



59TH ANNUAL FRIENDS CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE LITTLETON LIBRARY & MUSEUM

2026 RULES & INFORMATION

The Friends of the Littleton Library and Museum's annual Creative Writing Contest is designed to promote and encourage excellence in creative writing for students in grades 1st-12th. This contest is sponsored and managed solely by the Friends of the Littleton Library and Museum and is volunteer led. Entries must be received by **10pm on Monday, April 6, 2025** in order to be considered. Participants will be notified of the contest outcome in May 2026.

CATEGORIES

- Poetry - writing in verse, 100 lines or fewer. *Examples - blank verse, song lyrics, free verse, epic, ode.*
- Fiction - short story or one act play, 2,500 words or fewer. *Examples - mystery, science fiction, historical, fantasy, thriller, romance.*
- Nonfiction - short story or essay, 2,500 words or fewer. *Examples - memoir, biography, historical, instructional, commentary.*
- Collaboration - 2-4 students working together in the poetry, fiction, or nonfiction categories. All entries will be judged as one category and can be a mix of ages.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The contest will be judged by Arapahoe Community College faculty. Judging is based on originality, quality of expression, and skill in handling specific forms of writing. Detailed, grade-specific judging rubrics can be found on the Creative Writing Contest page of the Friends of the Littleton Library and Museum website (friendslittleton.org). Judges will receive entries anonymously. Bemis Public Library staff is not involved in the judging process. Participants will be notified of the contest outcome in May 2026. All decisions are final.

AWARDS

Judges will select a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner in each category and contest level (1st-2nd; 3rd-5th; 6th-8th; 9th-12th). Winning submissions will be compiled into a book which will be available for purchase and can be referenced at Bemis Public Library.

RULES - please read carefully

- Only students in 1st-12th grades who live in the Littleton Public Schools District or attend a Littleton school may enter the contest.
- Entries must be received by the **deadline - 10pm on Monday, April 6, 2026**. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Incomplete entry forms will be disqualified.
- Submissions received without an entry form will be disqualified.
- Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.
- Students may submit one entry in each category. Each entry must have a separate entry form.
- The author's name should ONLY appear on the entry form, not on the writing submission.
- Label each page of the writing submission with the title of the work and page numbers.
- Writing submissions must be typed or printed legibly on only one side of an 8.5" x 11" sheet. First grade authors may dictate their entries for another person to type.
- Original submissions will not be returned.
- Entries may be submitted in one of the following ways -
 - **Online Entry Form** - visit the 2026 Creative Writing Contest page on the friendslittleton.org website.
 - **Email** - completed entry forms and writing submissions may be emailed to friendscreativewritingcontest@gmail.com. *If you are submitting more than one entry, please send a separate email for each entry.*
 - **Drop Off** - completed entry forms and writing submissions may be dropped off at the front desk of the Bemis Public Library, 6014 S Datura St., Littleton, CO 80120

The 2026 Creative Writing Contest adheres to the principles of Colorado's Safe2Tell which allows the reporting of issues regarding the safety of students, parents, or community members. We understand that students may express anger, sadness, or other strong emotions in their writings. While we encourage uninhibited writing, we also take our responsibilities under Safe2Tell seriously.

Questions? Visit friendslittleton.org or email us at - friendscreativewritingcontest@gmail.com.