



2023 GUIDELINES FOR GCWA WRITING CONTEST

- All entries **MUST** be submitted online at www.gulfwriters.org/contest. No in person or mailed entries will be accepted. Entries must be in Word (.doc), no exceptions.
- Original, unpublished submissions only (see formatting requirements below):
 - Your entry must be original, in English, unpublished, and unproduced, not accepted by any other publisher or producer before May 1, 2023.
- Word count:
 - Fiction / Nonfiction / Children’s Stories —1500 words maximum
 - Poetry – 40 lines maximum
- Nonfiction includes essay, memoir, and creative nonfiction.
- Youth submissions (ages 11-17) will be judged separately; see those guidelines at www.gulfwriters.org/contest
- If there are fewer than six (6) entries in a category, the judges may deem a “no contest” situation, in which case entry fees shall be returned in that category. NOTE: If there are fewer than six (6) entries in the Children’s Stories category, those may be combined and judged with the Fiction category, at the judges’ discretion.
- All entry fees are due in U.S. Dollars, payable online at www.gulfwriters.org/contest.
- Deadline:
 - Entries received electronically after 11:59 pm, February 28, 2023, will not be accepted.
- If you submit a portion of a novel, please understand that it will be judged as a complete story.
- The decisions of the judges are final.
 - Judges will consider characterization, plot, structure, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Visit our Website <https://gulfwriters.org/contest/> for judging criteria forms.
 - Judges reserve the right to NOT select a winner if entries fail to meet quality criteria.
- Winner notification: by email before May 31, 2023.

- The winning submissions (top three in each category) will be published on GCWA's Website (and possibly the Ft Myers Magazine) with author permission.
 - GCWA has only first rights. Copyright and all other rights remain property of author.
 - Winners will be announced at the GCWA meeting in May 2023 and posted on our website by May 31, 2023.

- You may submit as many entries as you like in each of the following categories:
 - Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Children's Stories.
 - No gratuitous violence or erotica.
- While there is no limit on the number of entries you may submit, only one prize awarded per author.

- Formatting:

For detailed formatting tips, go to:
<https://gulfwriters.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/FormattingTips.pdf>

 - Font: Times New Roman, Font size: 12
 - Margins: top/bottom 1", left/right 1", text unjustified (ragged right margin).
 - Fiction/ Nonfiction/Children's: double spaced, single side on 8 ½ x 11 white paper. Indent first line of paragraphs.
 - No illustrations for Children's Stories.
 - Poetry may be single or double spaced as best befits the work.
 - Judging is done by blind entry method. (DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON ENTRY SUBMISSION PAGES.)
 - You must include the title of your entry on each page.
 - All pages must be numbered – bottom center of page.
 - Children's Stories entries should list intended age level at top of page.

- Entry form:
 - Author's name (Pen names are allowed. We only need your real name if you are chosen as a winner – in order to issue prizes).
 - You must complete one online entry form for each piece/entry.
 - Each form must include your full mailing address, email, and telephone number, title of work, submission category, and word count.