



POLAR
EXPRESSIONS
PUBLISHING

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STUDENT ENTRY FORM (FOR ENTRIES BEING MAILED)

Please complete this form, including school information, and place it in front of your entry (preferably without staples)!

Each student may submit one poem and one short story only.

***Privacy Policy:** Your privacy is important to us. The information provided here will be used solely for the purpose of this contest (i.e. to notify participants regarding contest results and the ensuing publication). No information will be sold or distributed.

Student Information *(Required. Please print neatly):*

Legal First Name _____

Preferred First Name _____

Middle Name or Initial _____

Legal Last Name _____

Grade (Kindergarten-12) _____

Parent/Guardian Full Name _____

Parent/Guardian Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

☐ Yes, I would like to be added to your mailing list to receive contest results and announcements (approximately 2-4 times a year)

Title of Entry: _____

☐ Poem: # of lines (**max. 32**) _____

☐ Story: # of words (**max. 450**) _____

Your entry will be disqualified if found to be over these limits.

(If you wish to use the school address rather than a home address, please leave the home mailing information blank. We still require all other parent/guardian information in the section at left.)

Mailing Information (for Canada Post, **not email** – remember to include PO Box, rural route, or apartment number if needed):

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____

School Information *(Required, even if entering on your own):*

Teacher _____

School _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____

By submitting this entry, I confirm that all phrases, lines, and characters are original and of my own creation (for example, I have not used Spider-Man, Pokémon, celebrities, etc., or a writing prompt where I have copied line(s) or phrases found in a book or online). If a phrase is not my own, I have properly cited it using quotation marks and noted the source (i.e. author and title of work, including books, videos, games, media, TV, movies, etc.) in a footnote. If I have used the names of people I know, I have received their express written permission. If my poem was inspired by another poem, story, song, video game, YouTube video, movie, etc., I have provided the source in the "Additional Comments" section below or as an "Inspired by" line at the top of the poem. This work is not posted anywhere online, and I will not share it online until after June 2026 if it is accepted for publication. I have not submitted this work elsewhere recently and do not plan to submit it elsewhere in the near future (no simultaneous submissions).

Additional Comments to Judges (request special consideration due to disability, ESL, add citation, etc.):

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Please write a short paragraph (30-60 words) about yourself in the third person (Example: Susan Thomas enjoys writing, baking (and eating) cookies, and playing soccer. Her favourite book is *The Martian* and her favourite series is *Harry Potter*. Sue wants to become an author when she grows up. She loves her wonderful family and kitten, Charlie.). Please print as clearly as possible. If you are selected for publication, this information will appear in the "about the author" section of the anthology.

Turn page over for more information →

Entry deadline: November 21, 2025!



20th ANNUAL NATIONAL STUDENT POETRY AND SHORT-STORY CONTEST INFORMATION

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100% Canadian

RULES:

- Please visit our **Plagiarism/FAQs** website page. All work must be **original** and will be checked for plagiarism. Peer editing (same age or younger), typing for younger students, and any spelling corrections needed for legibility are permitted. No other editing should be done by older siblings/parents/teachers, etc. **We expect to see errors.**
- Entries should be typed (without graphics) using an 11-pt to 12-pt plain black font (Arial, Times, etc.) on 8.5" x 11" white paper.
- Entries should *NOT have been previously published* (including online postings). And NO simultaneous submissions. Please *do NOT submit the same entry to another contest or magazine for publication at the same time.*
- Poems must be **32 lines or less**. Short stories must be **450 words or less**.
- Each student *may submit one poem and/or one short story only*.
- Students may participate *with their school or on their own*, but a teacher contact and school information is still required. We recommend you tell your teacher to expect mail from us in early to mid-February 2026 (so it doesn't get discarded as junk mail).
- **All entries must be submitted through our online form or mailed with an entry form/reasonable facsimile.**
- Any topic is welcome, though the reading audience (the student's peers) should be considered.
- Please *retain a copy of work entered* as it will not be returned once it is submitted.
- All entries must be mailed (postmarked) or submitted online or before **November 21, 2025**.
- Entries may be submitted through our online form: <http://polarexpressions.ca/SubmitEntryOnline.html> (preferred) or by regular mail to Polar Expressions Publishing, PO Box 500 Stn Main, Maple Ridge BC V2X 3P2. If sending entries by mail, please include a completed copy of this entry form or a reasonable typed facsimile before each poem or story.
- *ESL and students with disabilities* are always encouraged to participate. Tell us in the "additional comments" section of the entry form to be given special consideration.

PRIZES:

- Over **\$9,000** in books and cash prizes will be awarded in June 2026 when the completed books are released!
- There will be **\$600** in bonus prizes for participating schools, selected through a random draw, for each contest. Schools will receive *one bonus entry for each complete and original student entry*.
- Approximately *33-45% of entries* will be offered publication in a professionally printed and bound keepsake collection. This is an opportunity for students to receive recognition, relate to peers, and capture a moment in time.
- **Students who make it through the first round** will be mailed a *letter of acceptance* and an *author's release* to their home address (it's important to provide complete mailing information). **If they return the author's release with a parent/guardian's permission signature by the date in the above-mentioned letter**, their entry will then be typeset, and they will be published and move forward to the final round of competition to possibly win one of the merit-based prizes listed below.
- *All first-, second-, and third-prize winners receive a free copy of the anthology* and an *award certificate* with their prize. Their school will receive a matching prize.
- Schools that submit at least five complete entries to one contest (i.e. poetry) *or* have a prize-winning student will automatically receive one complimentary copy of any collection containing their students' work for their library (we deduct plagiarized entries and students offered publication who don't return permission, thereby withdrawing from the contest).
- *All who enter receive a bookmark gift for participating*. There are no losers!
- Educators will be sent a letter in early to mid February regarding their students' first-round results.

Bonus Prizes for Contests:

First Prize – School
\$300

Second Prize – School
\$200

Third Prize – School
\$100

Merit Prizes for Contests:

First Prize

Second Prize

Third Prize

	Student	School	Student	School	Student	School
Kindergarten	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 20	\$ 20
Grade One	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 20	\$ 20
Grade Two	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 20	\$ 20
Grade Three	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 20	\$ 20
Grade Four	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 20	\$ 20
Grade Five	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 25	\$ 25
Grade Six	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 25	\$ 25
Grade Seven	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 25	\$ 25
Grade Eight	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 25	\$ 25
Grade Nine	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 30	\$ 30
Grade Ten	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 30	\$ 30
Grade Eleven	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 30	\$ 30
Grade Twelve	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 30	\$ 30

Thank you in advance for participating! — Polar Expressions Publishing

Turn page over for entry form →

Win cash, get published, and receive national recognition!