

TCSAAL Creative Writing Contest Rules 2023-2024 School Year

The judges are seeking exceptional short fiction that contains no more than 1000 words (750 words for 4th – 6th Grade). Young authors can submit fiction stories based on any theme or in any genre that showcase the author's skills to tell an engaging story.

Age Groupings

The Creative Writing Competition will be offered in 3 different age groupings:

4th – 6th Grade, 6th – 8th Grade, and High School

Fees

Creative Writing - **\$25 per entry**

Guidelines

- Essays cannot exceed 1,000 words (750 words for 4th – 6th Grade).
- Essays must be original work of the Student from this school year. Any plagiarism will be disqualified and reported to the school.
- Essays must use conventional formatting (Times New Roman, 12 pt font, Double Spaced).
- Essay submissions need to be saved in the **PDF** format and emailed to TCSAAL. In the Subject please put the Students Name, Age Group, School, and Creative Writing Essay. Essays should be saved as students last name.
- In addition, submissions are expected to be appropriate for youth competition and maintain appropriate decorum for contemporary competition, as determined by TCSAAL staff. Failure to perform accordingly may result in repercussions as detailed in the TCSAAL Handbook.

Scoring Rubric

1. Creativity: 40 points
2. Story Structure: 20 points
3. Spelling and Punctuation: 10 Points
3. Vocabulary and Style (Phrasing and continuity, Fluent and effective use of literary devices and figurative language): 20 points
4. Adherence to contest rules (submitted in the proper format): 5 points
5. Maximization of Word Limit. (Did the author use most of their word limit without going over): 5 points

Awards

Medals will be given to first, second, and third place in each age group (4th – 6th Grade, 6th – 8th Grade, and High School).

If there is a tie, the judge will rank tie breakers.

Winners will be announced and entries displayed at our TCSAAL Arts Festival. We will also post winners online the following Monday.

Individuals do not need to be present to win. We will mail winner's medals to the school if there is not a school representative present.

TCSAAL Creative Writing Rubric

Category	Exemplary	Accomplished	Developing	Beginning
Creativity	The story contains many creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has really used his imagination.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has used his imagination.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions, but they distract from the story. The author has tried to use his imagination.	There is little evidence of creativity in the story. The author does not seem to have used much imagination.
Story Structure	Effective piques and climaxes, sound beginning and impressive transitions.	Ambitious piques and climaxes, structured beginning and effective transitions.	Evident effort towards developing piques and climaxes, functional beginning and clear transitions	Poor demonstration of piques and climaxes, problematic beginning and unclear transitions.
Spelling and Punctuation	There are no spelling or punctuation errors in the final draft. Character and place names that the author invented are spelled consistently throughout.	There is one spelling or punctuation error in the final draft.	There are 2-3 spelling and punctuation errors in the final draft.	The final draft has more than 3 spelling and punctuation errors.
Vocabulary and Style	The final draft shows strong use of phrasing and continuity, fluent and effective use of literary devices and figurative language.	The final draft shows some use of phrasing and continuity, fluent and effective use of literary devices and figurative language.	The final draft shows minimal use of phrasing and continuity, fluent and effective use of literary devices and figurative language.	The final draft shows little to no use of phrasing and continuity, fluent and effective use of literary devices and figurative language.
Adherence to contest rules	The final draft has clearly separated paragraphs, and is in Times New Roman, 12 point font, with standard margins.			The final draft is improperly formatted or unformatted.
Maximization of Word Limit	The final draft utilizes most (800+) of the word limit without going over.	The final draft utilizes a majority (600-800) of the word limit.	The final draft utilizes some (400-600) of the word limit.	The final draft does not utilize the word limit effectively (>400 words).