

**ETHOS LITERACY**  
**5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHORT SHORT STORY WRITING CONTEST**  
**RULES**

**Topics**

The story must relate in some way to **one** of these topics:

- bicycle(s)
- eclipse
- fire
- suitcase(s)

**General**

- The story must be your original idea and work.
- The contest is open to prose, not poetry.
- The contest is open to all ages.
- Writers residing outside the United States can participate, but stories must be written in English.
- Writers can submit as many stories as they want.
- Submission indicates acceptance of the Contest Rules.

**Word Limits**

- The story cannot be longer than 100 words.
- Incorrectly hyphenated words will be counted as two words. Examples: old-man, hot-fire.
- Numerals will be considered to be a word.
- The title is not included in the word limit.

**Prizes**

- Best of Contest (\$300)
- Best of Topic (\$100) 4 awarded
- Best Youth Story (14 years and younger) (\$100)

**Entry Fee**

\$15 per submission (15 years and older)

\$10 per submission for Youth Writers (14 years and younger)

## **Deadline**

Feb. 1, 2024 at 5:00 pm MST.

## **Formatting Requirements**

- 1 inch margins, arial or times roman font, 12 pt., double spaced.
- The story must be in pdf format.
- Include the topic, whether your story is in the Youth Category, and the title.
- Do not include your name or email address on the story.

## **Submitting Your Story**

- Send your story by email to [shortstory@ethosliteracy.org](mailto:shortstory@ethosliteracy.org).
- Include your name in the body of your email.
- Please tell us how you learned about the contest.

## **Communications**

- We will communicate with you through email.
- Our email address is [shortstory@ethosliteracy.org](mailto:shortstory@ethosliteracy.org).
- Please remember to check your spam folder.

## **Judging Criteria**

- Does the story address the topic in an imaginative, creative, or unexpected way?
- Does the author create a clear and coherent story where something happens?
- Does the story contain a theme or idea?
- Does the quality of the writing enhance the story?
- Is the story compelling? Did it have a memorable impact on the reader?

## **Judging Mechanics**

- Judging will be blind.
- Stories will be judged in two rounds.
- In the first round, Community Volunteers will score the stories using a rubric.
- The top scoring story in each topic and youth author category will be submitted to Ethos Literacy's Board of Directors for the second round of judging.

- In the second round, the Board of Directors will judge the stories using a rubric. The Board will break tied scores (if any) and will choose the Best in Contest Winner.
- Scoring sheets will not be made available for review by authors.
- The judges' decisions are final.

### **Publication**

- Ethos Literacy will publish the winning and honorable mention stories in a e-magazine which will be published on its website, social media platforms, and in an electronic newsletter.
- Authors agree Ethos Literacy may publish the stories.
- Authors agree Ethos Literacy may read the stories at a public event.

### **Prohibitions**

- Ethos Literacy staff, board members and their immediate families are prohibited from participating in the contest.
- Judges and their immediate families are prohibited from participating in the contest.

### **Copyright**

The author retains copyright to the work.

### **Notification to Authors**

Contest participants will be notified of the results in February 2024.