

Teen Writing Contest Rules

Entrants must be in grades 6-12 and a Florida resident.

All entrants must turn in a complete Entry Form with a parent or guardian signature.

All writing must be the original work of the entrant. Entrants must not use AI technology or Machine Learning to generate writing.

Each entrant may submit (1) fictional short story, 500-1500 words in length, and/or up to (3) poems, any form or style.

- Each entry must be clearly labeled with name and grade of entrant and title of work.
- Each entry must be typed in Times New Roman; 12-point font; and double spaced.
- **Entries must be submitted electronically in DOC format (.docx) to the Youth Services Department of the Alachua County Library District at ysref@aclib.us.**
- Entrant's submissions(s) will be judged according to the school grade of the entrant. There are two categories for judging: Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12. Within each category, 1st, 2nd and 3rd places will be awarded for the top fictional short stories as well as for poems, 12 recognitions total. All submissions will be anonymized prior to being given to the judges. The decisions of Judges are final.
- Entries will be accepted beginning **February 23rd - April 20th at 11:59 p.m.**
- Winners will be announced at a reception on May 17th at 2:00 p.m. in the Teen Space at the Headquarters Library, 401 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL. The event will be Simulcast virtually for those who cannot attend in person.
- Attendees are welcome (though not required) to read their creative works at the event.
 - Please identify which excerpt from the fictional short story that you would like to read at the reception (up to 120 words).
- Winners will be awarded a bound booklet compiling all the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entries (upon request) and will receive additional prizes.

2025 Teen Creative Writing Contest Entry Form

Entrant's Legal Name: _____ Entrant's Preferred Name: _____

Phonetic Spelling of Entrant's Name: _____ Age: _____

Grade: _____ School (or Homeschool): _____

Entrant's- Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parent or Legal Guardian Email and/or Phone: _____

Entries must be submitted electronically in DOC format (.docx) to the Youth Services Department of the Alachua County Library District at ysref@aclib.us.

If I win, I would like a bound copy of the winning entries: _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, preferred library for pickup: _____

Title of Fictional Short Story:

Title of poem (1):

Title of poem (2):

Title of poem (3):

By giving permission for (Name of Entrant) _____ to enter the Alachua County Library District (ACL D) Teen Creative Writing Contest, I give permission to display and publish their work on the website and in other media and educational purposes. I understand that their work may be supplied to media outlets which may elect to display and publish their work as well. I understand that they will not be paid for the use of their work. All files and submissions will constitute the property of ACL D and may be used in publications, web publications and other media for purposes of this contest. Entrant retains all other rights to the works.

I affirm that I have read and adhered to all the rules of entry. I affirm that we are Florida residents. I verify that the work submitted is their own creation without assistance of Artificial Intellectual (AI) technology and any other third party. They assume all responsibilities and consequences if their work is found to be otherwise. The Alachua County Library District will not be held responsible if legal action results from publication.

Printed Name of Parent or Legal Guardian

Relationship to Entrant

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date Signed

Signature of Entrant

Date Signed