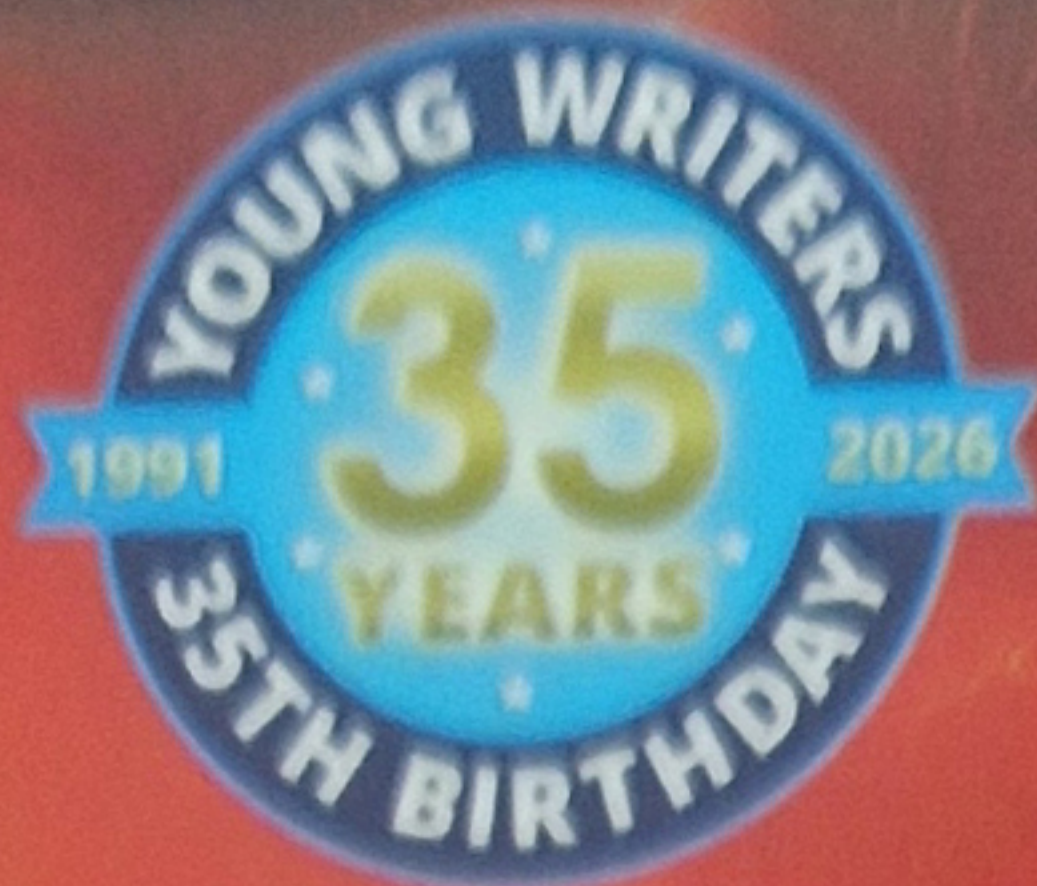


"MY STUDENTS LOVED THIS!"



 YoungWriters®
Est. 1991

STRANGER — SAGAS —

THE EDGE OF
POSSIBILITY

FOREWORD

Young Writers was founded in 1991 to inspire and encourage creative writing, offering young people the opportunity to share their voices and imaginations. Each competition we design is carefully crafted to engage students of different ages, empowering them to create something unique. We believe that seeing their work in print gives students a sense of pride and accomplishment, affirming their talent and hard work and giving them recognition.

Stranger Sagas invited students to explore the strange and unusual and write short-form stories. Crafting a mini saga is a unique challenge, requiring students to convey a complete story with a beginning, middle and end. This format encourages students to make powerful vocabulary choices and zero in on the essence of their stories. Without the intimidation of long-form writing, they could dive straight into the heart of their tale.

With bizarre beginnings, mysterious middles and enigmatic endings, the resulting tales in this collection cover a range of genres and showcase the talent of the next generation. From fun to frightening to the weird and wonderful, these mini sagas are sure to keep you entertained and take you to strange new worlds.

Congratulations to all these young writers – we hope seeing their work in print will encourage them to keep writing and keep creating.



Harry Kane

One gloomy night at Old Trafford, Harry Kane planned a football match with aliens from Mars, but before the match, Harry Kane got wires implanted into his whole body.

The game commenced. Harry Kane ran down the wing and shot and scored. He ran to the corner flag and knee slid, but the wires in his body malfunctioned, and his knees split, and sparks flew out.

A power plant nearby was having a gas leak, and the spark from Harry Kane's knees caught onto the gas, and everything blew up, but somehow, Harry Kane survived and walked out unscathed like nothing ever happened to Old Trafford...

Leo Worthington (13)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

The Door That Wasn't There Yesterday

One day, a boy called Jackson sat on his bed with his cat, Mike, playing his PlayStation.

