

Short Story, Flash Fiction and Poetry Competitions 2019

The Michael Mullan Cancer Fund is seeking entries for their annual Short Story, Flash Fiction and Poetry Competitions. Writers, whether established or not, are invited to submit on any theme.

Short stories should not exceed 2,000 words. Entry Fee €15.

Flash Fiction

Poems should not exceed 40 lines. Entry Fee €10.

Closing date 12.00 midnight on Thursday 18 July 2019

This is a very worthwhile cause to enable Michael Mullan (27), who is battling cancer for the third time to continue to receive life-saving treatment in the U.S.A.

How to Enter:

Email your short story, flash fiction or poetry entry to:

mmcancerfundwritingcompetition@gmail.com

Pay entry fee on website: <https://www.michaelmullancancerfund.com/writing-competitions>

All entry fees will go to the Michael Mullan Cancer Fund.

Closing Date is 12.00 midnight (GMT) on Thursday 18th July 2019.

Terms and Conditions:

This is an open competition for short stories, flash fiction and poems on any subject matter.

The competition is open to people of 16 years and over.

1st Prize €200 for short story, €100 for flash fiction and €100 for poetry

2nd Prize €50 for short story, €50 for flash fiction and €50 for poetry

The winning entries in each competition will be published on the Michael Mullan Cancer Fund website and also on the Kildare Readers Festival website.

Entries must be in English.

For the Short Story Competition entries must be no more than 2,000 words in length excluding the title.

Entries for the Flash Fiction Competition must not exceed 500 words, excluding the title.

Poems should not exceed 40 lines in length, excluding the title.

Longer entries will not be permitted and will be automatically rejected.

Entries must be the original work of the author and must not have been previously published. Entries which have received awards in other competitions are also ineligible.

The author's name and details should appear on the accompanying e-mail only, not on the story or poem, as entries are judged anonymously. Please ensure that:

- the title is clearly marked at the top of the entry and each page thereafter
- pages are numbered in the short story and flash fiction competitions
- entries in Word only must use Times New Roman 12 font and 1.5 space
- the author's name does NOT appear on the entry submitted, only on the e-mail accompanying the piece as all submissions will be judged anonymously.
- the covering email should state in the subject header which competition the entry is for (ie Short Story, Flash Fiction or Poetry).
- those entering more than one competition (short story, flash fiction, poetry) should send their entries in separate emails.
- brief author's biography is included (max 100 words)
- their entry is attached to their covering email

The closing date for entries is **12.00 midnight (GMT) on Thursday 18th July 2019.**

Entries received after this date will not be considered.

Overtly sexual, violent or hate filled submissions will not be considered.

A longlist of the top 20 submissions in each competition will be published on the Michael Mullan Cancer Fund website (www.michaelmullancancerfund.com) in August 2019. The top 6 shortlisted in each competition will also be listed on the website in September and those shortlisted will be contacted by email. The top 6 shortlisted Short Story submissions will be judged by Martin Malone. The top 6 Flash Fiction entries shortlisted will be judged by Caroline E. Farrell. The top 6 poems shortlisted will be judged by John MacKenna. The judges' decision is final and the Michael Mullan Cancer Fund will not enter into correspondence concerning the judging or merits awarded. The onus is on the author to ensure that their entry complies with the rules of the competition.

Entries should be submitted by email only to mmcancerfundwritingcompetition@gmail.com

Hard copies will not be permitted.

Winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded at a special event on Wednesday 9 October 2019 (7.00 pm for 7.30 pm) at Newbridge Library, Newbridge, Co. Kildare as part of the 2019 Kildare Readers Festival. The six shortlisted entries in each category will be asked to read all or part of their submissions on the night. All expenses incurred will be the writer's own.

Kildare Readers Festival, now in its tenth year, is an entirely free literary event with the aim of connecting readers with authors and artists. The festival works to bring the very best from the world of literature to Kildare with over 1,200 attendees countywide last year. Previous guest speakers to the festival have included John Connolly, Pat McCabe, Joseph O'Connor, Carlo Gebler, Dermot Bolger, Dervla Murphy, Rob Doyle, Liz Nugent, Peter Murphy, Louise McSharry, Paul Howard, Martin Dyar, Paula Meehan, Nuala O'Connor, Hazel Gaynor and many more.

Copyright of the entries will remain with the author. The winning author, the runners up and those shortlisted agree to have their photograph taken and used for publicity purposes by the Michael Mullan Cancer Fund.

The entry fee is €15 for short stories and €10 each for flash fiction and for poems. This must be paid using the link on the website, <https://www.michaelmullancancerfund.com/writing-competitions> unless otherwise agreed in advance.

Donations in excess of the stipulated entry fee would be most welcome for this deserving cause.

See below for more information about Michael Mullan and the Michael Mullan Cancer Fund.

The Michael Mullan Cancer Fund

Michael (Mick) Mullan, a 27-year old from Eadestown, Naas, Co Kildare, now living in the United States, is battling cancer for the third time. He was diagnosed as a 16-month old with neuroblastoma and, following chemotherapy, surgery and bone marrow transplant he eventually recovered to live a normal life until his final year at Trinity College when the cancer came back – renal cell cancer - and he had one-third of his kidney removed. He was 22 years old at the time. This was a difficult time for him, for his girlfriend Mel and for his family. He resumed his studies two months later and graduated with a first-class honours degree in Business and Law. This enabled him to win a scholarship to Harvard Law School in 2015. Three months into his course the Mullan family got the devastating news that the cancer had returned with multiple secondary tumours in the lungs, abdomen and lymph nodes.

He was given 6 months to live.

After considering all the options available, Michael was referred to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, one of the leading cancer research and treatment centres in the world. Various treatments followed –chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiation and targeted chemotherapy all with various debilitating side effects. Michael persevered and, remarkably graduated with a Masters in Law in May 2017. And he has now embarked on a Law PHD in American University, Washington DC.

Michael has been advised by his consultant that his treatment is likely to be long term and that he needs to remain in the United States to avail of this essential life-saving treatment. This treatment is not available in Ireland. Costs associated with keeping Michael in the USA to avail of this treatment are very high and the Michael Mullan Cancer Fund has been established to cover the ongoing costs of keeping this remarkable young man in the United States.

All entry fees from the writing competitions will go directly to the fund. If you wish to make a donation to the fund please log on to the Michael Mullan Go Fund Me Page at: <https://www.gofundme.com/michaelmullanscancerfund>

For further information on Michael Mullan and the Cancer Fund check out the links below:

<https://www.todayfm.com/podcasts/today-fm/fighting-cancer-for-the-third-time-aged-26>

www.Michaelmullancancerfund.com

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=michael%20mullan%20cancer%20fund>

<http://www.thejournal.ie/readme/harvard-law-study-cancer-3876183-Mar2018/>

<https://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/health-news/brave-irish-man-fighting-cancer-12172218>