

Freeport Public Library Teen Short Story Competition 2025

RULES:

- The competition is open to anyone in 7th through 12th grade at the time of entering.
- All entries must be written primarily in English.
- Entries must be fiction.
- Entries can be of any genre.
- Entries must be no more than 3,000 words in length (excluding title). There is no minimum word requirement.
- Entries must be typed: double-spaced, 12pt, Times New Roman font.
- Entries must be the participants' own, original work. They must not have been published, self-published, published online or made public on social media or featured among the winners in any other competition.
- Excessive violence or sex and the use of profane, vulgar, racist, or offensive words, as determined by the judges, will result in the story being rejected.
- Entries must not include photographs or illustrations.
- All entries are judged anonymously. The participant's name must not appear anywhere on the submission piece.
- Submissions must be emailed to eschrader@freeportpubliclibrary.org
- Entries must be submitted by 11:59pm, January 29th. Entries submitted after that date will not be accepted.
- One submission per participant is accepted.
- The winner may be asked to provide a short bio and a photograph of themselves to appear alongside the winning piece. A pen name or alias is permitted.

- Entries will be judged using the provided rubric.
- All participants own the rights to their work, and after the competition closes, they are free to publish elsewhere. The winner grants Freeport Public Library the right to publish the winning story on their website. Freeport Public Library will only publish the winning entry.
- All decisions made by the judges regarding the winners are final.
- By submitting, you agree to all contest rules.
- Contest rules are subject to change.
- Questions about the competition in general should be sent to eschrader@freeportpubliclibrary.org

IMPORTANT DATES

January 21, 2025 – Contest Submissions Open

January 29, 2025 – Contest Submissions Close

January 31, 2025 – February 17, 2025 – Judges Review Submissions

February 18, 2025 – Contest Finalists Notified

March 3, 2025 – Awards Ceremony and Contest Celebration

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Name: _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): ____/____/____

Grade: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Title of Story: _____

Word Count: _____

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that the short story I submit is my own original work, and that I adhere to the rules and regulations of the competition as stated by Freeport Public Library.

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Scoring Rubric

<i>Criteria</i>	4 20 pts	3 15 pts	2 10 pts	1 5 pts
<i>Ideas</i>	<p>The opening lines vividly present the story's main conflict and characters.</p> <p>Significant, descriptive details reveal the setting and characters.</p> <p>The writer uses strong dialogue to show the characters' personalities.</p>	<p>The opening lines present the story's main conflict and characters.</p> <p>Most details are relevant in revealing the setting and characters.</p> <p>The writer often uses dialogue to show the characters' personalities.</p>	<p>The opening lines vaguely present the story's main conflict and characters.</p> <p>More details and examples are needed.</p> <p>The writer occasionally uses dialogue.</p>	<p>The opening lines do not present the story's main conflict or characters.</p> <p>Details and examples are irrelevant or missing.</p> <p>The writer uses little to no dialogue.</p>
<i>Organization</i>	<p>The writer sets the scene by introducing the characters, setting, or action in a memorable way.</p> <p>The sequence of events is clear and engaging.</p> <p>The story has a clear beginning, middle, and ending.</p> <p>The ending resolves the conflict satisfactorily.</p>	<p>The writer vaguely presents the characters, setting, or action.</p> <p>The sequence of events is mostly clear.</p> <p>The story has a beginning, middle and end, but the action is not always easy to follow.</p> <p>The ending resolves the conflict.</p>	<p>The writer hints at the characters, setting, or action.</p> <p>The sequence of events is sometimes confusing.</p> <p>The story has a beginning, middle, and end, but the action is hard to follow.</p> <p>The ending does not bring the conflict to a satisfying conclusion.</p>	<p>The writer does not set up what the story is about.</p> <p>The story ends and begins in a confusing way.</p>
<i>Voice</i>	<p>The tone and voice are strongly individual and appropriate for the story.</p> <p>The point of view is highly consistent.</p>	<p>The tone and voice are individual and appropriate.</p> <p>The point of view is consistent.</p>	<p>The tone and voice are not clearly individual and not always appropriate.</p> <p>The point of view is occasionally inconsistent.</p>	<p>The voice lacks individuality.</p> <p>The point of view is inconsistent or confusing.</p>
<i>Word Choice & Sentence Structure</i>	<p>Thoughtful use of sensory language helps create memorable pictures of the setting, characters, and conflict.</p> <p>Sentences have a pleasing variety of structures.</p>	<p>Sensory language is adequate to describe the setting, characters, and conflict.</p> <p>Sentences mostly have a variety of structures.</p>	<p>More sensory language is needed.</p> <p>Some sentences have a variety of structures.</p> <p>Use of fragments and run-on sentences in</p>	<p>Lack of sensory language limits the picture of the setting, characters, and conflict.</p> <p>Repetitive sentence structures and lack of dialogue make</p>

	Use of fragments and run-on sentences in dialogue is deliberate and thoughtful.	Use of fragments and run-on sentences in dialogue is thoughtful.	dialogue is not always thoughtful.	the writing difficult to follow.
<i>Conventions</i>	<p>Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are correct.</p> <p>Grammar and usage are correct.</p> <p>Paragraphing tends to be correct.</p>	<p>Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are mostly correct.</p> <p>Grammar and usage do not distort meaning but are sometimes incorrect.</p> <p>Paragraphing is attempted but is not always sound.</p>	<p>Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are sometimes incorrect.</p> <p>Grammar and usage errors distract from meaning.</p> <p>Paragraphing is irregular or too frequent.</p>	<p>Familiar words are misspelled, and punctuation is missing or incorrect.</p> <p>Grammar and usage mistakes are frequent and distort meaning.</p> <p>Paragraphing is missing.</p>