

Attention all Nassau County Middle and High School Students, Grades 6 – 12



*Amelia Island Book Festival Short Story Writing Contest
Rules and Reminders*

- Your story must be between 500 – 1,000 words written on the theme “Once Upon a Time.”
- It must be a new, original work - not previously written or published
- Submissions must be in Times New Roman, 12-point typeface, double-spaced; entry must include:
 - Your name
 - E-mail address
 - Grade, school and short story title on first page
- Must be sent as an attachment in MS Word format; email to: shortstory@ameliaislandbookfestival.org Students are encouraged to keep a copy of submitted stories in case of technology issues
- Entries that do not meet all criteria will not be judged, will not be eligible for awards/prizes and will not be considered for publication
- **Submission deadline for all entries is Sunday, December 15, 2019, no later than 5:00 p.m.**
- Judges will be local literary experts and board members/leaders with the Amelia Island Book Festival (AIBF)
- Prizes include the following:
 - \$175 for each middle school and high school first-place winner
 - \$100 for each middle school and high school second-place winner
 - Several \$50 cash awards for middle and/or high school entrants for creativity, writing style and other criteria as determined by the judges
 - Special prizes for winners from Boys & Girls Clubs of Nassau County
- Prizes will be announced/awarded during the Authors Expo, Saturday, February 15, 2020 in the Fernandina Beach Middle School Auditorium
- Winning entrants will have the opportunity to meet a *New York Times* bestselling author during the Authors Expo, and have an opportunity to be published

Once Upon A Time

Short Story Writing Contest Writing Tips

Contest judges will read each story and will consider the following elements, along with your creativity and writing style:

- The Plot or events that occur.
- The Characters.
- The Setting, or time and place.
- Your incorporation the Theme, “Once Upon A Time.”
- A Beginning, Middle and End to each story, and the proper Sequence of events.
- Use of Proper Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation.

Helpful Hints:

Consider having a coach or mentor read your story and provide feedback. This can be a family member, teacher, media specialist or friend. Make sure you allow enough time for feedback. Then, incorporate the feedback before submitting your final work. Remember, it’s important not to view their comments as criticism, but as advice to strengthen your story. **And don’t forget to have fun!!!**

Need more information? Send an email to shortstory@ameliaislandbookfestival.org or visit us at www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/short-story-writing-contest. We will respond as quickly as possible. We look forward to enjoying your short stories. Thank you!
The deadline for submission is Sunday, December 15, 2019, at 5:00 pm.



*Home of the Authors in Schools Literacy Program
Connecting students, authors and books for lifelong learning*

Once Upon A Time

Short Story Writing Contest Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. Just making sure...does my short story about "Once Upon A Time" have to be about real people or can it be fiction?

A. Your short story about "Once Upon A Time" can be fiction or non-fiction. Please know that all entries will be judged based on the short story elements described in the "Short Story Writing Contest – Writing tips," along with your creativity and writing style.

Q. I have won this contest before. Am I eligible to win again?

A. Yes! Absolutely!

Q. If I attend private school or am home schooled, may I enter the contest?

A. Yes! The only requirement is that you are in grades 6-12 in Nassau County.

Q. May I submit a graphic story?

A. No. Since this contest is judged on the written word, we cannot accept a graphic short story.

Q. My story is longer than 1,000 words. – may I submit it?

A. No. Your entry will not be accepted if it is longer than 1,000 words or shorter than 500 words. You must edit your story to fit the guidelines.

Q. If I can't get my story in by the deadline, will you take a submission after the 5 p.m. deadline on December 15, 2019?

A. No. We cannot accept submissions after the deadline.

Still have questions? Send an email to shortstory@ameliaislandbookfestival.org or visit us at www.ameliAISlandbookfestival.org/short-story-writing-contest

We welcome your questions and will respond as quickly as possible. Thank you.



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