



Writing
competition for
7-13 year olds

YOUR Crystal Palace

writing competition
for the 85th anniversary of
The Crystal Palace burning down

Sponsored by



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Competition Details

Join Crystal Palace Library Hub, the Crystal Palace Museum, Parakeet Books and Graham Whitlock author of *The Crystal Palace Chronicles* for a writing competition for 7-14 year olds imagining what they would show if the Crystal Palace reappeared today!

YOUR CRYSTAL PALACE

If the Palace rose again today, what would YOU want to show there?

If Queen Elizabeth II visited today, what would you want her to see?

How would you educate and entertain millions of visitors?

Tell us in up to 700 words (feel free to add drawings). Video or voice entries are also welcome.

PRIZES

Winning entries will be exhibited at the Crystal Palace Museum and Upper Norwood Library Hub, and prizes include free books, book vouchers, fab goodies from Friends of Crystal Palace Dinosaurs and the chance win an iPad for your school!

AGE CATEGORIES

Ages 7-9 (Years 3 & Year 4)

Ages 9-11 (Years 5 & 6)

Ages 11-14 (Years 7, 8 & 9)

There will be a 1st prize and 2 x runners up in each category, with an overall winner whose school will receive an iPad.

COMPETITION DEADLINE is Friday 22 October. Winners announced on Friday 12 November

An Award Ceremony at Crystal Palace Museum will be held 5:30pm-7:30pm on Tuesday 30 November, anniversary of the Crystal Palace fire, including a VIP guided tour about the fire.

HOW TO ENTER

By email to yourcrystalpalace@grahamwhitlock.com

1. Submissions don't have to be typed, you can send in scanned/photographed hand-written entry but please make sure the story can be read.
2. Make sure each story has i) the full name, age and school year of the person entering, ii) the school they attend, iii) a contact telephone number.
3. If submissions are being made from a school please include in the email the name, contact number and email of a member of staff we can contact.

By hand at Upper Norwood Library Hub

1. Please submit your entry to a staff member at the Upper Norwood Library Hub in an envelope marked 'YOUR Crystal Palace.'
2. Make sure the story has i) the full name, age and school year of the person entering, ii) the school they attend, iii) a contact telephone number.
3. If submissions are being made from a school please include a cover note with the name, contact number and email of a member of staff we can contact.

Audio/Video entries

1. Please WhatsApp entries to Graham Whitlock on 07930606210, including in your message i) full name, age and school year of the person entering, ii) the school they attend.

Background about the Crystal Palace, the worlds first theme park

On 30 November 1936 fire destroyed the Crystal Palace which dominated the Norwood Heights for eight decades. The palace moved from Hyde Park to what is now Upper Norwood in 1854 following the Great Exhibition and was rebuilt bigger than ever. In fact it was;

Three times bigger than St Pauls' Cathedral

Had exhibition space equivalent to 6 full size football pitches

Nelsons' Column in Trafalgar Square could fit in the middle of the palace



This computer image shows what the Crystal Palace would look if it magically reappeared. You can see how big it is next to todays landmarks;

Antenna Tower

Sports Centre.

Crystal Palace Train Station

When it opened in 1854 it became the world's first theme park offering education, entertainment, even a **rollercoaster** and a **waterpark**. Imagine Disneyland but instead of *Pirates of the Caribbean* and Mickey Mouse's castle, they built from scratch the **inside of a Roman villa** from Pompeii, built a replica of an **ancient Egyptian tomb** complete with statues of Rameses made out of plaster cast, and the **Nineveh Court** bringing back to life palaces of the kings of Assyria lost to the desert. This was long before TV so most people would have no idea what the past looked like.

WHAT DID THEY SHOW AT THE 'EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD'?

Millions of visitors every year flocked from around the world to visit 'the people's palace', including Queen Victoria. They came to see exhibitions and events like;

- The **worlds' first flying machines** in 1868
- The **world's first cat show** in 1871
- The **first FA Cup Finals** between 1895 and 1914 (until Wembley Stadium was built)
- The **first motor show**, followed in later years by **motor racing** around the grounds
- **Spectacular fireworks** every week re-enacting sea battles like the Battle of Trafalgar
- **Concerts** performed by 5,000 singers and 500 musicians
- Giant models of **dinosaurs** built only 30 years after the first fossils were found.
- **Daredevils** like aerialist Blondin who pushed a lion in a wheelbarrow across a tightrope, and Leona Dare who rose 2,000 ft into the sky holding onto a hot air balloon with her teeth
- A **giant Redwood Tree** called 'Big Stump' towering inside the building
- Nadia's **hot air balloon** inside lifting up visitors to the roof of the palace
- A **School of Music** and a **School of Engineering** training students in the arts and science
- The earliest TV transmissions from the studios of **television pioneer** John Loggie Baird

Top Tips for writing about YOUR Crystal Palace

YOUR CRYSTAL PALACE invites you to write a story imagining;

If the Palace rose again today, what would YOU want to show there?

