

Hey there, book lovers and story seekers!

Imagine you're standing on a stage, ready to share your all-time favorite book with the world.

What makes *that* book so special?

Is it the epic adventure that swept you off your feet?

Or maybe it's the unforgettable characters that feel like old friends?

Whatever it is, we want to know!

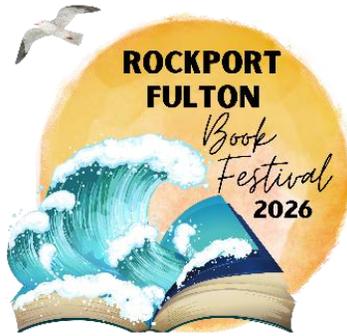
In this essay contest, your challenge is to dive into the pages of your favorite book and tell us why it holds a special place in your heart.

Whether it's a tale of mystery, magic, or a wild adventure, we want to hear what makes it unforgettable for YOU.

So, grab your pens, open those pages, and let your words bring your favorite book to life!

Are you ready to share your literary love?

Just follow the submission guidelines and let's go!



The Rockport Fulton Book Festival Writing Competition Grading Rubric

Topic: "What is Your Favorite Book and Why?"

Criteria	Description	Points
Thesis/Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear and well-defined central argument or point of view about the book and its significance. - Essay stays focused on the topic throughout. 	10
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaging hook that captures the reader's attention. - Clear introduction to the book and the reasons why it's the author's favorite. 	5
Content/Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear and well-explained reasons why the book is the writer's favorite. - Specific examples from the book (characters, themes, plot, etc.) that support the argument. - Depth of analysis: The student connects personal insight with details from the book to develop the argument. 	15
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well-structured essay with clear transitions between paragraphs. - Introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion are clearly separated and logically ordered. 	10
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong conclusion that reinforces the main argument and leaves the reader with a lasting impression. 	5
Clarity & Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear, concise, and coherent writing with logical flow of ideas. 	10
Grammar & Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. 	10
Creativity & Originality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrates creativity and originality in how the book is discussed and why it's the favorite. 	10
Overall Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall strength and effectiveness of the essay in communicating the writer's thoughts and feelings about the book. 	10

Submission Requirements

Open to students who attend public school, private school, and/or homeschool in Aransas County.

There are two participating age brackets:

High School: Grades 9th -12th grade

Middle School: Grades 6th – 8th grade

1. This contest provides awards this year in the following distribution for each age bracket. First prize winner will receive \$200, second prize winner will receive \$100, and third prize winner will receive \$50. The winners will be chosen according to the discretion of the judges.
2. The contest jury will judge the essays on the basis of the grading rubric provided.
3. Essays: For middle school submissions, must be a minimum of 400 words, but no longer than 700 words. For high school submissions, must be a minimum of 500 words, but no longer than 1,000 words. Manuscripts are to be typed in a 12-point font, with 1-inch margins.
4. All entries are to be submitted between **March 1st and April 8th, 2026**. Entries are to be printed, stapled, and then submitted at The Splendid Sun Bookstore, located at 2207 Hwy 35 N Ste. D2, Rockport, TX 78382, during store hours.
5. Winners will be notified during the week of April 20th -April 25th. The winning essays and prizes will be announced and prizes awarded at an awards ceremony on Saturday, April 25th, at 3:00pm. This is where winners will claim their prizes.
6. The Rockport Fulton Book Festival Planning Committee will appoint a jury of judges to judge the essays.
7. Each student submitting an entry will attach a cover sheet to their essay with the appropriate information giving name, email address, telephone number, grade level, and school affiliation certifying (a) that he or she is eligible to enter the contest, and (b) that the entry submitted is the student's own creative work. The student's real name and information will appear only to the Rockport Fulton Book Festival Writing Competition contest judges. And should student win the competition, their name will be used to announce their accomplishment at the award ceremony on the book festival stage.

Contest Contact Information

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Essay Contest Chairman
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