

## CREATIVE WRITING SYLLABUS

**Creative Writing participants must register by February 15, 2010. This year, your writing can be submitted with your registration or it can be submitted by March 22, 2010.**

*If your writing is ready on February 15<sup>th</sup> ...*

**If your writing is ready at the time of registration, it should be submitted electronically or mailed with your registration.**

*If your writing is not ready on February 15<sup>th</sup> ...*

**If your writing is not ready at the time of registration, you have until March 22, 2010 to submit it. If you are sending your writing later and do not know the title at the time of registration, simply write 'short story' or 'poem' in the title field of the registration form. All electronic copies must be sent by March 22. Hard copies must be received (not postmarked) by March 22.**

**Your written work can be mailed to YRAF, Box 6086, Hinton, AB, T7V 2X5 or emailed to the Creative Writing coordinator at [Robyne.W@telus.net](mailto:Robyne.W@telus.net). In your subject line, please put "YRAF entry".**

### General Rules

1. All entries must be typewritten and double-spaced on one side of 8 ½ x 11 white paper, using Times New Roman 12 pt font. Manuscripts will not be returned, so make sure you keep a copy.
2. Please adhere to the word limit/line count of the category you enter.
3. All entries should have a **cover page** that includes your name, address, phone number, email address (if available), and your line (poetry) or word (short story) count.
4. All entries must be in English, original, and unpublished.
5. Brief comments from the adjudicator will be mailed to each entrant.
6. Select writers will be invited to Write Nite 2010. They will have an opportunity to read their pieces and receive live feedback from the adjudicator.
7. Entries will be judged on content, organization, and conventions (spelling, punctuation).

## **POETRY**

*Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood.*

-T. S. Eliot

### **Student Poetry Categories**

CW1501 - Age 12 and under

CW1502 - Age 15 and under

CW1503 - Age 19 and under

### **Student Poetry Rules**

1. 500 words - 50 lines maximum
2. Open subject
3. No offensive language or explicit content
4. It is suggested that entrants be at least 10 years old by January 1, 2010. However, younger participants are welcome to submit writing.

Don't know where to start? Well, a poem can be about anything. Like...an animal, an emotion, your favourite season or holiday, a dream, a pet, an imaginary place, a photograph, your room, a colour, a journey or vacation, a sound, your favourite place, an imaginary friend, your secret hiding place...wherever your pen takes you.

Consider checking out:

[www.youngpoets.ca](http://www.youngpoets.ca)

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/>

### **Adult Poetry Category**

CW1504 - Age 18 and over

### **Adult Poetry Rules**

1. 1000 words - 100 lines maximum
2. Open subject
3. No explicit content

## **SHORT STORY**

*I write to discover what I think.*

-Joan Didion

### **Student Short Story Categories**

CW1511 - Age 12 and under

CW1512 - Age 15 and under

CW1513 - Age 19 and under

### **Student Short Story Challenge**

Try to include the following items somewhere in your story:

- a bad habit (ex. nail-biting, thumb sucking, procrastination, etc.)
- a type of music (ex. country, rap/hip hop, bluegrass, etc.)
- an uncommon pet (ex. ferret, lizard, chicken, etc.)

### **Student Short Story Rules**

1. 1000 words maximum
2. No offensive language or explicit content
3. It is suggested that entrants be at least 10 years old by January 1, 2009. However, younger participants are welcome to submit writing.

### **Adult Short Story Category**

CW1514 - Adult

### **Adult Short Story Challenge**

Try to include the following items somewhere in your story:

- a phobia (ex. Samhainophobia: Fear of Halloween, Gamophobia- Fear of marriage, Linonophobia- Fear of string, etc.—find more phobias at <http://phobialist.com/>)
- a type of shoe (ex. slingbacks, moccasins, penny loafers, etc.)
- an uncommon occupation (ex. anesthetist, mesmerist, librettist, etc.—find more occupations at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_occupations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_occupations))

### **Adult Short Story Rules**

1. 1 500 words maximum
2. No explicit content

## **CREATIVE NONFICTION**

*Writing is making sense of life. You work your whole life and perhaps you've made sense of one small area.*  
-Nadine Gordimer

According to Lee Gutkind in *The Best Creative Nonfiction*, “the primary goal of the creative nonfiction writer is to communicate information, just like a reporter, but to shape it in a way that reads like fiction”. Writing in this genre is based on fact, but it also creates a narrative that gives attention to literary style and technique. Forms within the creative non-fiction genre include personal essays, memoir, travel writing, food writing, and biography.

This year, the suggested topic for both the student and adult creative non-fiction categories is a memorable person. Using words, you are invited to create a snapshot of someone who is fascinating or dear to you. This could be a family member, a friend or acquaintance, or an intriguing stranger.

Participants may write on this topic or choose a different topic that fits the creative nonfiction genre.

Here are some websites that offer more information about creative nonfiction:

<http://creativenonfiction.org/>  
<http://www.writingforward.com/category/creative-writing/creative-nonfiction>  
<http://www.creativenonfictioncollective.com/>

### **Student Creative Non-Fiction Categories**

CW1521 - Age 12 and under  
CW1522 - Age 15 and under  
CW1523 - Age 19 and under

### **Student Creative Non-Fiction Rules**

1. 1000 words maximum
4. No offensive language or explicit content
5. It is suggested that entrants be at least 10 years old by January 1, 2010. However, younger participants are welcome to submit writing.

### **Adult Creative Non-Fiction Category**

CW1524 - Adult

### **Adult Creative Non-Fiction Rules**

1. 1 500 words maximum
2. No explicit content