

A Universe of Stories Writing Contest
Pewaukee Public Library
Summer 2019

Official Rules

All participants must be entering grades 7-12.

Entries may be submitted in one of three categories: Essay, Original Short Story, or Fan Fiction. Please see below for additional rules and guidelines for each category.

Participants will be allowed to submit no more than one entry for each category, but may choose to submit different entries into more than one category if desired.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated! All entries must be of your own creation.

The first day to submit entries will be Monday, July 1.

All entries must be submitted before 11:59 pm on Sunday, July 21.

All entries must be submitted electronically to the following email address: sgeorge@pewaukee.lib.wi.us. Do not copy the text from your story into the body of the email. Instead, please attach your entry to the email as a Microsoft Word document.

One winner in each category will be selected. Winners will be announced on Monday, July 29.

Each winner will receive a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card.

The Pewaukee Public Library retains the right to compile submitted entries into a document in print and/or in digital format which can be added to the library's circulating collection and read by library users.

Formatting Guidelines

All entries must be submitted in the format of a Microsoft Word document.

1.5 spaces between each line.

No extra spacing between paragraphs. Please indent at the start of each paragraph.

Margins on all sides should be 1 inch.

Either Arial or Times New Roman fonts must be used, size 12.

Please, no headers or footers.

Centered at the top of the first page of each entry should be the following four items, each on their own separate line: A Universe of Stories Writing Contest, Category, Name, Story/Essay Title.

These guidelines are in place to ensure that all entries are easy for the judges to read. Failure to comply with these guidelines could be grounds for disqualification.

You are welcome to use a library computer to type your entry. Please bring your library card in good standing with you to do so.

Library staff is happy to help you format your document appropriately in accordance with the above guidelines if needed, but we will not make adjustments for you after your entry has been submitted.

Essay

The topic for all essay entries is: “Why Stories Matter.” Your entry must explore this topic.

It is acceptable for the topic “Why Stories Matter” to also be the title of your essay, though it is not required.

Entries must have between 250-500 words, excluding your title and other header information.

Original Short Story

All original short stories must be a work of fiction, not based directly on any other fictional narrative (book, movie, etc.).

All entries must use the following first line: “NAME looked guilty.” Writers are allowed to use whatever name or pronoun they like in this line. Writers may then take their stories in whatever direction they choose.

Entries must have between 500-1,200 words, excluding your title and other header information.

Fan Fiction

Entries in this category are to be short stories based on some other narrative, and should borrow from this work’s characters and/or setting. Possible sources of inspiration may include, but are not limited to: Books, movies, comic books, anime, TV shows, video games, etc.

In the heading at the top of your first page, please add a fifth line that reads, “Based on NAME OF FANDOM.” This will aid any judges who may not be familiar with the setting or characters found in your story.

All entries must use the following first line: “NAME was not ready to admit defeat.” Writers are allowed to use whatever name or pronoun they like in this line. Writers may then take their stories in whatever direction they choose.

All entries must have between 500-1,200 words, excluding your title and other header information.