

Freeport Public Library Teen Short Story Competition 2026

RULES:

- The competition is open to anyone in 7th through 12th grade at the time of entering.
- All entries must be written primarily in English.
- Entries must be fiction.
- Entries can be of any genre.
- Entries must be no more than 3,000 words in length (excluding title). There is no minimum word requirement.
- Entries must be double-spaced, 12pt, Times New Roman font.
- Entries must be the participants' own, original work. They must not have been published, self-published, published online or made public on social media or featured among the winners in any other competition.
- Excessive violence or sex and the use of profane, vulgar, racist, or offensive words, as determined by the judges, will result in the story being rejected.
- Entries must not include photographs or illustrations.
- All entries are judged anonymously. The participant's name must not appear anywhere on the submission piece.
- Entries must be submitted via email to eschrader@freeportpubliclibrary.org
- Participants must complete the attached Microsoft Form to register their entry.
- Entries must be submitted by 11:59pm, February 3rd. Entries submitted after that date may not be accepted.
- One submission per participant is accepted.

- The winner may be asked to provide a short bio and a photograph of themselves to appear alongside the winning piece. A pen name or alias is permitted.
- Entries will be judged using the provided rubric.
- All participants own the rights to their work, and after the competition closes, they are free to publish elsewhere. The winner grants Freeport Public Library the right to publish the winning story on their website.
- All decisions made by the judges regarding the winners are final.
- By submitting, you agree to all contest rules.
- Contest rules are subject to change.
- Questions about the competition in general should be sent to eschrader@freeportpubliclibrary.org

IMPORTANT DATES

January 20, 2026 – Contest Submissions Open

February 3, 2026 – Contest Submissions Close

February 5, 2026 – February 20, 2026 – Judges Review Submissions

February 24, 2026 – Contest Finalists Notified

March 17, 2026 – Awards Ceremony