

Gravenhurst Public Library's Young Writers Showcase Contest Rules

Overview:

Gravenhurst Public Library & the Muskoka Authors Association are coming together this fall to celebrate Muskoka's Young Writers! Homeschooled youth in Muskoka are invited to submit their writing in one of three age categories by **Friday, October 25th at 4pm** to be displayed during the Youth Writer's Showcase on **Thursday, November 7th**. One winner will be selected from each category and will receive a prize and be given the opportunity to read their story at the end of the showcase! We encourage all participants to come prepared to present their work as there will also be an opportunity to volunteer to read aloud.

Ages & Categories:

Ages 4-7: Picture Books Less Than 200 Words

- Create your very own picture book that includes a title page, pictures, and a story!

Ages 8-12: Short Stories Less Than 500 Words

- Write your very own short story complete with an epic cover page and awesome text! Illustrations are optional!

Ages 13-18: Short Stories Less Than 1,000 Words

- Write a short story about a topic of your choice that is 1,000 words or less and includes a cover page and page numbers. The winner of this category will receive a 1 year youth membership to the Muskoka Authors Association!

Rules & Tips:

- All entries must be submitted by Friday October 25th no later than 4pm! Submissions time stamped as 4:01pm will not be accepted.
- Typed entries can be submitted via email to jennifer.whipp@gravenhurst.ca. Miss Jenn will send you a confirmation email to verify she got your entry. If you have not received the confirmation email by Thursday October 24th at 4pm (as they are not automated) please call the library at (705) 687-3382 and we will go from

there! Handwritten entries can be dropped off at the library to a staff member at the circulation desk.

- All entries must include the writer's name and age, parent name and phone number (even emailed submissions must include a phone number).
- **Participants are expected to plan, write, and edit their own work. That said, limited, age appropriate assistance from an adult is allowed when necessary.**
- Entries can be handwritten or typed, but either way must be legible. As such, font style, size, colour, and format should be considered in the final submission.
- Parents and caregivers are allowed to scribe for their children in instances where it is necessary as long as all writing is in the own words of the child (Parents can also rewrite words or sentences under their children's writing if it helps to clarify what's been written).
- All entries must be 'Library Appropriate' meaning they can be read aloud at a public event with children in attendance! No horror stories or over-the-top potty humour please!
- Book titles and author names do not count toward the final word count.
- Participants will not copy or replicate the stories, images, or intellectual property of another author. Entries that are plagiarized or contain plagiarized material will be disqualified. That said, fanfiction is allowed (you can write your own story about a beloved character or book universe, but are expected to draw your own images and write your own story).
- The format of your submission is up to your interpretation aside from the guidelines presented in this document.

Judging Criteria:

* We recognize that the ability to meet the criteria below develops with age and practice. As such, while these criteria will be used as guidelines for judging story submissions, they are most important for older participants who have had the opportunity to learn and develop these skills. We will take the age of authors into consideration during judging.

- Creativity
 - While creativity may be difficult to measure it is one of the most important factors in a creative writing contest! We want to encourage participants to think outside of the box! Some criteria to consider include:
 - Is the story unique or approach a topic in a new or interesting way?
 - Is the story engaging and interesting? Does it grab the reader's attention? Does it have a hook?

- Does the story evoke feelings in the reader? Does it touch on captivating themes?
- Does the story reflect the writer's voice and individuality?
- Does the story use creative imagery and vivid details to paint a picture? Can the reader clearly picture the story as it's being told?
- Structure
 - The structure of your story, or how it is organized, is very important to how it is read and if readers understand the plot. Some things to think about:
 - Is the story organized in a way that makes sense to the reader?
 - Is there a clear plot? A beginning, middle and end? If not, does it make sense and seem purposeful?
- Language use
 - Language use involves grammar, punctuation, vocabulary, and spelling.
 - We would also love to see the use of literary devices such as metaphors and figurative language, especially for older participants.
- WOW Factor
 - The WOW factor criteria looks for participants who went above and beyond. This could include:
 - Incredible pictures
 - Amazing character development
 - Clever vocabulary or formatting
 - Anything that wows the reader in one way or another!
- Contest Guidelines
 - Did you follow all contest guidelines found in this document including word count, a title page, etc.?

Event Schedule:

*Please note that this schedule is subject to change depending on the number of participants who wish to read aloud. Doors will open at 10am. The event will start promptly at 10:30am but may run shorter or longer than the times specified below. The event will end no later than 12pm. Thank you for your understanding.

10am-10:30am: Doors Open

- Arrive, Sign-In and Socialize!

10:30am-11am: Youth Author's Showcase & Readings

- Work will be on display and participants can volunteer to read their work aloud on the main stage (a.k.a in the program room).

11am-11:30am: Winner's Ceremony

- Winners will be announced, prizes awarded, and winning work read aloud!

Contact Information:

Please forward all questions to Jennifer Whipp, Child & Youth Services Librarian at Gravenhurst Public Library via either phone or email:

- jennifer.whipp@gravenhurst.ca
- (705) 687-3382

Thanks and we look forward to reading your stories!