

Starwatch XXXVII
Creative Writing Contest 2017

Sponsored by Tahlequah Friends of the Library And Tahlequah Public Library

Once again the Tahlequah Friends of the Library is sponsoring a writing contest in Cherokee County for students and adults. This year we are accepting entries for six levels of writers: Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade, Sixth Grade, 7th-8th Grade, 9th-12th Grade, and Adults. Everyone is invited to submit entries (one or two in any or all of the following entry categories).

Poetry – no more than 30 lines. Poetry is a **word song** with a beat and sometimes rhymes. Sounds and syllables may be repeated. Line breaks create form and space. Rules about sentences, paragraphs, and punctuation are suspended. Some types of poetry have rules about rhyme patterns or numbers of syllables in a line while others are “free form.”

Fiction – under 1500 words. A **fictional short story (including fictional essay)**, is made from imagination and written in sentences and paragraphs. The writer makes fantasized scenes seem real by writing believable characters, scenery, dialogue, and action. **Historical fiction** mixes known history with information that can't be known exactly.

Nonfiction – under 1500 words. Nonfiction is a **true account** written in sentences and paragraphs. Nonfiction includes essays: personal factual, memoir, information, history, biography, and inspiration.

Entries are to be submitted no later than **Saturday March 4, 2017 at 12:00** . Awards will be presented at a reception to be held on Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m. in Richardson Hall at Go Ye Village. Winning entries will be published in the 37th annual Starwatch Anthology.

GROUP: 4th 5th 6th 7th- 8th 9th- 12th Adults

AWARDS: First, second, third places and honorable mentions will be awarded in each category for each grade at the discretion of the judges. Awards will be presented at a reception on **April 23 at 2p.m. in Richardson Hall at Go-Ye-Village.**

JUDGING: All entries will be judged by a committee chosen by members of the Tahlequah Friends of the Library. Winners will be notified by email or telephone before the awards ceremony.

Preparation of Manuscript: Because all winning entries are scanned for publication in the Starwatch anthology, we need all entries to be single-spaced and typed in Ariel font size 12 (do not use italics or bold or script font). Set margins at ¾ inch. Please do **NOT** put your name on your work. **DO** put your title on each page and number the pages in the upper right hand corner. Under the title on the first page indicate your category: poetry, nonfiction, or fiction. *****Very Important*****

Submission of Manuscript: Participants may bring entries to the Tahlequah Public Library on **Friday February 24, through March 4, during regular Library hours. No work will be accepted after 12 noon on Saturday, March 4, 2017.**

Mailed entries may be sent earlier but must arrive before March 4.

Mail to: Starwatch Contest, Tahlequah Public Library, 120 S. College, Tahlequah, OK 74464.

Please keep your originals, as work will not be returned to you.

Work will be accepted only if submitted as follows: 1. Manuscripts prepared as stated above 2. Completed entry form (see below) 3. No entry fees – **Donations welcomed**

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ENTRY FORM (Please print.) Each person may submit only **two works** per category, and must fill out an entry form for EACH manuscript entered for judging.

Name _____ Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Group 4th _____ 5th _____ 6th _____ 7th-8th _____ 9th-12th _____ Adult _____

School _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Title of Work _____ Category (circle one): poetry nonfiction fiction

Signature _____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____