**Competition**

**#WriteToRide**

A FREE creative writing competition with superb prizes for Pony Club members.

The theme is horsey which can mean almost anything you like. It could be a short poem or a piece of flash fiction, or it could be a longer essay or story. Just keep within the rules listed below and send in your entries. Let your imagination run wild.



If you are studying for GCSE or A Level, check out the Top Tips section for ways to use this piece to help with your coursework. In addition, winning a prize in a prestigious national competition can be a valuable line on your CV.

**Prizes**

We are thrilled to announce our competition winners will appear in [Equestrian Life magazine](http://www.equestrianlifemagazine.co.uk/) alongside all our fabulous sponsors and prize-hosts.

A whole array of amazing prizes has been put together, including a stay in a luxury cottage, a day at the races, lessons with top professionals, visits to some of the country's top yards and many more:

* **The best entry overall, as well as any other prize they might be awarded, will win** a weekend stay at Moreton Morrell in Warwickshire in a [luxury courtyard cottage](http://luxurycourtyardcottages.co.uk/).
* Accompany [world champion, Ros Canter](http://www.roscantereventing.com/) to an event in her lorry, watch her warm up, do each discipline and learn how to care for a horse on a competition day.
* A yard visit and a day's training with video analysis from [Olympic event rider, Nicola Wilson](http://www.nicolawilsoneventing.co.uk/).
* A lesson in Yorkshire with [Gary Parsonage](https://justbeverley.co.uk/articles/1634/molescroft-farm-diversifying-to-meet-peoples-needs), member of the British 3-day event team at the Atlanta Olympics, Technical Advisor for British Eventing and, until recently, Chairman of Selectors for the British Pony Squad.
* A lesson with [international dressage rider and trainer Adam Kemp FBHS](https://www.amdressage.com/) from AM Dressage either at his yard in Gloucestershire or at a different venue in the South East / Devon / Cornwall area by arrangement.
* Stay with GB event rider [Storm Straker and her family](https://www.facebook.com/stormstrakereventing/) for two days and have a lesson on her 4\* horse Versace. You can take your own horse too if you wish.
* A car pass and two tickets for Cross Country day at [Badminton Horse Trials](https://www.badminton-horse.co.uk/) 8th May 2021.
* A personalised video from an equestrian event from [Total Recall Videos](http://total-recall-videos.co.uk/) (one video voucher for each age group).
* Tickets for the [Chatsworth Horse Trials](https://www.chatsworth.org/events/horse-trials/), May 2021.
* A visit to [William Fox-Pitt's yard](https://www.foxpitteventing.co.uk/) in Dorset.
* A private showcase into the training of International Dressage and Showjumping horses plus a special horse training and management theory discussion session at their yard in Staffordshire with [Richard and Joe Davidson](https://www.davisonequestrian.com/) Olympic riders in dressage and showjumping.
* Two Thursday admission tickets to [Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials](https://burghley-horse.co.uk/) plus a Thursday car pass. Note that admission is free for 12s and under, and that on the Thursday Land Rover Burghley is host to the Pony Club jumping competition all day in ring 2.
* A lesson in Staffordshire with [Olympic rider Dag Albert](https://www.alberteventing.com/).
* A lesson in either Yorkshire or Leicestershire with eventer and BE accredited coach [Phil Brown](https://www.facebook.com/Phil-Brown-Eventing-272333629598718/).
* A lesson in Yorkshire with BHS performance coach [Catherine Cundall](https://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/find-an-accredited-professional--coach/people/abc/catherine-cundall).
* A lesson at [Naburn Grange Riding Centre in York](https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Sports---Recreation/Naburn-Grange-Riding-Centre-Official-216398655158156/).
* A voucher for arena hire at [Askham Bryan College](https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/the-college/departments/equine) near York
* A training clinic tailored to your own individual needs in dressage, showjumping or cross-country with [Caroline Moore, FBHS BE Youth Performance Coach](http://www.caroline-moore.com/), to be taken either at Vale View in Leicestershire or at a venue nearer your home by arrangement.
