



General Rules

- Entrants must be 18+
- All entries must be unpublished, original work of the entrant.
- Entry must be complete, and not a fragment of a larger work.
- Entries will be judged anonymously; **do not** put your name anywhere on your work.
- By entering this contest, you permit MPL to use your name for promotional purposes, including the Library's print, visual, or electronic/online media.

Rules on AI Use

We recognize AI tools can be useful when revising writing. Contest participants are only allowed to use AI for technical assistance such as correcting grammar or enhancing word choice. Using generative AI is not permitted to produce ideas, or create writing or art. On the contest entry form, you must acknowledge if, how, and when you used AI in your work.

Category Requirements

Please make sure your submission follows the formatting guidelines and appropriate category requirements.

Formatting

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- For short stories and poems: Use a typed, double-spaced, with a white 8½" x 11"-page layout.
- For comics: Use 8½" x 11" paper and submit as flat work and not as a booklet.
- The text must be black, 12 pt type in Arial font.
- Title must be on the first page of the work only.
- Number the pages.

Short Story

- Maximum 1,000 words
- Must be a .doc or .docx file format.
- Do not include title pages or images.

Poem

- Maximum 25 lines
- Must be a .doc or .docx file format.
- Do not include title pages or images.

Comics

- Maximum 8 pages
- Work can be with or without words, in black and white or colour.
 - If words are used, must include the contest theme word.
 - If words are not used, the theme must be represented in the artwork.

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- Computer-generated images are acceptable if they are original works (no clip art).
- Submit as a PDF.