

Talking Statues Norwich

Creative writing competition (under 16's)
Give Snap the Dragon a voice!



About Snap the Dragon

Snap the Dragon is an important part of the city's history, dating back to the Middle Ages (more than 500 years ago).

Dragon's like Snap were designed for important processions like the 'Mayor-making', when the new Mayor of Norwich was chosen and celebrated. Snap would be carried by one man hidden inside, his legs disguised by scaly leggings. He was also expected to belch smoke and let off fire-crackers as he attempted to frighten the onlookers!

However, Snap isn't the only dragon in Norwich...you will find carvings and images of them hidden in many of the city's early buildings: a reference to the powerful of Guild of St George, the leading religious guild of the time.

The modern day mayoral procession includes a new Snap, who accompanies some of the most important events of the Mayor's year. Have you spotted them before?

Where am I?

Snap was originally from Costessey, but now lives alone in a case in the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell. How do you think Snap ended up in the museum, and what does he get up to when the crowds go home?

You may visit Snap in the first gallery without paying to enter the Museum. Just tell a member of staff at the front desk that you are taking part in Talking Statues.

What do I look like?

Over time, Snap has lost his splendid body and long tail...leaving him with only a head and a scrap of fabric! What do you think he would have looked like in the past?

My story!

This dragon was originally used in 'mock' Mayor-making ceremonies at Costessey, which were relaxed and more boisterous versions of the serious civic ceremonies taking place in the city. Now, he lives in a museum and many of the people looking at him will be children. Do you want to scare them stiff...or share his softer side? What does he get up to at night once the crowds have gone home?

Have you found your story and your voice? Then get writing!

Tips for writing Snap's monologue

What is a monologue?

Monologos means "speaking alone" in Greek, but we all know that people who speak without thinking about their listener can be very dull indeed. Your challenge is to find a 'voice' for your statue and to write an engaging monologue in 350 words.

Get under your statue's skin!

- Pay Snap a visit at the Bridewell Museum and look closely at him. What sort of things might he be feeling?

Find your statue's voice

Write in the first person ('I') and write as if you were Snap himself:

- What kind of words will you use - your own or that of another era?
- Your words will be spoken so read them aloud: will listeners be able to hear and experience Snap's emotions?
- Research some great monologues for inspiration – are there any films you can think of that feature character monologues?

Keep people listening!

- How will you introduce yourself? With a greeting, a warning, a question, an order, a riddle? Grab and hold your listener's attention from your very first line.
- Think of your monologue as a story: how will you build excitement?
- Your final line is the most important of all: how will you say goodbye and make your exit?

Enter the creative writing competition

Submit a short monologue (maximum 350 words) from the perspective of Snap. The winning entry will be professionally recorded and included as part of Talking Statues Norwich, ready to talk in early 2019.

Send entries to competitions@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk with the heading ' Talking Statues Public Writing Competition Entry'. The e-mail must state:

- Your name
- Your address
- A name and contact telephone number for a parent/guardian
- Confirmation that the monologue is an original work and that you have read and agreed to the terms and conditions applying to the competition and as published on the Talking Statues website
www.talkingstatuesnorwich.co.uk

Deadline: midnight, close of Friday 30 November 2018

For more information visit nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk or email competitions@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk



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