Out of nowhere, a portal door appeared on his bedroom wall. The portal door opened, and standing there, there was a family of aliens. One big tall one and two smaller ones. Jackson thought they were a family. The aliens looked like real humans!

Jackson could tell they were aliens because when they tried to speak to him, it was in a language that he had never heard before. They signalled Jackson to go into the portal with them, so he did with Mike the cat.

Jackson and Mike were never seen again.

Ethan Spellman (13)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Gone Wrong Experiment

John woke up in the science lab. He was scared, panicked, and TRAPPED! He realised he had been captured.

He knew this would happen because of his power, a power that he didn't even know how to use properly; he just knew it was there... he could feel it. The scientists wanted to make it work properly; they knew how valuable he would be if they could get his invisibility powers working. They tested, tortured, and traumatised him; he couldn't take any more.

Suddenly, he felt a tingle in his hand, rush through his body... he was invisible! He escaped, and now he was the powerful one.

Olivia Zdunkiewicz (15)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Scorpion Queen

As I sneaked into the bio lab, I noticed a lion being tested. The sign above said he was being tested for eating bear skin. I made a noise, and the scientist jumped, and a potion spilt over onto the lion. I named the lion Leo. Leo started changing into a giant, titan, deadly scorpion. I named her Lauren. Lauren broke out of the lab and scurried into the city. She had a rocket that was attached to her tail. Lauren kept launching her rocket fist into the buildings to destroy them. Godzilla leapt out of the sky and killed Lauren with his atomic breath and restored the city.

Hunter Sheldon (14)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Instead Of Blood, There Were Wires...

One day two years ago, me and my mum had an argument, and it got out of hand very quickly! It ended with my mum being stabbed... and I was accused of doing it. The question: *was it me?*

Inside the body... instead of blood, there were wires. I hid my mum in the basement and moved on.

Five years later, life had progressed, and I was ready to go to the police station.

When I got there, the police officer told me my real mum had been dead for eleven years. This was shocking to me. I hadn't been prepared. *Who was the woman with wires?*

Vinnie Hill-Swinburn (12)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

The Zombies Escape

Something hovered in the sky, it was stuck and the experiment was a failure. Khaled was trapped in the backrooms in Indonesia. Khaled was a girl, with blonde hair and medium height. Khaled sent a drone into the sky to watch where the zombies were, but the drone wasn't moving, it was stuck. Khaled had no way of escaping from the backrooms and her food was running low. As each day went by, she was eating less and less, and still the drone was stuck. No zombies were to be seen anywhere. Could she possibly escape now? Then suddenly, there was a knock at the door!

Kodi Mason (15)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Where's My Dad Gone?

My dad said he was getting milk, but that was last week. Hi, my name is Jeffery, and I lost my dad. I-I couldn't do anything. The milk pulled out a knife and stabbed him 6-7 times. I was scared. *How did the milk do that?* I thought to myself. But I knew I had to do something. So I robbed a rocket and I flew the milk to Mars, while I called my friend, who is an alien president. But that was 10 years ago...

Milk's back to destroy Earth! Until I drank him, but when I finished, something changed. I-I-I... was a mutant milk carton!

Oliver Buckley (14)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

The Night When It All Kicked Off!

I was filming a YouTube video at the Coventry Building Society area. Haji Wright put one in the top right with a bicycle kick. It was the best goal I had ever seen. The crowd went crazy. Then, *kaboom!* A bomb went off. Acid was killing fans all over the ground. Everyone ran down the stairs to get away. The stewards opened the doors, and fans spilled outside, only to be met by the walking dead, who started biting the fans. Quickly, everyone ran back inside, the shutters came down, but too late... some zombies had got in, then... the lights went out!

Mason Murphy (12)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Paranoid Pain

Blood drips on my face, adrenaline rushing through my veins. I don't know why I did it, but I did, and I can't reverse it.

The next day, I was so paranoid that I couldn't even buy a coffee at my favourite coffee shop. On my way home, there was a package at my door, but I ignored it and went to bed.

In the morning, I woke up to loud banging on my door, so I went to see what it was. The package was still there with a bloody hand sticking out of it. Suddenly, there was a mysterious, creepy man. Before I blacked out, I heard laughing!

Kaleb Simoes (12)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

The Missing Child

I'm so bored, I just want freedom and adventure! So, that's what I'm going to do... head to the woods for an adventure!

I think I am alone, but I hear a twig snap under someone's foot and rustling in the hedges. Next thing I know, I'm in darkness with something covering my head, and I can hear myself screaming.

I feel them pulling me, and I hear two men's voices. Next, a **BANG!** I feel like they bundled me into a boot.

And that was five years ago, and I replay that over and over, every day since I died.

Candice Parkes (16)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Eden Experimentation

I was sent a letter stamped with my old company logo. My company was shut down 5 years ago. I took a boat to the man-made island. I stepped into the building and there were the half-eaten bodies of my coworkers, still there from the tragic event. I came across my old laboratory. The cases on the wall were broken, the table flipped, notes everywhere. I could hear footsteps. I turned around to find Lily, one of the experiments, still alive! I was incapacitated by a larger experiment and chained to a wall. I think I've been here for days now.

