Worldsmyths Million - Community Writing Challenge 2019

Rules:
1. The challenge will run from **March 1st starting at 12:00 AM midnight GMT-5** and end on **August 31st at 12:00 AM midnight GMT-5.**
2. All participants must have a registered account **on the forum** and must **join the Club** that has been created for the challenge.
3. Participants will sign up for the challenge by pledging to write a certain amount of words during an individual month (i.e. the month of June), rather than during the entire six months of the challenge like in the 2018 challenge. During the challenge, participants will try to reach whatever personal word count goal they have decided on for that month.
4. While only registered members of the forum can participate in this challenge, in order for us to fully keep track of everyone's word counts, you are more than welcome to invite your friends to join the forum so that they can participate in the challenge! For more information on how to promote the challenge, see below under "promoting the challenge."
5. All works of writing written for this challenge must be written by you alone and must be fictional works.
6. There will be designated threads for different types of discussions- excerpts, characters, word counts, etc, but if you have an idea for a specific thread that we have not posted, you are welcome to post it yourself. The check in posts are generally the only ones where chatter will not be allowed, in order to help us keep it better organized.
7. We reserve the right to add onto these rules at any time without prior notice should something come up before or during the challenge that needs to be addressed and added in.

Pledges

The following numbers are the pledges that you can choose from for your goal for the challenge. Each month, you will be allowed to choose a new goal. Keep in mind that unlike last year'sd challenge, we are allowing members to choose individual goals for each individual month during the challenge, and you will need to keep track of your word counts for each month. Since there will be some months with 31 days, we will be counting the 31st day as a bonus day to make it easier.

5k: This should give you 167 words a day
10k: This should give you 333 words a day
15k: This should give you 82 words a day
20k: This should give you 110 words a day
30k: This should give you 165 words a day
40k: This should give you 220 words a day
50k: This should give you 275 words a day
60k: This should give you 330 words a day
75k: This should give you 410 words a day
100k: This should give you 550 words a day
125k: This should give you 685 words a day
150k: This should give you 820 words a day
175k: This should give you 955 words a day
200k: This should give you 1100 words a day

FAQ

When does the challenge start and end?
The challenge officially starts on **March 1st, 2019 at 12 AM midnight GMT-5** and will end on **August 31st, 2019 at 12:00 AM midnight GMT-5**. Anyone who wishes to participate in the challenge for the month of March will need to sign up and pledge a goal by **March 9th at 11:59 PM GMT-5**. To sign up for the month of March, you will have to go to the designated sign up post in the Worldsmyths Million club that has been created and reply with the pledge you would like to make. For a list of all of the sign up deadlines, see below under "the challenge has already started."

What happens at the end of the challenge?
On September 1st, 2019, we will make an announcement with the final word counts of those who participated in the challenge individually. We will also add up the word counts of each participant and see what our grand total is. Participants will have the option of using avatars/icons that we've made for the challenge that you can upload to the forum to show that you're participating (similarly to what they provide during NaNo ever November).

Participants will also be contacted and given for their prizes from our sponsors.

Where on the forum can I find all of the information/discussion for the challenge?
We have a Club on the forum where all of the information as well as discussions, check-ins etc will be found, which you can find **here**. You must be a registered member of the forum to participate in the discussions and check-ins, so please make sure that you've registered an account and have your e-mail address validated so that you can participate in the Club.

Do I have to work on the same project for the entire six months?
Nope! You can work on as few or as many writing projects as you want and as needed throughout the six months!

If I have any more questions about the challenge, or there's something that's not clear, where can I ask them?
You can ask us questions in **this post**, which you can find in the Club for the challenge.

What am I allowed to count for this challenge?
Any words you write between **March** and **August** are fair game, as long as it's fictional writing. You can write in any language you want. Role playing posts, campaign settings, outlines, worldbuilding notes and fanfiction can all be counted for your word count, as long as they are written during the challenge.

Forum rules like "only fantasy" or "no roleplaying" don't apply to what words you are allowed to count for the challenge.

