

FROM PAGES TO PRIZES: WRITING RESOURCES FOR CONTEST SUCCESS

Each winter, TCCL encourages local and aspiring authors to sharpen and share their skills through the Young People's Creative Writing Contest, for ages 10-18, and the Adult Creative Writing Contest, for ages 18 and older. Whether you are a longtime or first-time author, TCCL has writing resources to help you put your best words forward and create a winning entry. Follow these three steps to participate in either contest.

STEP 1 PREPARE YOUR ENTRY

Find details like word count and other requirements for the Adult Creative Writing Contest at www.tulsalibrary.org/adult-creative-writing-contest and for the Young People's Creative Writing Contest at www.tulsalibrary.org/ypcwc.

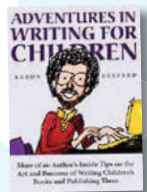
A library card is required to use the resources mentioned here. To access LinkedIn Learning, Universal Class or LearningExpress Library, visit www.tulsalibrary.org/online-learning. To access eLibrary, visit www.tulsalibrary.org/databases and find it in the alphabetical list.

Short fiction for children or young adults (Adult Creative Writing Contest)

"A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest." – C.S. Lewis

Helpful **LinkedIn Learning** courses include "Writing: The Craft of Story," "The Foundations of Fiction," "Crafting Dynamic Characters," "Is There a Book in You? Learn to Create Your Own Masterpiece" and "Creativity and Learning: A Conversation With Lynda Barry." Browse **Universal Class** to find options like "Creative Writing 101," "How to Write Short Stories for Children," "Creative Writing for Beginners" and a Creative Writing Workshop.

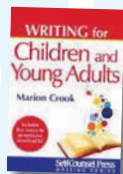
Helpful books:



Adventures in Writing for Children
by Aaron Shepard



Writing Irresistible Kidlit
by Mary Kole



Writing for Children and Young Adults
by Marion Crook



Short story (both contests)

"Every sentence must do one of two things: reveal character or advance the action."
– Kurt Vonnegut

eLibrary's Short Story research topic contains profiles on expert short story authors; articles on the form, style and craft to help you evaluate and analyze the elements of a good short story; and selected works from great writers to inspire you. Relevant courses in **Universal Class** include "Writing the Great American Short Story" and "How to Write a Short Story."

Books for adults:

How to Write a Short Story
by Andi Winter

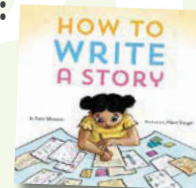


The Writing of the Short Story
by Lewis Worthington Smith

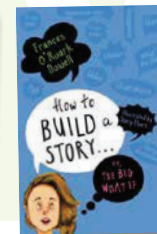
How to Write Short
by Roy Peter Clark



Books for youth:



How to Write a Story
by Kate Messner



How to Build a Story
by Frances O'Roark Dowell



Brave the Page
by Rebecca Stern

Short play (Young People's Creative Writing Contest)

"Writing comes from reading, and reading is the finest teacher of how to write."
– Annie Proulx

Reading and even acting out short plays can help you learn to write your own.

Helpful books:

Four Short Plays for Young People
by Rachel Barnett



Writing the 10-Minute Play
by Glenn Alterman

Writing and Staging Real-life Plays
by Charlotte Guillain



Poetry (both contests)

*"Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass."
- Anton Chekhov*

Universal Class offers a Poetry Writing 101 course, and helpful LinkedIn Learning videos include "Timing, Rhythm, and Musicality," "What is Poetry?" and "How to Make Your Writing Musical." Plus, the Poetry research topic in eLibrary offers information on the genre and form, covering verse, meter, rhythm and more.

Books for adults:



How to write your poetry
by Miguel D'Addario



Lightning Paths
by Kyle Vaughn

Poetry Power
by Melanie Faith



Books for youth:



12 Great Tips on Writing Poetry
by Yvonne Pearson



Get Lit Rising
by Diane Luby Lane



What Is Poetry?
by Trudi Strain Trueitt

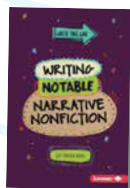


Informal essay (both contests)

"I write to discover what I know." - Flannery O'Connor

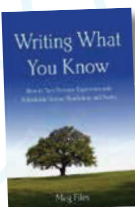
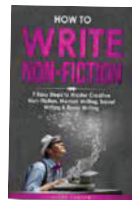
Universal Class offers "Essay Writing 101," "Nonfiction Writing 101," "Journaling and Memoir Writing" and "Humor Writing 101." Through LearningExpress Library, you can find a writing skills tutorial to help you practice writing essays as well as 501 Writing Prompts, an e-book featuring sample writing prompts to help you build your essay-writing confidence.

Books for all ages:



Writing Notable Narrative Nonfiction
by Sue Vander Hook

How to Write Non-Fiction
by Jaiden Pemton



Writing What You Know
by Meg Files

Comix (Young People's Creative Writing Contest)

"The best way to learn how to write is to read. The best way to learn how to write and draw comics, is to read comics." - Raina Telgemeier

If you want to take Telgemeier's advice and read comics, try Comics Plus for all your comics, manga and graphic novel needs. Access it via the LibraryPass app, available in the iOS App Store or the Google Play Store, or online at www.tulsalibrary.org/digital.

Universal Class offers a "How to Draw 101" class, and LinkedIn Learning offers various "Drawing Foundations" classes as well as courses like "Learning Graphic Novel Storyboarding," "The Monster Drawing Workshop," "Drawing Good and Evil Comic Book Characters," and a variety of drawing challenges to exercise your skills and creativity.

Books about making comics:

Comics: Easy as ABC!
by Ivan Brunetti



How to Draw Comics
by Ilya

Draw a Comic!
by J.P. Coovert



STEP 2 REVIEW AND EDIT

LinkedIn Learning courses like "Editing and Proofreading Made Simple" or "Editing Mastery: How to Edit Writing to Perfection" can help ensure your entry is ready for submission.

Use the Writing Lab in Homework HelpNow to upload your piece and receive helpful feedback from an expert in two to three business days. Access Homework HelpNow at www.tulsalibrary.org/homeworkhelp.

"I went for years not finishing anything. Because, of course, when you finish something you can be judged." - Erica Jong

Submit your entry for the Young People's Creative Writing Contest by Feb. 29 to any TCCL location or online. Learn more at www.tulsalibrary.org/YPCWC.

Submit your entry to the Adult Creative Writing Contest by April 1 to any TCCL location or via mail. Learn more at www.tulsalibrary.org/adult-creative-writing-contest.

STEP 3 SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY