



The Plainfield Area Public Library
is proud to announce the annual
Short Story Contest
for Grades 4, 5 & 6

2026 Rules and Guidelines

These are the rules you must follow:

1. The writing contest is open to anyone in 4th, 5th or 6th grade and begins on December 15.
2. Story is to be 550-700 words long and be text only.
3. Include a title, as well as your name, grade, the school you attend and your parents' phone number and email address.
4. Submissions must be a word document (Word or Google Doc). No PDFs please.
5. Email your entry **using a non-school e-mail address** to jnelson@papl.info by **11:59pm on February 15**.
6. This is your story and it can be humor, mystery, fantasy, science fiction or anything you want, but it **MUST BE YOUR OWN CREATION**.
7. Be sure to proofread your work and check for correct spelling and grammar.
8. Contact Miss Jodie in Youth & Teen Services with questions: jnelson@papl.info.

A first, second and third place winner will be chosen from three divisions: *Fourth Grade*, *Fifth Grade* and *Sixth Grade*. Winners will be chosen by **author Keir Graff**. Stories will be judged on creativity and writing skill.

Winners will be announced at the *Short Story Contest Author Talk and Award Ceremony* on Saturday, March 28 at 10am. All writers are invited to attend in person and will also be sent a link for extended family to attend virtually. Each winning writer will attend a meet and greet with Keir Graff to take place immediately following the event (in person). Winning stories will be printed in the *Plainfield Area Public Library Short Story Journal for Grades 4, 5 & 6*.