Are there any prizes for the challenge?
Yes! We are very pleased to announce that Paperweight Editorial, run by JayLee on the forum, is sponsoring the challenge for a second year. In addition, WorldAnvil has also offered to sponsor the challenge. You can find more information about the prizes **here**.

Am I Allowed to Post Excerpts?
Yes! What we're going to do, to keep it more organized, is have designated posts for sharing excerpts. These posts will be where you can share **up to 300 words** of what you've recently written. Any longer pieces will have to be submitted to the library, and following the library rules (meaning no non-fantasy, including fan fiction, submissions).

How is my word count verified?
We don't verify your word count, this is entirely trust-based. You check in and post your word count, that's it. You are not required to use a specific word count tool, you can use the built-in one of your writing software, or any other tool you want to use.

What about handwritten stories?
The convenient way to determine word count of handwritten pages is counting 10 pages and dividing the total word count by 10 to get an average word count per page. Count the pages you have written and multiply them with that average.

What about editing/brainstorming?
The rules of thumb we're following are:
For one hour of editing, you are allowed to count 1000 words.
For one hour of brainstorming, you are allowed to count 1000 words.

Any words written as brainstorming notes during the March - August months can be counted towards your word count.

What is the sitewide goal we're aiming for?
Unlike last year (2018), we've decided not to aim for a sitewide goal this year. Instead, we're going to tally up the total word counts of all of the participants and see how much we write together. However, we wrote more than a million words together last year, and we are hoping to beat last year's number!

How do pledges work?
Each month, we will have a designated sign up post where you will be able to choose your word count goal for that month, ranging from 5k to (whatever). You will then aim to write that amount of words in a single month. When a new month begins, there will be a new sign up post for that month and you'll be allowed to pledge a different goal.

Example: say I pledge to write 10k words in the month of March, but I surpass that goal easily. In order to better challenge myself, I decide that for April my word count goal will be 25k.

Starting on April 1st, I will begin only counting the words I write during that month. Let's say I write 10k in March and an additional 20k in April. When I check in at the end of the month, I will give my total word count for the month of April as well as my total word count for the months of March and April added together, which will be 30k total.

Am I Allowed to Increase My Goal? What About Decreasing?
This year, we are allowing members to increase their goals, but only once each month has ended! So if you reach 15k in the first month, you'll be allowed to increase it or decrease it in the following month if needed.

How do the check-ins work?
Once a month during the challenge, we will post a check-in thread. This is where you will be expected to tell us, via a form, whatever your current word count is for the month so far, so that we can log it into the Excel sheet. Please note that in order to keep it organized, any chatter in the check-in threads will be discouraged. **Manu** and **Penguinball** will update the spreadsheet each time someone replies to the check-in for the month.

What happens if I miss a check-in?
Realistically, we know that we can't expect all participants to check-in each and every time, but we'd like to encourage you to at least *try* to do so at least once every one or two weeks or so, but you are also encouraged to respond to the check-in as often as you can/as often as you write. (So say you end up writing four times in one week. You can choose to update us on your word count any time that week, as long as you add up the word counts that you've reached all four of those times.)

What happens if I write less than I pledged?
You wrote words, that's great. Be proud of yourself! :-)

The challenge has already started. Can I still sign up?
Yes. We are giving members a full week to sign up for the challenge during each individual month. You will need to sign up by 12:00 AM midnight GMT-5 on each of these dates. If you miss the sign up date, you'll be able to sign up for the following month.

<div align="center">

March 9th
April 6th
May 4th
June 8th
July 6th
August 10th

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When and Where Will the Word Wars Take Place?
The word wars will take place on our **Discord server** in our word wars channel. The times and dates will be determined via discussion threads. You are more than welcome to start your own

spontaneous word wars in the Discord when there are others around who want to join, but there will be a few bigger, planned word wars with more participants.

Promoting the Challenge
You're more than welcome to help us promote the challenge to your friends and anyone else that might want to join in on the challenge! To do so, you can use the image and information provided **here**.