

SHORT STORY CONTEST

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About the Festival

Celebrating stories and crafting dreams through **education and opportunity** at York Region's newest chapter: Inkwell Literary Festival!

Inkwell aims to:

- Provide a platform for aspiring writers
- Connect them with leaders and experts

These will be achieved through:

- Empowering discussions with acclaimed authors
- Interactive workshops and seminars
- Career connect events
- **A Short Story Contest for youth, young adults and mature adults in respective categories**, serving as a cornerstone of the festival.





Contest Rules

The Inkwell Literary Festival Short Story Contest is FREE and open to all aspiring writers aged 14+ in Ontario.

Eligibility & Requirements

- Stories must be written between January and June 2025.
- Accepted genres: Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction.
- Word count: Up to 2,000 words.
- Prohibited content: Extreme violence, erotica, or any explicit material
- Originality: Submissions must be the entrant's own work. Plagiarism or AI-generated content will result in immediate disqualification.
- Proof of eligibility: A valid student ID, driver's license or other government-generated photo ID.
- Format: Times New Roman, 12 pt, double-spaced with cover page including title and name of applicant.
- Limit: One (1) submission per applicant.

Key Dates

- Contest opens: Tuesday, April 1, 2025.
- Submission deadline: Monday, June 30, 2025, at 11:59 PM (EST).
- Winners announced: Saturday, October 4, 2025, in person at the Inkwell Literary Festival Awards Ceremony at the Civic Centre Resource Library in Vaughan.

All entrants are encouraged to attend the Short Story Contest Awards Ceremony in person.





Short Story Contest Awards

What do we look for in our winners? Originality, creativity, and conventional spelling and grammar!

The Short Story Contest Awards Presentation will close out the festival, celebrating the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners grouped the following categories:

- **Junior Category (Ages 14-16)**
- **Intermediate Category (Ages 17-19)**
- **Senior Category (Ages 20-24)**
- **Adult Category (Ages 25+)**

Winners will receive trophies, festival swag, in-kind donations, and other exciting prizes!

Please note, winners may have the option to read an excerpt from their short story at the Presentation Ceremony, but it is not mandatory.





How to Submit

Access the online submission forms through [HERE](#).

We look forward to seeing you at the festival!

 Learn more at inkwellfest.com



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