Leon Mitcham (15)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Emptiness

It was a dark, gloomy night, and I was walking in the woods. I thought I heard something, but when I turned around, no one was there. I continued to walk. I was convinced that there was something behind me, but every time I turned around... nothing was there. Until it was. There, behind me, stood a tall black shadow with razor-sharp teeth, and he lunged at me. I began to run away, and at the end of the forest, I reached a black hole. I jumped into it only to find out it was a black realm... and now I was lost forever.

Darcey Newman (15)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Sekiro #0

My name is Mac Vaqueros, I'm starting this here journal so when my laddy is born, he can carry on his old man's legacy. There may be some things I've failed to say, whether cowardice or circumstance. Nonetheless, I'm not the man you think. Before I met your mother, I was a bad man... I hurt people and killed, but your mother changed me. I hope you never feel as lost as I did in those times. I love you, son, but you need to grow up fast and protect your mum from the world. It's dangerous, so good luck.

Ryan Butler (14)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Prison Boy

All I did was take a bit of money, now I'm stuck in this jail cell. It's cold, dirty, and horrible. I don't get much food, I'm going to try to get out of this prison tomorrow, by lunchtime at 12:30. If I escape, I'm going to go to my friend's house and I'm going to take his body. It's a good thing he doesn't know I'm in prison right now, and it is a really good thing he doesn't know I can swap bodies. The time is 8:30 when I get his body.

Six days later, I'm in his body, the police took my friend away.

Kyle Blacklock (15)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Never-Ending

My mum is so strict. All of my classmates have social media, but my mum will not let me have it. My friends were having a party, so I decided to sneak out. When I came home, bats were outside. I ran into the house and my mum was hanging from the ceiling with razor-sharp teeth. I ran away. My head was so discombobulated, I couldn't stop feeling like I was turning into a monster, too! I woke up and screamed, "HELP!" My mum told me I could have social media, but after having that nightmare, I refused!

Cobie Alcock (12)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Family Feud

There was a feud between two families that had always grown up together. They could never find space alone because they both always had to have the same as each other. If one bought a yacht, the other would buy a bigger one. This would happen all the time. The kids thought of a plan to stop this madness because they would run out of money soon. So they went to their tree house and thought up a plan of how to save their family. So they went to the bank dressed up as a man and tried to freeze their money forever.

Joshua Wiggan (13)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

The Mutant Creature

Deep through the fog, in the dark graveyard, he stood staring down at me with his big wings and dark eyes. I moved back, but kept my eyes on him so he didn't move—or, I thought he wouldn't. All of a sudden, he flew up in the air, his wings flapping loudly. As I tried to look for him, he swooped down, trying to get hold of me with his claws and sharp teeth. But he didn't look like a normal demon... more like an alien and demon merged together like a mutant creature only hungry for humans.

Daisy Buchan (15)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

The Window

As I was in the kitchen, making ice cubes, I heard a noise, and as I turned around, I noticed it was the window. The window was talking to me! The window asked if I could set it free from the curse. I asked the window what it was talking about. The window explained that its name was Mike and that many years ago a witch put a curse on it and it turned into a window. I asked the window if it wanted any ice cubes, and told it I would not be setting it free, so it will be a window forever.

Logan Foulds (13)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

Bob The Devil

At the start, there was fear. This fear of gods and devils. This fear is what summoned Bob. Bob is the devil. It appeared in the USA in Texas and Massachusetts in 1957... I was there at the start. We, the survivors of the incident, hid where we could in smelly sewers. It has been 16 years since.

After gathering intel for two months on where Bob will strike next, we are planning to stop Bob from destroying the Earth. So far, he has destroyed half of the Earth...

Damian Rowlands (13)

Arc School Old Arley, Ansley

STRANGER —SAGAS—

STEP INTO WORLDS WHERE THE ORDINARY TWISTS INTO THE EXTRAORDINARY. IN THESE BITE-SIZED TALES, NOTHING IS QUITE AS IT SEEMS - DOORS LEAD SOMEWHERE UNEXPECTED, TIME SLIPS, SHADOWS WHISPER AND REALITY BENDS IN SURPRISING WAYS.

EACH STORY CAPTURES A FLASH OF MYSTERY, SUSPENSE OR WONDER - FROM THE EERIE TO THE ENCHANTING, THE CHILLING TO THE CURIOUS.

WRITTEN BY YOUNG WRITERS WITH VIVID IMAGINATIONS, STRANGER SAGAS IS A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY, COURAGE AND THE THRILL OF THE UNKNOWN.

DARE TO ENTER AND SEE WHAT STRANGE TALES AWAIT WITHIN.

"We have loved participating...
it has created a real buzz about writing
around the school."

Meriel Glynn, Alder Community High School

"Our students loved the theme
of this writing competition, it really
struck a chord with them and they all
enjoyed writing their strange sagas!"

Amy Townley, Bishop Rawstorne
CofE Academy