

Laura Thompson writes about the Cambridge Autumn Festival Competition

I write because I love it! I entered because, at the beginning of the year, I decided to make writing one of my highest priorities. I knew that a deadline or competition would be an exciting way to help me focus my efforts.

This is the first competition I've entered as an adult. I haven't had much formal writing training, although I do come from an acting background which helps with storytelling.

With things I've written previously, I've often felt the need to plan everything out before I wrote it. For "Angela's Turtles", I allowed myself to discover the story as I wrote it, without knowing where it would go or what it would be about. It was so much fun to approach it in this way, as I often took myself by surprise.