

KIWANIS YOUTH WRITERS CONTEST RULES

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

The [Kiwaniis Youth Writers](#) Contest is open to elementary and high school students in Grades 4 to 12 as of September 8, 2026, who are attending a school or being taught in a home-school environment in Brantford, Brant, or Six Nations.

Submissions will be accepted for unpublished short fiction stories.

The submission must be an original, unpublished piece of fictional work. Only one submission per author will be accepted.

There is not a theme for the 2026 contest.

The submission must be written by a single author. Co-authored submissions will not be accepted.

The submission must be available in English, whether written originally in English or originally written in another language but translated into English.

Non-fiction work, poetry or academic essays will not be accepted.

Do not submit any images.

Submissions created using artificial intelligence tools or using materials taken from other sources, regardless of medium, are not acceptable and will be disqualified. However, using spellcheck and other digital proofreading tools is acceptable and encouraged.

Entries that do not meet these requirements will be subject to disqualification:

- Co-authored submissions;
- Previously published works;
- Non-fiction work including memoir;
- Poetry;
- Academic essays;
- Works exceeding the word limits set out below; and
- Submissions using artificial intelligence tools or materials taken from other sources

CATEGORIES:

Submissions will be judged in the following categories:

SENIOR Grades 10, 11 and 12

INTERMEDIATE Grades 7, 8 and 9

JUNIOR Grades 4, 5 and 6.

WORD LIMIT:

The word limit for submissions, which must be strictly observed, are:

SENIOR	1200 words
INTERMEDIATE	800 words
JUNIOR	500 words.

The word count includes “a,” “an,” and “the”. Failing to observe the maximum word limit will result in disqualification.

PRIZES:

SENIOR	First place - \$750; Second place- \$500; Third place - \$250.
INTERMEDIATE	First place - \$350; Second place - \$250; Third place - \$150
JUNIOR	First place - \$250; Second place - \$200; Third place - \$125.

Winning entries will be posted on the Kiwanis Club of Brantford website for a duration of 12 months.

JUDGING:

Entries will be judged blind. Because entries are judged blind, please do not put your name on or in your story.

As a general overview of judging criteria, submissions will be assessed on:

- The originality and creativity of the story; and
- The manner in which the story is told (as examples, point of view, form and structure, use of language).

Spelling and grammar will be considered as part of the assessment.

Any communication with the contest judges will compromise the blind judging process and will result in disqualification.

The decisions of the judges are final.

DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission is October 26, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR STORY:

To enter the information about your story can access the Website by:

- 1) Entering **BrantfordKiwanis.org** in the address field for your browser and then press Enter.

This will take to the Home page of the Kiwanis Website where you will see a menu item along the top menu "**Youth Writer's Contest**".

Click on these words and you will be taken to the contest landing page which will give you links to the "**Rules and Guidelines**" or the "**Registration Form Page**".

- 2) Once you have read and understand the Rules and Guidelines needed to enter the contest you can move on by Clicking the text "**Go to Registration Form Page**".
- 3) After arriving on the Registration Form be sure to fill in all fields with your correct information and attach you story before Submitting the form.

When the form is accepted your will receive and short notice that "your submission was received and that you will be contacted shortly".

Entries must be made by either the parent or guardian of the minor author of the submission or by the author's teacher with the author's parent or guardian's permission.

Because entries are judged blind, please do not put your name on or in your story

Entries must be submitted in MS Word (DOC or DOCX). Please use standard margins, Calibri 12-point font and double spacing.

If there are circumstances in which typing the story is impossible, please contact Heather Wyatt by email at jwyatt8528@rogers.com or by telephone at 519-761-8528 to discuss accommodations.

Please note that the Kiwanis Club of Brantford and its committees, does not discriminate and does not tolerate discrimination.