Want to be a published author?

Enter the I Write Short Stories By Kids For Kids Contest!

The iWRITE Literacy Organization offers students in the 3rd-12th grades the opportunity to submit short stories, poetry and artwork to our annual publishing contest. We accept entries from students around the world. English language learners are encouraged to enter our ESL (English as a Second Language) category.

Join our team of published students by submitting your online applications by May 31st. Submissions are accepted January 1st through May 31st. Finalists will be named in the fall. Our winners will be announced on our website and published in the next anthology. All winners will receive one complimentary copy of the anthology and tickets to the book signing celebration in Houston, TX.

VISIT WWW.IWRITE.ORG/I-WRITE-CONTEST/ TO ENTER!

Stay connected with us for updates and more opportunities!
CONTEST RULES & REQUIREMENTS

SHORT STORY

*Not following these rules may result in disqualification.*

Each story will be judged on creativity, originality, flow, and correct word usage. iWRITE promotes positive values and lessons within its stories therefore students are encouraged to use proper judgement when writing and developing stories. iWRITE highly discourages stories with dark/demonic plots as we choose to publish stories that are appropriate for all ages. Please note that iWRITE checks for plagiarism in order to respect copyright laws.

- Story must be written in English
- Story must fit between 700 to 2,500 word-count requirement for 3rd grade submissions.
- Story must fit between 1,000 to 2,500 word-count requirement for 4th - 12th grade submissions.
- Story must be typed using only Times New Roman Font, 12-point size in black.
- Author name and story title must be at the top of the first page.

Story must include these story elements:

**Setting:** Where the story takes place

**Main Character:** Who the story is about

**Plot:** An order of events that take place throughout the story

**Conflict:** A struggle that main character is trying to overcome

**Climax:** The most exciting point of story where something is about to change

**Resolution:** The way the character fixes the problem at the end of the story

To be eligible for the Editor's Choice award, student must incorporate this year's **theme** in their submission. The story and/or poem must meet the initial requirements above and be able to deliver a meaningful message.

Finally, we always encourage students to edit/revise multiple drafts and have fun!

POETRY

Each poem will be judged on creativity, artistic quality, correct word usage. Poems must not contain offensive material or language. iWRITE promotes positive values and lessons within its publications therefore students are encouraged to use proper judgement when writing and developing their poems. Please note that iWRITE checks for plagiarism in order to respect copyright laws.

- Poems must be written in English
- Poems must fit between the 8 to 24 line requirement and topic requirement
- Poems must be typed in Times New Roman Font, 12-point size in black ink
- Author name an poem title must be placed on the top of the first page
- Topics of poetry to be considered for the iWRITE Anthology may include or be related to any of the following: inspiration, strength, creativity, education, literacy, learning, artistic topics, motivation, overcoming a situation, positive self-esteem and inner beauty.

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COVER ART

This year’s **theme** is **Outer Space**. Your submission can be anything associated with Outer Space, or simply space, the expanse that exists beyond the Earth and between celestial bodies. As artists, we understand that there are many ways to interpret the theme. If you have questions, please feel free to send your questions to info@iwrite.org.

**Basic Illustration Tips**

- The final book cover is 5.5” x 8.5” and is vertical (portrait orientation). Keep this in mind when you start your illustration. Something that is very square or horizontal probably won’t work well for the cover. Also, an 1/8 of an inch will be cut off of each side, top and bottom during printing. Don’t put anything important at or near the edges.
- Don’t use words in your picture unless they’re a necessary part of something (like a book, billboard, package label, etc.)
- Leave room for us to add a title, subtitle and author line. This doesn’t have to be white but needs to be free of important details. Please don’t include any of this info in the illustration.
- Clean it up. Erase and stray pencil marks thoroughly. If it’s on the piece of paper, it will print.
- Use bold colors and be sure to darken the colors if using colored pencils. We want your artwork to show up.
- Get inspired by other book covers online, at the library or at home but don’t copy them.
- Be creative and enjoy!

Check out our FAQs section for more helpful tips! www.iwrite.org/i-write-contest