

ETHOS LITERACY
5th ANNUAL SHORT SHORT STORY WRITING CONTEST
RULES & JUDGING CRITERIA

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.
- 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 Fees

Standard: \$15 for one story (15 years and older)

Discounted: \$20 for two stories (15 years and older)

Youth: \$10 for one story(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.
- 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.
- 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.