



Titus Salt School
6-Word Story Challenge
Deadline – 23rd July 2021
Email: ska@titussaltschool.co.uk

Can you write an effective, thought-provoking story in just six words?

Read the winning entries from First Story's national competition here:

[Six Word Story 2020 shortlist and winners announced | First Story](#)

Imagine these were just a snippets of much longer stories.

What you think could have happened in these stories?

You might like to focus on just one but you could come up with as many interpretations as you like.

Be inspired

Challenge number 1:

Write down *as many* words as you can think of. These words can be from ANY word class (adjectives, nouns, verbs etc.) They are the first things that spring to your mind.

Do not cross out. Do not edit. Do not worry about spelling.

Just write as many different words as you can!



Ready? Set? Go!

Have a go at 'free writing'

Challenge number 2:

Look at your list of words and circle 3 that you think are especially interesting – ones you feel you could write more about.

tired, aunt, wood, cloth, bargain,
splendid, worried, awkward, cat, shoes,
toothpaste, sunset, horizon, plane,
argument, singer, writer, pencil, black,
grey, unconventional, lively, sunshine,
moldy, peaceful, vile, violent, mean

Select your favourite ideas

Challenge number 3:

Of those three words, pick your favourite one – one that you will free write about for **three minutes**. Again, it's completely random; just see where the word takes you – it can go anywhere!

Horizon

The horizon glowed red above the rooftops, fighting for attention with the streetlights that flooded the road an ominous orange. There was nobody around. Everyone was shut up inside their houses. Hiding. But not me. I was ready to face the darkness.

Have a go at 'free writing'

Challenge number 4:

Now you need to capture the essence of your freely written story in just 6 words. This is tricky but try and push yourself to write 3 different versions.

Horizon

The horizon glowed red above the rooftops, fighting for attention with the streetlights that flooded the road an ominous orange. There was nobody around. Everyone was shut up inside their houses. Hiding. But not me. I was ready to face the darkness.

Facing darkness, only I was brave enough.

Deserted streets lead to daring decisions.

They hid behind curtains. Not me.

Produce your 6 word story

Challenge number 5:

It's time to edit because *all* good writing requires editing!



Facing darkness, only I was brave enough.
When darkness came, I remained brave.
Darkness fell but I refused to.
Darkness. Bravery was all that remained.
Darkness: a test of my bravery.

Try altering the words
and putting them in a
different order until you
get something you're
most happy with.

Edit your 6 word story

Other ideas:

Below are a few other ideas you could experiment with:

- Use a well known story and reduce it to 6 words
- Use a well known story and give it a bit of a twist
- Set an idea up in the first 2/3 words then add a surprise or twist
- Summarise an event in 6 words
- Use word play or a pun

You could even use more than one of these techniques.

Experiment with other techniques

Our Work With First Story

First Story is a charity that encourages creativity and a love for writing by facilitating workshops for children lead by published poets, authors and playwrights. We have had the pleasure of working with them for the last four years and each year the pupils' writing from the workshops is published in an anthology. This will be an opportunity to look out for when you start school next year. If you want to test out some of their workshops over summer, you can access a playlist of video tutorials [here](#) which they created in response to last year's lockdown.

As a school, we celebrated National Writing Day on Wednesday 23rd June which you can read about on our [website](#) and read some of our pupils work too.

First Story

To enter *your*
6-word story into the competition
and be in with chance of winning an
amazon voucher, please email your
entry and your full name to
ska@titussaltschool.co.uk before July
23rd 2021.
Good luck!