* Spend a day with [Alex Tordoff, event rider](https://hydelodgehorses.com/), at his yard in Leicestershire. Bring your horse for flatwork in the morning, a yard tour before enjoying some jumping instruction.
* A yard visit and lesson from UKCC level 3 dressage coach and [international Team GB rider, Hannah Esberger](https://hannahesberger.co.uk/).
* A course walk at the [BE event at Askham Bryan](https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/whats-on/event/2017/10/07/2216) in October 2020 (or 2021 if this year's event does not run) with BHSI BE accredited coach, Fiona Harrison.
* A lesson in York with [accredited BHSI BE coach, Fiona Harrison](https://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/find-an-accredited-professional--coach/people/def/fiona-harrison--bhsi-ht).
* Vouchers from [British Horse Feeds](https://www.britishhorsefeeds.com/) (one in each age group).
* A dressage lesson in Staffordshire with [BHS coach, Jane Critchley](https://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/find-an-accredited-professional--coach/people/jkl/jane-critchley--bhsai).
* A [cross country lesson with international event rider, Heidi Woodhead and a dressage lesson with former pony team dressage trainer, Ian Woodhead](https://www.dhieventhorses.com/) at their yard near York.
* An eventing lesson in Shropshire with [FEI Pony Team coach, Jonquil Hemming](https://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/find-an-accredited-professional--coach/people/jkl/jonquil-hemming).
* A dressage lesson in Leicestershire with [BD judge and former Cottesmore chief instructor, Linda Pearce](https://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/find-an-accredited-professional--coach/people/jkl/linda-pearce--bhsi).
* A lesson in Dorset with [international event rider and BE coach, Jo Rimmer](https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Coach/Team-Rimmer-Eventing-344833202251839/).
* A cross country lesson with former junior [European Eventing Champion, Bubby Upton](https://www.facebook.com/Bubby-Upton-Eventing-826567164020221/) in Newmarket.
* A lesson in Ayrshire with one of Scotland's top riders, [level 3 coach, Aileen Craig](https://m.facebook.com/AileenCraigSJ/), plus a team C&N polo shirt and pom pom hat.
* A dressage lesson with [BHSII instructor Verity Franks](https://www.facebook.com/verityfrankscompetitionhorses/) at Thornton House Farm near York.
* A lesson with [BHSII instructor Janet Horswill](https://www.janethorswilldressage.co.uk/about), holder of the British Dressage Medal of Honour for services to the sport.
* A day at [Port Royal EEC](http://www.portroyaleec.co.uk/) with 3 free entries and a £20 voucher for the cafe.
* A dressage lesson in Kent from [BHSI instructor Penny Pegrum](https://www.equestrianindex.com/entry/penny-pegrum-bhsi), coach to paralympic medalist Laurentia Tan.
* A lesson and performance profiling session, plus a video test analysis session in Scotland with [Harry Payne, international dressage rider](https://www.facebook.com/Harry-Payne-Dressage-253600618001966/), coach and judge.
* A lesson from one their instructors at [Bishop Burton College](https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/facilities-and-services/equine-centre) in East Yorkshire.
* A voucher for arena hire from [Moreton Equestrian Centre](https://moretondorset.co.uk/) in Dorset.
* Go with your horse or pony for a day with [Willa Newton, one of Britain's top professional event riders](http://www.willanewtoneventing.co.uk/), at her yard near Melton Mowbray.
* A visit to meet [Katie Stephens-Grandy and her Connemaras](https://www.facebook.com/katiestephenseventing/) in North Yorkshire. Katie is currently top of the grassroots BE leader board and won the arena eventing final on her Connemara, Belview Bobby.
* A course walk with [event rider, Olivia Wilmot](https://www.facebook.com/haddoweventing/), venue to be arranged, possibly Blair Castle or Bramham.
* A rider video analysis with physio treatment from [chartered veterinary physiotherapist, Robyn Dunn](https://twitter.com/outlinephysio?lang=en-gb).
* A lesson and yard visit from [showjumper, Pippa Allen](https://www.facebook.com/Pippa-Allen-Showjumper-129422967224057/).
* A Pilates for riders and postural alignment session with [BHSAI BE accredited coach Georgie Barnes](https://www.facebook.com/gbhorseriderrealignment/).

Note that in most cases, lessons and training from the top riders and trainers will be carried out with your own horse or pony. In some cases, horses or ponies might be provided.