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Story tips:

When you're thinking about what to show in YOUR crystal palace ...

What do you love or know a lot about? Write about that.

Think about your senses. How would your exhibition or show sound? How would it smell?
How would it look?

How would your audience feel when they see your show? Would the Queen gasp? Smile?
Or even be afraid?

The Crystal Palace was huge so your ideas can be VERY BIG or teeny weeny.

Wondering how to start your story?

Maybe you want to begin on the day of your grand opening, then the Queen arrives and you proudly show her what you have in YOUR Crystal Palace.

Or perhaps it could be the day before it opens and you're busy getting everything ready (is it going well? Are you stressed? Excited?)

Or feel free to kick off your story how you want – after all, this is YOUR Crystal Palace!

"I cannot wait to discover all the phoenixes to rise out of everyone's imagination, what a wonderful way to mark such an historic occasion and plant it firmly back in 2021."

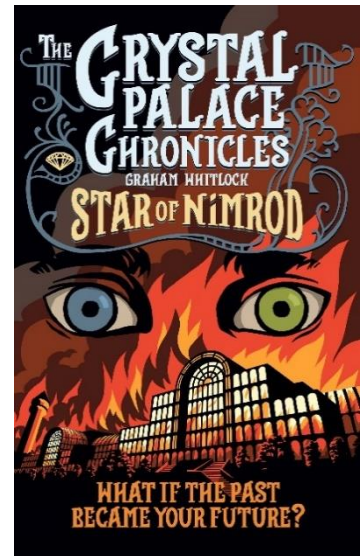
Emily Jewell, Director of Upper Norwood Library Hub

Judges

Graham Whitlock is author of *The Crystal Palace Chronicles*, a rollercoaster adventure series travelling back in time to the heyday of Victorian Crystal Palace. Joe's teenage world is turned upside down when he discovers a shattered compass where the Crystal Palace once stood and travels through time back to 1888.

With help from the teenage H. G. Wells and Samuel Coleridge Taylor, daredevil Iris Blondin, the creator of Sherlock Holmes and the Queen of the Gypsies, Joe must foil dangerous diamond thieves to uncover dark secrets about the 'People's Palace.' Standing on boundaries between worlds, its secrets are tied to the fate of his family. Will Joe be trapped in the past with his new friends, find a way to return to his family or can he somehow have both?

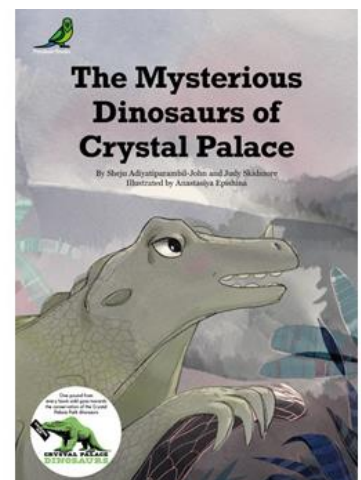
Find out more at www.grahamwhitlock.com/books



Sheju Adiyatiparambil and **Judy Skidmore**, co-founders of Parakeet Books. Fed up with searching in vain for diverse books for their kids they started making their own.

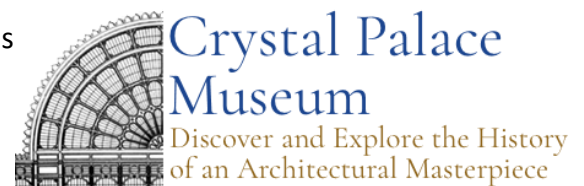
Couple that with a love of dinosaurs and all things SE19 and *The Mysterious Dinosaurs of Crystal Palace* was born.

Their full catalogue of gorgeous and diverse picture books can be found at www.parakeetbooks.com



Richard Watkins is a professional history tour guide and is a trustee of The Crystal Palace Museum which keeps alive the history of the palace. Housed in the only surviving building constructed as a lecture room for the Crystal Palace Company's School of Practical Engineering, the story of the palace is told in a series of unique images supplemented by large scaled models plus showcases displaying ceramics and other items including remnants from the original building.

For information visit www.crystalpalacemuseum.org.uk



Emily Jewel is Director of the Upper Norwood Library Hub. Her writings include poetry and short stories and she considers herself lucky to live a life surrounded by books and the inspiring creative minds of our young community members. As a very small boy Emily's father sat on the bridge and watched Crystal Palace burn down. She wonders what ideas he might have had for this rewriting of history...

