



# NYPL School-Age Summer Writing Contest Guidelines

The Children's Programs & Services department of The New York Public Library invites you to submit to our summer writing contest.

**Contest Prompt:** This summer at the Library, we're going on a journey of discovery. Tell us about a journey, trip, voyage, or quest from real life or your imagination. What adventures happen along the way? What do the characters in the story discover?

Read on for our terms and conditions.

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE DOES NOT IMPROVE YOUR CHANCE OF WINNING.**

Contest is only open to residents of the five boroughs of New York City (Manhattan, Bronx, Staten Island, Brooklyn, or Queens) and entries originating from any other jurisdiction are not eligible for entry. This contest is governed exclusively by the laws of New York.

1. **Eligibility:** Contest is only open to residents of the five boroughs of New York City (Manhattan, Bronx, Staten Island, Brooklyn, or Queens) and must be between 6–12 years of age as of the date of entry. Employees of The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations ("Sponsor"), its affiliates, advertising and promotion agencies and their respective family/household members (defined as parents, spouse, children, siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren) are not eligible to enter. All applicable federal, state and/or local rules and regulations apply.
2. **Start/End Dates:** Contest begins at 12:00:01 a.m. E.T. on Monday, June 3, 2024 and ends at 11:59:59 p.m. E.T. on Friday, August 2, 2024.
3. **How to Enter:** Visit <https://www.nypl.org/summer/2024/writing-contest> for the link to the submission instructions. Limit one entry per person. More than one entry from any person will void all entries from that person. Entrants must have a valid email address. No automated entry devices and/or programs permitted. Sponsor is not responsible for lost, late, illegible, stolen, incomplete, invalid, unintelligible, misdirected, technically corrupted or garbled entries, which will be disqualified, or for problems of any kind whether mechanical, human or electronic. Proof of submission will not be deemed to be proof of receipt by Sponsor. All submitted work must be the artist's original work and not under copyright of another party or entity. Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, do not currently satisfy our authorship criteria. Submissions that use LLMs in any capacity will not qualify. Documentation of any generative A.I. models used for image generation, editing or other purposes, such as Midjourney, must be cited to qualify.

- a. Submitted work: Work submitted should be in one of three categories: a comic strip, an imaginative story, or a story based on facts.
  - b. Language access: We welcome entries in English, español, 中文, বাংলা, Русский, or العربية
4. Selection Criteria: Submissions will be reviewed by a committee of NYPL staff. Submissions selected for publication will be chosen based on 1) adherence to the Library's contest prompt and 2) originality in concept.
5. Prizes: One winner will be awarded in each contest category (comic strip, imaginative story, or factual story). Each winner will receive a Writer's Dream Kit. Two additional entries in each category will be awarded honorable mentions and their creations will receive a prize to be determined by Sponsor.
  - a. Sponsor makes no representations or warranties with regard to the prizes. Prizes are not transferable. No substitutions of prize may be requested by the winner(s), but Sponsor reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value due to prize unavailability. Prizes are not redeemable by winner for cash. All taxes, fees and surcharges on prizes are the sole responsibility of winner.
6. Affidavit of Eligibility/Release: The winner will be required to execute an Affidavit of Eligibility, a Liability Release and where lawful, a Publicity Release within 14 days of prize notification. If winner is a minor (under 18), prize will be awarded to minor's parent or legal guardian, who must sign and return all required documents. If the winner cannot be contacted within 14 calendar days of first notification attempt, if prize or prize notification is returned as undeliverable, if winner rejects his/her prize or in the event of noncompliance with these Contest rules and requirements, such prize will be forfeited and an alternate winner will be selected from all remaining eligible entries. Upon prize forfeiture, no compensation will be given.
7. Conditions: Sponsor will have the right to photograph the winner. Entry constitutes permission to use winner's name, picture, likeness, and city and state of residence for purposes of trade, publicity or promotion for no additional compensation except where prohibited by law. By participating, entrants, winner(s), and each of their parents and legal guardians agree to release and hold harmless Sponsor, and its affiliates, advertising and promotions agencies, partners, trustees, representatives, agents, successors, assigns, employees, officers and directors, from any and all liability, for loss, harm, damage, injury, cost or expense whatsoever including without limitation, property damage, personal injury and/or death which may occur in connection with, preparation for or participation in Contest, or possession, acceptance and/or use or misuse of prize or participation in any Contest-related activity and for any claims based on publicity rights, intellectual property infringement, defamation or invasion of privacy and merchandise delivery. Sponsor is not responsible if Contest cannot take place or if prize cannot be awarded due to travel cancellations, delays or

interruptions due to force majeure events including but not limited to acts of God, acts of war, pandemics, natural disasters, weather or acts of terrorism.

8. **Miscellaneous:** All entries become the sole property of Sponsor and none will be returned. In the event of a dispute, entries made by email will be deemed made by the authorized account holder of the e-mail address submitted at the time of entry, or, as applicable, the minor child of such authorized account holder. The "authorized account holder" is deemed the natural person who is assigned to an e-mail address by an Internet access provider, service provider or other online organization that is responsible for assigning e-mail addresses for the domain associated with the submitted e-mail address. A potential winner may be requested to provide Sponsor with proof that the potential winner is the authorized account holder (or the minor child of the authorized account holder) of the e-mail address associated with the winning entry. If for any reason the Contest is not capable of running as planned, including due to infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failure, human error or any other causes beyond the control of Sponsor that corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Contest, Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion, to disqualify any individual who tampers with the entry process, and to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Contest. Sponsor assumes no responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operation or transmission, communications line failure, theft or destruction or unauthorized access to, or alteration of, entries. The Sponsor is not responsible for any problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer online systems, servers, or providers, computer equipment, software, failure of any e-mail or entry to be received by Sponsor on account of technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any web site, any combination thereof, or otherwise, including any injury or damage to entrant's or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participation or downloading any materials in the Contest. Sponsor may prohibit an entrant from participating in the Contest or winning a prize if, in its sole discretion, it determines that said entrant is attempting to undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest by cheating, plagiarizing, hacking, deception, or other unfair playing practices (including the use of automated quick entry programs, LLMs or generative AI) or intending to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any other entrants or Sponsor representatives.
  - a. ANY ATTEMPT BY AN ENTRANT TO DELIBERATELY DAMAGE ANY WEB SITE OR UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE OPERATION OF THE CONTEST MAY BE A VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAWS AND SHOULD SUCH AN ATTEMPT BE MADE, SPONSOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SEEK DAMAGES FROM ANY SUCH PERSON TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.
9. **Use of Data:** Sponsor will be collecting personal data about entrants online, in accordance with its privacy policy. Please review the Sponsor's privacy policy at <https://www.nypl.org/help/about-nypl/legal-notice/privacy-policy>. By participating in the

Contest, entrants hereby agree to Sponsor's collection and usage of their personal information and acknowledge that they have read and accepted Sponsor's privacy policy.

10. List of Winners: To obtain a list of winners, email [schoolagewritingcontest@nypl.org](mailto:schoolagewritingcontest@nypl.org).

11. Sponsor: The Sponsor of this contest is The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations, The Children's Programs and Service Department, 476 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018.