

Attention all Nassau County Middle and High School Students, Grades 6 – 12

Amelia Island Book Festival Short Story Writing Contest

Rules and Reminders

- Your story must be between 500 – 1,000 words written on the theme of a Super Power and how you will use it for good. It must be a new, original work - not previously written or published.
- Submissions must be in Times New Roman, 12-point typeface, double-spaced; **entry MUST include:**
 - Your name
 - E-mail address
 - Grade, school, and short story title on first page
- Submit application and story online at ameliaislandbookfestival.org/short-story-writing-contest.
- Students are encouraged to keep a copy of submitted stories in case of technology issues.
- Due to formatting requirements, we must receive your story in MS format. Stories submitted in other formats will not be accepted.
- **Entries that do not meet all criteria will not be judged**, will not be eligible for awards/prizes and will not be considered for publication.
- Short Stories may be submitted anytime between January 1, 2022, and March 1, 2023 at 5pm.
- Judges will be local literary experts and board members/leaders with the Amelia Island Book Festival (AIBF).
- Prizes include the following:
 - One cash award of **\$175** for each middle school and high school first-place winner.
 - One cash award of **\$100** for each middle school and high school second-place winner.
 - One cash award of **\$75** for each middle school and high school third-place winner.
 - Additional **\$50** cash awards for winners across both middle and/or high school entrants for creativity, writing style and other criteria as determined by the judges.
 - Winners will be published and receive a copy of the published book at the Awards Ceremony.
- Prizes will be announced in late March and the Awards Ceremony will be held at Story & Song on April 29, 2023.

AIBF Short Story Writing Contest

Writing Tips

Contest judges will read each story and will consider the following elements, along with your creativity and writing style:

- The Plot or events that occur
- The Characters
- The setting, or time and place
- Your incorporation of the Theme.
- A Beginning, Middle and End to each story, and the proper Sequence of events
- Use of Proper Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation

Helpful Hints: Consider having a coach or mentor read your story and provide feedback. This can be a family member, teacher, media specialist or friend. Make sure you allow enough time for feedback. Then, incorporate the feedback before submitting your final work. Remember, it's important not to view their comments as criticism, but as advice to strengthen your story.

And don't forget to have fun!!!

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. Just making sure...does my story have to be about real people or can it be fiction?

A. Your story can be fiction or non-fiction. All entries will be judged based on the short story elements described in the Writing Tips, along with your creativity and writing style.

Q. I have won this contest before. Am I eligible to win again?

A. Yes! Absolutely!

Q. If I attend private school or am home schooled, may I enter the contest?

A. Yes! YES. ALL students in 6th to 12th grade registered in a Nassau public or private school are encouraged to participate. Virtual students residing in Nassau County, Florida are also eligible to participate.

Q. May I submit a graphic story?

A. No. Since this contest is judged on the written word, we cannot accept a graphic short story.

Q. My story is longer than 1,000 words. – may I submit it?

A. No. Your entry will not be accepted if it is longer than 1,000 words or shorter than 500 words. You must edit your story to fit the guidelines.

Q. If I can't get my story in by the deadline, will you take a submission after 5 p.m. on March 1st, 2022

A. No. We cannot accept submissions after the deadline.

Need more information? Send an email to shortstory@ameliaislandbookfestival.org or visit us at www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org. We will respond as quickly as possible. We look forward to enjoying your short stories. Thank you!