

**2026 Annual Creative Writing for Youth Contest
presented by Sassafras Literary**

Entry Form

Instructions:

1. Complete this form and fold it twice **so that your name does not show on the outside.**
2. Staple this form to your entry.
3. Fold as directed and submit to your language arts teacher or turn in directly to the Sassafras Board on Thursday September 17th or October 15th during the Sassafras Literary meeting at the Pickens Library from 5:00 - 6:30pm.
 - a. **Online submissions accepted at <https://sassafrasliterary.org/contest/>** You must create a unique login for the website to submit online.



FOLD BACK AT DOTTED LINE. Category section should be the only visible portion of this form after it's been completed and stapled to your entry.

Category (Circle One)

High School Poetry

Middle Grades Poetry

High School Fiction

Middle Grades Fiction

High School Nonfiction

Middle Grades Nonfiction



FOLD UNDER AT DOTTED LINE TO COVER NAME.

Title of Story or Poem: _____

First and Last Name of Student: _____

Grade: _____ **School:** _____

Language Arts Teacher (parent, if homeschooled): _____

2026 Annual Creative Writing for Youth Contest Rules & Information

Important 2026 Dates

Submissions Open: September 14

Submissions Close: October 23

Awards Ceremony: November 19

Who Can Enter

Any student in 6th – 12th grade that lives or is educated in Pickens County, GA. This includes home school, private schools, alternative school, or virtual school students.

Writing Categories: – Poetry – Fiction – Non-Fiction

Prizes for Each Category

High School (9th – 12th grade)

- 1st: \$75, Certificate of Achievement, and Personalized Marble Plaque
- 2nd: \$50 and Certificate of Achievement
- 3rd: \$25 and Certificate of Achievement
- Honorable Mention: Certificate of Achievement

Middle/Junior High (6th – 8th grade)

- 1st: \$60, Certificate of Achievement, and Personalized Marble Plaque
- 2nd: \$40 and Certificate of Achievement
- 3rd: \$20 and Certificate of Achievement
- Honorable Mention: Certificate of Achievement

All Students who submit will be entered to win a prize drawing.

Their teacher, learning coach, or parent listed as the teacher will be entered for a prize drawing as well.

Each student will receive one entry per admissible submission, up to two. Each teacher will receive one entry per student.

- One Submission Per Category, Per Person in up to Two Categories
- **No use of AI or assistive writing software or tools is permitted**
- Put the title of the story or poem at the top of the work being submitted
- Do not put your name on the story or poem. Submissions are judged anonymously.
- **1500 word limit** for fiction or non-fiction. **50 line limit** for poetry.
- **Entries must be typed, double spaced, Times New Roman or Arial font, 12 point font.**
- Failure to adhere to rules may result in automatic disqualification.

MEDIA RELEASE

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I AM THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF _____ AND GRANT PERMISSION FOR SASSAFRAS LITERARY TO USE IMAGES, INFO, OR OTHER MEDIA THAT INCLUDE MY STUDENT.

Print Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____