Teachers

If you are submitting students’ works, make sure that you have a 2020 entry form and that each student completes and signs an entry form for his/her work. Entries with incomplete forms are not judged. Please determine that your students’ manuscripts comply with all contest rules before submitting.

Judging

◆ All entries are judged on the basis of content, originality and quality of expression. Judges’ decisions are final. Judges do not critique entries. All entries are anonymous when given to the judges.
◆ Winners will be notified by phone before the awards program.

Awards

◆ Cash prizes are awarded as follows:
  $100 for first place, $50 for second place and $25 for third place.
◆ The Writer to Watch Award is given to the writer who:
  is in their last year of eligibility for the contest; has placed first, second or third in the current year’s contest; has placed first, second or third in previous years’ contests; has placed first, second or third the greatest number of times over the course of their participation in the contest. No weight is given on placement level - first, second and third places hold equal value in determining the winner of the Writer to Watch Award. The Writer to Watch Award is $200.
◆ Winners will be notified in April by phone and in a separate email from the general awards program invitation, which will go out to all entrants.
◆ All entrants will receive an invitation to the awards program, which will be held on Friday, May 1, 7 p.m. at Connor’s Cove at Hardesty Regional Library. Katherine Applegate, winner of the 2020 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers’ Literature, will be the featured speaker and will hand out awards.
◆ Entrants, winners, and their families and friends are invited to attend the awards program.

For more information, call 918-549-READ or visit www.TulsaLibrary.org/ypcwc.
Eligibility

You may enter the contest if you are:

• between the ages of 10 and 18 by Feb. 29, 2020
• and live in Tulsa County
  – or attend school in Tulsa County
  – or have a nonexpired Tulsa City-County Library nonresident library card.

Age Divisions

The contest has three age divisions: 10-12, 13-15 and 16-18. Within each age division, there are five categories.

Categories

• Poetry – one poem, no more than 300 words.
• Short Story – each entry no more than 1,500 words.
• Informal Essay – a short composition on a topic or issue giving your opinion or recounting a personal experience. Limited to 1,500 words.
• Short Play – no more than six characters, no more than three locations, no more than 10 pages. Limited to five to 10 minutes in length. (Hint: check the play’s running time by reading the script out loud and timing yourself.) Make sure to include stage directions.
• Comix – Entry must be complete in and of itself, and not a fragment of a larger work. No more than eight pages. Work can be with or without words, in black and white or color, and fiction or nonfiction. Computer-generated images are acceptable as long as they are original works (no clip art). Use 8 1/2” by 11” (standard) paper and submit as flat work, not as a booklet.

Your Manuscript

• Manuscripts that are illegible, single-spaced or that otherwise don’t meet the following requirements will not be judged.
• Do NOT put your name anywhere on your manuscript. That information should be ONLY on the entry form. Including your name on your manuscript will result in disqualification.
• Double-space and TYPE LEGIBLY in black or blue ink on 8 1/2” by 11” (standard) paper. Do not use lined notebook paper.
• Include the title and page number in the upper right-hand corner of EVERY page, including the first page.
• A completed and signed entry form MUST accompany each individual entry, even for the same contestant entering multiple categories.

How to Enter

• Entries will be accepted online, by mail or at any library location. You must complete an entry form for each manuscript you are entering.

  1. Double-check that you have adhered to all instructions in the “Your Manuscript” section of this brochure.
  2. If submitting by mail or at your library, staple your manuscript and completed entry form together.
  3. Don’t be late! The deadline for entries is Saturday, Feb. 29.

• Enter online at www.TulsaLibrary.org/ypcwc or
• Deliver your entry to any Tulsa City-County Library location or
• Mail your entry to: Young People’s Creative Writing Contest c/o Youth Services Department Tulsa City-County Library 400 Civic Center Tulsa, OK 74103-3857

• Do NOT send your only copy of your entry. Keep a copy for yourself. MANUSCRIPTS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.