

39TH ANNUAL SHORT STORY WRITING CONTEST FOR CHILDREN, SPONSORED BY THE BERKSHIRE ATHENAEUM & THE FRIENDS OF THE BERKSHIRE ATHENAEUM

The Berkshire Athenaeum and The Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum are pleased to announce the 39th Annual Short Story Writing Contest for Children. **Contest opens Monday, May 1, 2017. Forms available at the Children's desk.** There will be three divisions (Aged 5 – 6 years as of June 1, 2017; Aged 7 - 8 years as of June 1, 2017 and Aged 9 –10 years as of June 1, 2017). If there are not enough entries in a division, it may be combined with another.

Depending upon entries received, the following prizes will be awarded in each division: First Place will receive a \$35.00 cash prize, Second Place will receive a \$25.00 cash prize, and Honorable Mentions will receive \$20.00 cash prizes.

Stories will be judged on their originality, appeal, and writing style. Each contestant should submit her/his story to the Berkshire Athenaeum Children's Library (1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201); and all entries, whether delivered in person or by mail, must be received by **4:00 PM on Monday, July 17, 2017.**

Winning entries, honorable mentions and works of merit will be bound and added to the collection of the Berkshire Athenaeum, so community members may read and enjoy them! All entries become property of the Berkshire Athenaeum. Winners will be notified by telephone, and a list of winners will also be posted in the Children's Library after August 11, 2017.

An awards ceremony with a special guest speaker will be held on **Friday, August 18, 2017 at 1:00 PM.** The speaker will be local author Jana Laiz. Also, Doctor Jason McCandless will be attending as a special guest. A reception with light refreshment will be held immediately after the ceremony. **ALL** participants are welcome, as well as family and friends.

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RULES:

1. Your story must be your own original work.
2. Type your story (minimum 12 point font), or PRINT it in INK as neatly as possible (Entrants should type or print stories themselves if at all feasible; age-appropriate spelling & grammar mistakes, etc. are acceptable).
3. Use 8-1/2 x 11 inch paper, leaving a 1-1/2 inch margin on the left side.
4. Use only one side of the paper.
5. Do not write your name on your story: Please fill out and attach the entry form on the next page.
PLEASE USE A PAPERCLIP – STAPLES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.
6. Limit your story to **FOUR (4)** pages and **NUMBER EACH PAGE** (do not number any cover pages)
7. **DO NOT INCLUDE ANY ARTWORK.**
8. Only one story may be submitted per person and must be the work of one individual.
9. All entries, whether dropped off in person or mailed, must be received by the Berkshire Athenaeum Children's Library (1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201) by **4:00 PM on July 17, 2017.**
10. Participant or parent must be a library card holder in Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

STORIES NOT FOLLOWING THESE RULES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

PLEASE CLIP FORM ON NEXT PAGE TO YOUR STORY

PLEASE CLIP THIS PAGE TO YOUR STORY

AGE AS OF JUNE 1, 2017: _____ NUMBER OF PAGES: _____

NAME:

TITLE OF STORY:

ADDRESS:

STREET/P.O. BOX #

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER/S:

I, _____, give permission for my child's name to be published in
(Print Name)
the newspaper and on the Berkshire Athenaeum website.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

* * * * *

LIBRARY USE ONLY -- ENTRY NUMBER: _____