

Short Story *Competition* for Primary Schools



Dear Principal,

Primary schools across County Carlow are invited to participate in an inspiring literacy initiative that will engage 4th, 5th, and 6th class students in the **Right to Read Programme** by Carlow County Council – Economic Development & Library Service.

As part of a coordinated national framework for literacy support, the Right to Read Campaign is designed to reinforce reading development and support learning both in and beyond the classroom. This initiative aligns with national strategies such as Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) and early childhood education programmes, offering continuity and targeted assistance for children, families, and adults with lower literacy levels. It also aims to build a sustainable, integrated literacy support model that is consistent across all local authorities.

To spark creativity and community engagement proud to announce the launch of a Short Story Competition for 4th, 5th and 6th class pupils throughout the county. Students are invited to submit a story on the theme “**My Favourite Local Business**”, accompanied by:

4th Class – Who’s your favourite author?

5th Class – What do you want to be when you grow up?

6th Class – What’s your favourite place or thing to do in Carlow?

Exciting prizes will be awarded to the top 2 entries in each category, and each participating pupil will receive a certificate recognizing their effort and creativity.

The Right to Read program understands that literacy skills are essential for individuals to realise their personal, social, and educational potential. Improving literacy standards is a national priority to ensure this basic right is afforded to all individuals.

Carlow County Council, through the Library and other services, including schools, offer practical supports to address the literacy needs in our communities and strengthen the delivery of high quality services for literacy skills development.

Through this competition we hope to increase the awareness and importance of Literacy in the community as well as engaging with primary schools in a fun based response. To support you and your school we have created short video explaining the competition and include the competition details.

We look forward to your participation in this project - the co-ordinator is Lisa Hutton, Carlow Local Enterprise Office who can be contacted on **huttonl@carlowcoco.ie** or **059 912 9783** for additional information, if required.

Kieran Comerford
Head of Economic Development and Enterprise



Right to Read Campaign

Literacy is essential for individuals to realise their personal, social, and educational potential. Improving literacy standards is a national priority to ensure this basic right is afforded to all individuals.

Delivering on this commitment to support and advance literacy levels sustainably into the future requires a collaborative approach between local authorities, community organisations and education bodies. A shared understanding of the service practices and structures which most effectively enable new and strengthened services is required. This will ensure that the support offered through this programme produces tangible outcomes for people and can generate long-term social, educational, and economic benefits both within local communities and nationally. The Right to Read Campaign is an initiative of Libraries Ireland and Carlow County Council to demonstrate their firm commitment to literacy skills' development and strengthen their active engagement in literacy support.

The Right to Read Campaign benefits from the collective knowledge and experience of skilled staff in the Carlow County Council. Through its solid support structure, this programme will invigorate existing relationships and strengthen the partnership approach in delivering literacy support.

As local champions of literacy support and development, Carlow libraries will take a leading role in delivering the aims of the Right to Read Campaign. Libraries have the experience and resources to develop and enhance literacy activities in cooperation with other key agencies. Their position as a central service within communities, while operating within a country-wide network, makes libraries valuable

catalysts for consolidating literacy support and activities throughout local government services. Indeed, the public libraries' strategy, Opportunities for All, represents a new era for libraries to deliver national objectives locally through a collaborative approach.

Carlow County Council aims to support the development of current and future generations as

self-sufficient individuals with high levels of well-being, self-worth and strong basic skills to take advantage of employment opportunities. The Right to Read Campaign offers a practical and achievable route to support the diverse spectrum of literacy needs in our communities more effectively, collectively and sustainably and strengthen the delivery of high-quality services for literacy skills development.

Competition Rules

The competition is open to all Primary schools in County Carlow. The entries shall be restricted to pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th class.

The Short Story shall be titled "My Favourite Local Business" and be a maximum of 400 words. The class piece shall be no more than 300 words.

4th Class Who's your favourite author?

5th Class What do you want to be when you grow up?

6th Class What's your favourite place or thing to do in Carlow?

The story will include the name of the local business, who they are, what the business does and why it is their favourite business.

All entries will consist of application form and completed short story. The school will forward all completed applications in an envelope marked - My Favourite Local Business - to be posted/delivered to Carlow LEO, Enterprise House, O'Brien Rd Carlow.

Closing date for entries shall be 5.00pm on Wednesday 4th November. Late entries will not be accepted.

Following closing date all applications will be assessed and the top stories in 4th, 5th and 6th class per school will be invited to an award ceremony to be held in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel on Thursday 19th November 2026 at 7pm.

The Overall Top 2 County Competition Winners from 4th, 5th and 6th class will be announced at the awards ceremony and will receive the following prize.

Category	4th Class	5th Class	6th Class
1st	Amazon Kindle Book Reader	Amazon Kindle Book Reader	Amazon Kindle Book Reader
2nd	€75 Book Voucher	€75 Book Voucher	€75 Book Voucher

A draw for participating teachers for a €100 hospitality voucher will be held on the night.

A draw for participating schools for a €500 Jones Voucher will also be held.

The decision of the adjudicating panel will be final.



Right to Read
at your Library

Short Story
Competition



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office



Leabharlann
Chontae Ceatharlach
Carlow County Library

Class Year: **Teacher Email:**

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