* Autographed merchandise from [international eventer Oliver Townend](https://www.olivertownend.com/).
* Audio or ebooks from [Fantastic Books Publishing](https://www.fantasticbooksstore.com/) (prize in each age group).
* A photoshoot voucher valued at £125 from [TMS Photography](http://www.tmsphotography.blog/).
* A head portrait of your horse or other pet by [GB event rider and artist Sam Straker](https://www.fei.org/athlete/10019611/STRAKER-Sam).
* A portrait of your horse or one of your pets by [illustrator Sophie Morice](https://www.facebook.com/sophie.illustrate/).
* The name of your favourite horse or pony featured in Horse of the Same Colour, the sequel to [Horse of a Different Colour](http://getbook.at/HorseofaDifferentColour) that is expected to be published next year.
* **The author of the best poem** as well as any other prize they might win, will be invited to spend a day out with [Billy Bank and his team](https://www.britishhorsefeeds.com/lorry_batteries_causing_drama) at an event. The winning poem will be included in Billy's blog.

**The best entry and runner up with a racing theme will win a day out at the races and Ascot British Champion tickets. Visits to racing yards will be won in each age group:**

* A day out for four at any UK National Hunt racecourse (excluding festivals), to include race-card and restaurant meal.
* 4 tickets to QIPCO British Champions Day at Ascot in October, donated by [Rod Street](https://racingwelfare.co.uk/team/rod-street/).
* A morning on the gallops to meet the stars in training on the yard of [Nicky Henderson, six-time National Hunt Champion Trainer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicky_Henderson) of the awesome Altior, Might Bight, Sprinter Sacre and many more.
* A morning on the gallops, yard visit and breakfast for up to six people at [Tom George Racing](https://tomgeorgeracing.co.uk/), Slad, Gloucestershire.
* A morning on the gallops, yard visit and a JR Musto jacket at [Johnston Racing in North Yorkshire](https://www.johnston.racing/).

**Prizes will be awarded according to the age groups (see the rules below) but in addition there will extra prizes awarded in specific categories e.g. for under 7 year olds.**



**Judging**

The entries will be judged by [Danuta Kot](http://danutakot.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), Times best-selling novelist, English Language specialist and experienced GCSE & A-Level examiner,  and by [Penny Grubb](http://www.pennygrubb.com/), award-winning crime novelist.
Racing-themed stories will be judged by author and TV producer [John Fairley](https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/John-Fairley/a/2615)

**Top Tips for Creating Winning Entries**

Seven top tips from professional writers will be added here day by day from the launch date of the competition. Book mark this webpage and keep coming back to get the latest advice.

Top tip 1: [How to decide what to write about](https://pennygrubb.blogspot.com/p/top-tip-1.html)

Top tip 2: [How to get started](https://pennygrubb.blogspot.com/p/top-tip-2.html)

Top tip 3: [Be your own critic](https://pennygrubb.blogspot.com/p/top-tip-3.html)

Top tip 4: [Use your entry to help with schoolwork](https://pennygrubb.blogspot.com/p/top-tip-4.html)

Top tip 5: [How to write convincing dialogue](https://pennygrubb.blogspot.com/p/top-tip-5.html)

Top tip 6: [Making your story a good read](https://pennygrubb.blogspot.com/p/top-tip-6.html?m=1)

Top tip 7: [Worked examples showing techniques in action](https://pennygrubb.blogspot.com/p/top-tip-7.html?m=1)

**Rules**

**The theme**: ponies or horses. Interpret this as widely as you like. You can write about anything from your experience at an event or a show to a scary moment out on a hack to a fiction tale about an undersea world involving seahorses. Just make sure that some kind of a horse or pony gets in there somehow.

**Length, originality and number of entries**: The work must be your own original work, not published elsewhere. You can send in up to 3 separate entries. The maximum word length is 1500 words. There is no minimum. You can write short pieces or you can use all 1500 words. NB Your entry MUST either be in a Word, PDF or TXT file OR be typed into the body of your email.

**Pony Club**: you must be a Pony Club or Centre member. If you’re not but you were thinking of joining, why not [JOIN NOW](https://pcuk.org/join-us/) and give yourself a shot at these amazing prizes.

**Deadline**: For the 11 & under and the 12 to 15 categories, your entries must be sent in by **6 pm Friday 22nd May**.
For the 16 & over category, your entries must be sent in by **6 pm Sunday 14th June**.