



Judging Criteria by Category

K-1st grade: MAXIMUM* word count is 200. Judges will primarily consider creativity - How imaginative is the work? How original is the story's theme? The story should be clear and easily read and it may be illustrated. If the entry is a dictated work, it must be submitted as dictated.

2nd-3rd: MAXIMUM* word count is 350. Judges will consider the story's originality, whether the story has a clearly defined beginning, middle, and end, and overall spelling, grammar, and neatness. Illustrations, if included, should help tell the story.

For all entries 4th grade thru adult, stories should be neatly printed in ink or typed.

4th-6th: MAXIMUM* word count is 500. Originality, creativity, and story structure will be considered; additionally, more attention will be given to prose, vocabulary, and descriptions used to convey the story message. Spelling, grammar, and neatness will be given greater weight than in the younger categories.

7th-8th: MAXIMUM* word count is 750. Greater attention to the story theme will be given; e.g. Is the plot well developed? The ability of the writer to hold the reader's interest will also be considered, as well as neatness, grammar, and all other aforementioned criteria.

9th-12th: MAXIMUM* word count is 1500 words. Judges will consider originality, creativity, skilled use of the English language, overall story impact, and writing ability. All previous criteria will apply.

Adult: MAXIMUM* word count is 2500. Sophistication, style, plot complexity and originality will be considered. All previous criteria apply. Only previously unpublished works are eligible for competition.



***Please note:** entries exceeding the maximum word count will not be considered.



Short Story Contest

• 2010 •

Kids! Teens! Adults!
Writers of all ages
welcome to enter!

Details inside!



Help Butte Literacy Council celebrate writing talent in Butte County by sending your short stories to our annual contest ...

And maybe win a prize!

Cash or a gift certificate will be awarded to the writers of the best stories in each category.



Prizes will be awarded during a ceremony at Barnes & Noble, **Friday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m.** Winners will be afforded an opportunity to read their stories aloud.



For additional information, please visit www.butteliteracycouncil.org or contact Phyllis Mortimer (530)891-0137.

How to Enter



General Instructions:

- ◆ Entrants must be Butte County residents.
- ◆ Review judging criteria on reverse page.
- ◆ Each entry must include a *cover sheet* with the *grade category* in which the entry is to be judged, the *entrant's name, address, daytime telephone number and a brief bio* of the entrant; i.e. school, interests, etc.
- ◆ **Please do not put the entrant's name on the actual story.**
- ◆ Although published writers are not excluded, only those entries previously unpublished will be considered for competition.
- ◆ Mail all entries to:
 - K-1st** 8791 Stanford Lane ♦ Durham, CA 95938
 - 2nd-3rd** 2780 Grainland Road ♦ Durham, CA 95938
 - 4th-6th** 760 Skylark Dr ♦ Chico, CA 95926
 - 7th-8th** P.O. Box 4287 ♦ Chico, CA 95927
 - 9th-12th** 13 Blackstone Court ♦ Chico, CA 95928
 - Adult** 6397 Graham Road ♦ Paradise, CA 95969
- ◆ Entries must be postmarked by **Friday, March 19th, 2010.** (Late stories will not be considered.)
- ◆ Entries will not be returned.
- ◆ *Have fun!*

