



Ethos Literacy

ETHOS LITERACY ANNUAL SHORT SHORT STORY WRITING CONTEST RULES & JUDGING CRITERIA

Topics

The story must relate in some way to one of these topics:

- envy
- eyeglasses
- nightmares
- turtles

General

- The story must be your original idea and work.
- We expect prose, not poetry.
- The contest is open to all ages.
- Writers residing outside the United States can participate.
- Stories must be written in English.
- Submission indicates acceptance of the Contest Rules.

Word Limits

- The story cannot be longer than 100 words.
- Incorrectly hyphenated words will be counted as two words. Example: old-man.
- Numerals will be considered to be a word.
- The title is not included in the word limit.

Prizes

- Best of Contest (\$200)
- Best of Topic (\$100) 4 awarded
- Best Youth Story (14 years and younger) (\$100)

Entry Fees

- \$12 per story
- Pay your fees on our website.

Deadline

- March 1, 2025 at 5:00 pm MST.
- Contest participants will be notified of the results in March or April 2025.

Submission

Submit your story on a Google Form. The link is published on our website.

Communications

- We will communicate with you through email.
- Our email address is shortstory@ethosliteracy.org.
- Please remember to check your spam folder.

Judging Criteria

- Does the story address the topic in an imaginative, creative, or unexpected way?
- Does the author create a clear and coherent story where something happens?
- Does the story contain a theme or idea?
- Does the quality of the writing enhance the story?
- Is the story compelling? Did it have a memorable impact on the reader?

Judging Mechanics

- Judging will be blind.
- Stories will be judged in two rounds.
- In the first round, Community Volunteers will score the stories using a rubric.
- The top scoring story in each topic and youth author category will be submitted to Ethos Literacy's Board of Directors for the second round of judging.
- In the second round, the Board of Directors will judge the stories using a rubric. The Board will break tied scores (if any) and will choose the Best in Contest Winner.
- Scoring sheets will not be made available for review by authors.
- The judges' decisions are final.

Publication

- Ethos Literacy will publish the winning and honorable mention stories in a e-magazine which will be published on its website, social media platforms, and in an electronic newsletter.
- Authors agree Ethos Literacy may publish the stories.
- Authors agree Ethos Literacy may read the stories at a public event.

Prohibitions

- Ethos Literacy staff, board members and their immediate families are prohibited from participating in the contest.
- Judges and their immediate families are prohibited from participating in the contest.

Copyright

The author retains copyright to the work.