



Hosted by the YWCA of Queens and Sponsored by HSBC Bank, USA, N.A.
Summer Literacy Festival 2011
Short Story Writing Contest

General Information

Contest Date: Saturday, August 6, 2011
Location: YWCA of Queens
42-07 Parsons Blvd Flushing, NY 11355
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
**[All participants](#) must sign in by 11 a.m.*
Registration Deadline: Wednesday, August 3, 2011

Registration Requirements: **Completed registration form & proof of participant's age** (i.e. Passport, birth certificate)

- * Students must be ages 14-18 as of August 6, 2011.
- * Three short story topics will be given August 1, 2011. Out of the 3 topics, participant will choose one topic to write their short story on.
- *Each of the top two contestants will receive a \$100 Target gift card and will have their stories published in the YWCA of Queens newsletter.

How to apply:

To Submit Registration Form & Proof of Age

- Walk-in: YWCA of Queens, 42-07 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, New York 11355
- Fax: 718-353-4044
- Email: jcho@ywcaqueens.org



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Submission Guidelines

- ① All stories must be typed, double-spaced, and in standard 12 pt. font. Margins must be one inch. Stories may be front and back.
- ② All stories should have a header that includes the title of the story with page numbers. Stories MUST NOT include the writer's name.
- ③ Three copies of the story must be submitted upon registration.
- ④ Stories must be a minimum of two double-spaced pages and may not exceed twenty double-spaced pages.

Criteria for Judging Short Stories

1. Short stories will be judged based on all of the following:
 - ⑤ **Structure and Composition:** Is the piece well-suited for the length requirement? Does it have clear narration? Does it use interesting narrative devices that suit the content of the story?
 - ⑥ **Voice and Style:** Is the style unique and appropriate for the content? Does the voice match the content?
 - ⑦ **Diction and Imagery:** Does the author effectively use language to convey what s(he) intends? Does the authors show, not tell? Do the words used contribute to the overall impact of the story?
 - ⑧ **Characterization and Dialogue:** Do the characters draw the reader in? Are they realistic? Does the dialogue seem natural to the characters rather than forced or artificial?
 - ⑨ **Theme:** Does the author develop a unified theme? Does the author contribute an interesting perspective and/or original ideas?
 - ⑩ **Creativity:** Is the story creative? Does the author use interesting literary techniques?
 - ⑪ **Spelling/Grammar/Punctuation:** Does the story have correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation? (Note: Points will not be taken off for intentional grammar mistakes, such as dialogue that uses fragments or reflects the natural way individuals speak.)
2. Participants who fail to follow the page format in the above "Submission Guidelines" section will automatically be disqualified.

Rules and Procedures

- ① The YWCA is not responsible for any injury or loss of personal items.
- ② The primary goal of the Literacy Festival is to foster the spirit of learning and achievement among youth in literacy. Parents and children should focus on the joy of learning and interaction amongst fellow community members rather than on the outcome of the competition.
- ③ All applicants must be registered to take part in the competitions. Late submission of registration forms will be honored based upon available space.
- ④ YWCA of Queens reserves the right to verify the age of all participants.
- ⑤ The top 2 winners will be given prizes (\$100 Target gift card).
- ⑥ Judges have the right to change rules on site without notice if the situation warrants. In any dispute, the judges have the final decision.
- ⑦ Students may only write one short story during the contest. Students may not receive any help from other students or any other individuals. Plagiarism is prohibited, and any student who plagiarizes will immediately be disqualified. All short stories must be original and unpublished.
- ⑧ The final judging will be conducted anonymously. Contestants' names will be removed from the essays being judged so as to assure anonymity and to eliminate bias.
- ⑨ Winners will be notified shortly after the final judging, and participants are asked to attend the Literacy Festival Award Ceremony to be awarded their prizes on Saturday, August 6th, 2011 at 3:30pm. Short stories will be published in the YWCA of Queens Newsletter.
- ⑩ The judges are in complete control of the competition, and their decision shall be final in all questions. All judging and prizes are non-negotiable.



For more information please contact at 718-353-4553

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Registration Form

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____
Street APT #

_____ City State Zip code

Telephone # (Day): _____ (Night): _____

Birth Date: (month/date/year): ____/____/____

Email Address: _____

I hereby give permission for my child to participate in the YWCA's Short Story Writing Contest. I understand that the outcome of the judging will be final and not subject for review.

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enclose: () Proof of Age (a copy of Birth Certificate, Passport, or a valid Photo ID)