

Teen Short Story Writing Contest 2026

Baldwin Public Library

Entries accepted August 1 through August 31

www.baldwinlib.org/teen

“A short story must have a single mood and every sentence must build towards it.” – Edgar Allan Poe

Stories will be judged in two different categories: grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. Your grade is whatever you're going into in the fall.

A \$50 Amazon gift card will be awarded to one writer in each grade category.

General Guidelines

- Writers may submit one story
- Stories must be written by you and not AI
- Writers must be in grades 7-12
- Previously submitted or published stories will not be accepted
- Story must be 2,000 words or less (this is approximately 4 pages double spaced)

Submitting Your Story

1. Write your story in any word processing program
2. Go to <http://www.baldwinlib.org/teen>
3. Fill out the submission form. Copy and paste your story into the text box.
4. Submit your story!
5. Writers will receive a confirmation upon submission.

Please send contest-related questions to teen@baldwinlib.org

This writing contest is sponsored by the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library.