

## **TCSAAL Creative Writing Contest Rules 2015-2016 School Year**

The judges are seeking exceptional short fiction that contains no more than 1000 words (750 words for 4th – 6th grade). Young authors can submit fiction stories based on any theme or in any genre that showcase the author's skills to tell an engaging story.

### **Age Groupings**

The Creative Writing Competition will be offered in 3 different age groupings:  
4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, and High School

### **Fees**

Creative Writing - **\$25 per entry**

### **Guidelines**

- Essays cannot exceed 1,000 words (750 words for 4th – 6th grade).
- Essays must be original work of the Student from this school year. Any plagiarism will be disqualified and reported to the school.
- Essays must use conventional formatting (Times New Roman, 12 pt font, Double Spaced).
- Essay submissions need to be saved in the **pdf** format and emailed to [texascharter@gmail.com](mailto:texascharter@gmail.com) no later than 5:00 pm on Friday March 4, 2016. In the Subject please put the Students Name, Age Group, School, and Creative Writing Essay. Essays should be saved as Students last name.
- In addition, submissions are expected to be appropriate for youth competition and maintain appropriate decorum for contemporary competition, as determined by TCSAAL staff. Failure to perform accordingly may result in repercussions as detailed in the TCSAAL Handbook.

### **Scoring Rubric**

1. Creativity: 40 points
2. Originality: 20 points
3. Spelling and Punctuation: 10 Points
3. Vocabulary and Style (Phrasing and continuity, Fluent and effective use of literary devices and figurative language): 20 points
4. Adherence to contest rules (submitted in the proper format): 5 points
5. Maximization of Word Limit. (Did the author use most of their word limit without going over): 5 points

### **Awards**

Medals will be given to first, second, and third place in each age group (4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, and High School).

If there is a tie the judge will rank tie breakers.

Winners will be announced and entries displayed at our TCSAAL Arts Festival. We will also post winners online the following Monday.

Individuals do not need to be present to win. We will mail winners medals to the school if there is not a school representative present.

## TCSAAL Creative Writing Rubric

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Accomplished</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Beginning</b>
Creativity	The story contains many creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has really used his imagination.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has used his imagination.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions, but they distract from the story. The author has tried to use his imagination.	There is little evidence of creativity in the story. The author does not seem to have used much imagination.
Originality	The final draft may show influences from, but is not derivative of, current or past works of fiction.	The final draft is slightly derivative of a current or past work of fiction.	The final draft is highly derivative of current or past works of fiction.	The final draft seems to mimic closely a current or past work of fiction.
Spelling and Punctuation	There are no spelling or punctuation errors in the final draft. Character and place names that the author invented are spelled consistently throughout.	There is one spelling or punctuation error in the final draft.	There are 2-3 spelling and punctuation errors in the final draft.	The final draft has more than 3 spelling and punctuation errors.
Vocabulary and Style	The final draft shows strong use of phrasing and continuity, fluent and effective use of literary devices and figurative language.	The final draft shows some use of phrasing and continuity, fluent and effective use of literary devices and figurative language.	The final draft shows minimal use of phrasing and continuity, fluent and effective use of literary devices and figurative language.	The final draft shows little to no use of phrasing and continuity, fluent and effective use of literary devices and figurative language.
Adherence to contest rules	The final draft has clearly separated paragraphs, and is in Times New Roman, 12 point font, with standard margins.			The final draft is improperly formatted or unformatted.
Maximization of Word Limit	The final draft utilizes most (800+) of the word limit without going over.	The final draft utilizes a majority (600-800) of the word limit.	The final draft utilizes some (400-600) of the word limit.	The final draft does not utilize the word limit effectively (>400 words).