fun,

Remember- we will always have the sun!

Emerge and conquer,

This virus will be no longer!

Oriana Costa Cooper

DILEMMA

Should I? Dare I? What will it be like?
 Will they take care? Who will be there?
 Will anyone really notice? Should I book?
 Haven't done it since January. I really should try.
 Or maybe wait another week?
 On the other hand, if not now, when?
 "Is that the barbers?"

Roger Rickard

Rat emerges.
 Eats five raisins, withdraws.
 Our understanding: five in return for leaving rest alone.
 Eat my five. Stomach quietens. Stores low.
 Check Grandad's watch: 10 days left.
 40 days they said. 40 to be safe.
 Imagine emerging into sunshine.
 Buses, not ambulances.
 People, not body bags.
 Roses, not rats.

Sarah Jakeman