

## Teachers

If you are submitting students' works, make sure that you have a 2026 entry form and that each student completes and signs an entry form for their 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 \$100.
- 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 are invited to the awards program, which will be held on Friday, May 1 at 6 p.m. at Hardesty Regional Library. Ruta Sepetys, winner of the 2026 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature, will be the featured speaker.
- Entrants, winners, and their families and friends are invited to attend the awards program.

For more information,  
call 918-549-7323 or visit  
[www.TulsaLibrary.org/ypcwc](http://www.TulsaLibrary.org/ypcwc).



# YOUNG PEOPLE'S CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST 2026



**CASH  
PRIZES**  
For ages 10-18  
Entries accepted  
Feb. 1-28

**INFORMAL ESSAY • SHORT STORY  
POETRY • SHORT SCRIPT • COMIX**

Enter online at [www.tulsalibrary.org/ypcwc](http://www.tulsalibrary.org/ypcwc) or pick up an entry brochure at any library location. Sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust.



# YOUNG PEOPLE'S Creative Writing CONTEST 2026

## Official Entry Form Deadline: Feb. 28, 2026

Please print legibly. Only one manuscript per entry form. You may duplicate entry form if necessary or you may register online at [www.TulsaLibrary.org/ypcwc](http://www.TulsaLibrary.org/ypcwc).

FOR OFFICIAL  
USE ONLY

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Last)

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number and Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

Your Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your age on Feb. 28, 2026: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: (You may enter only one item in each category.)  
☐ Poetry ☐ Short Story ☐ Informal Essay ☐ Short Script ☐ Comix

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

I live in Tulsa County: ☐ yes ☐ no

If no, my TCCL card # is 22345 \_\_\_\_\_

or I attend \_\_\_\_\_ School.  
(Name of School)

I declare that the attached manuscript or artwork is solely my work not previously published for payment. If my entry wins, Tulsa City-County Library has my permission to display and reproduce my entry in the library, on the library's website, in the library's promotional materials or in a printed anthology.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Remember to check your work for grammar, spelling and legibility. Manuscripts that are not in the proper form as described in the rules will not be judged.*

# 2026 YOUNG PEOPLE'S CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

Please read and follow ALL instructions for entry submission. The library must receive at least five entries in a category in order for the entries to be judged.

## Eligibility

You may enter the contest if you are:

- between the ages of 10 and 18 by Feb. 28, 2026
- 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

**NOTE:** No clip art or AI art or AI-generated text will be accepted.

- **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 Script** – no more than six characters, no more than three locations, no more than 10 pages. Limited to five to 10 minutes in length. (Check the script's running time by reading it 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-produced images are acceptable as long as they are original works (**no clip art or AI art**). Use 8 1/2" by 11" (standard) paper and submit as flat work, not as a booklet. **Using clip art or AI art will disqualify your entry.**

**You may enter ONLY one manuscript per category, but you may enter all categories within your age group.**

## 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 or PRINT 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.**
- Before you submit your entry:
  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. 28.**
- Enter online at [www.TulsaLibrary.org/ypcwc](http://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 AND ARTWORK WILL NOT BE RETURNED.**