

The contest is sponsored by the Shuswap Association of Writers.

Start writing Now! Contest opens January 6, **closing postmarked April 8.**

Read Guidelines carefully. A cover page is needed for each entry.

Open **ONLY** to students (including homeschool) in School Districts #83, and #22.

Categories in age groups: (Age at the end of 2020)

Poetry, Stories and Haiku

5- 8 years Poetry and Short Stories

9 – 11 Poetry and Short Stories

11- 14 Poetry and Short Stories

15 – 18 Poetry and Short Stories

Poetry for all ages: 1 page. Size 12 font Times New Roman, or handwritten. No graphics. Plain white paper, any style, one column, typed or hand written, spacing as appropriate.

Short Stories (word guidelines are maximum not minimum.)

Short Stories 5 – 8 years: 500 words

Short Stories 9 –11 years: 600 words

Short Stories 12 – 14 years: 700 words,

Short Stories 15 - 18 years: 1000 words

For ALL stories Size 11 Font, Times New Roman, or hand written, Stapled OK. *No graphics.*
Plain white paper, lined OK for handwritten. Pages numbered. Double spaced.

Haiku Please note age differences

6 – 10 years

11 – 14 years

No graphics. Any subject. 1 per writer. Written in traditional 5—7—5 format.

Plain white paper, lined OK for handwritten.

IMPORTANT: For All Entries: Do Not put your name or school name on the poem or story page. This is for fair judging. Please do not use your own name for a character.

IMPORTANT: Every entry must have a cover page (example here). Students can enter One story AND One poem but each entry must have a completed cover page.

The Entries need only be POSTMARKED by Wednesday, April 8. Special Delivery is not necessary.

One sided entries. Though it does save paper to print on both sides, it's difficult for judges. One side, please, BUT you can save postage by mailing numerous entries in one envelope. No email entries.

Criteria

Two judges are assigned to each age group and genre. For stories they are looking for distinct characters, a plot line, the four aspects of opening , problem, problem solved, and conclusion. They are also considering the use of words, creativity and description. Though spelling and punctuation are important in good writing, this is not the first consideration, but may make the difference in final decisions.

For poetry the potent use of words, compact description and continuity along with the originality of creative content is important.

Haiku subject matter is open, using a 5—7—5 style, though a strong final line is important. In every category the age group is always considered. Judges choose 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Submissions cannot be previously published in a retail available publication.

Winners will be advised in late April or early May. Prizes are presented at an Awards Ceremony at the Word on the Lake Writer's Festival. There is more helpful info at:

<https://wordonthelakewritersfestival.com>

For further questions: Karen Bissenden, Contest Chair.

childrenswritingcontest@gmail.com