

SIERRA WRITERS, a group of local writers that meets monthly to discuss questions related to writing and publication (see www.sierrawriters.org and [Facebook.com/sierrawriters/](https://www.facebook.com/sierrawriters/)) invites submissions from **middle school students** to its YOUNG WRITERS Competition.

Cash prizes will be awarded in three categories:

- (i) Fiction,
- (ii) Non-fiction and
- (iii) Poetry.

First prize in each category shall be \$100, second prize \$50 and third prize of \$25.

Submissions should be

- 1) made electronically, preferably in rich text format (rtf) format, and sent by email to sierrawriters@gmail.com.
- 2) in twelve point font, either Times Roman or Courier, with double-spaced lines.
- 3) in all three categories are limited to a minimum of 500 (150 words for Poetry) and a maximum of 1000 words.
- 4) Students may submit in all three categories but only one entry in each.
- 5) Students should identify themselves and state which school and grade they are registered in, and describe their submission(s) in the emails.
- 6) The submissions should only have a title and the category in which it is to be considered.
- 7) Students interested must register by sending his or her name, year of birth, the school attending, and the category or categories to be entered by email to sierrawriters@gmail.com.

Submissions are due by March 1, 2018.

Teachers, parents, or mentors may encourage and discuss submissions with the students but may not correct them beyond pointing out the existence of “spell-check” and similar word processing functions. Students may avail themselves of any help from web-sites such as grammarly.com but are warned that any plagiarism detected will disqualify the student from every category. Students are encouraged, however, to discuss and read or correct each other’s work.

Judges will select the winners by April 15 and their decisions will be final.

Winning submissions will be invited for a reading at the May 19, 2018 meeting of the Sierra Writers at 6:30 p.m. and will be published in the June 2018 Newsletter of Sierra Writers.

Rubric

Submissions will be judged equally for (a) originality, (b) coherence (following conventional usage regarding form, style and structure), and (c) correctness (spelling and grammar).

Workshops

All participants are invited to a Workshop for Tween and Teen Writers at the Second Sierra Writers Conference, **January 20, 2018**. Details to be made announced on the Sierra Writers website.

We are planning earlier workshops to get this competition going and will inform all those interested.

Prompts

We encourage participants to write on any subject that is appropriate for their age and family. The following are suggestions, perhaps to get a writer started.

Fiction – the main character(s) overcomes a personal or social challenge.

Poetry – a person, event, or place that evokes joy (or comfort, etc.)

Nonfiction – draw on an essay you have written for language arts or social studies to explain the importance or danger of some practice or happening. This will not be judged as plagiarism.