

SUMMER FUN ADULT WRITING CONTEST

The New Orleans Public Library wants your short story or poem
for our 2026 Summer Fun Adult Writing Contest.

THEME: This year's theme is "**Mystery.**" Writing on this theme could include classic detective tales as well as poems on the mysteries of the universe, digging into the secrets of the past, or ruminating on enigmatic futures. Show us cryptic secrets, arcane puzzles, and enigmatic motivations. Bring us to places unknown, and then lead us back out into the light.

CATEGORIES: Poetry and Fiction

PRIZES IN EACH CATEGORY: Amazon Gift Cards,
1st Place: \$100; 2nd Place: \$50; 3rd Place: \$25

The top 10 submissions in each category will be published in the 4th edition of *RENEWED: A New Orleans Public Library Anthology* in 2027.

Prizes and publication are made possible by Friends of the New Orleans Public Library.

SUBMISSION PERIOD: June 1–July 31

HOW TO ENTER: Submit .docx and .pdf files electronically at nolalibrary.org/learn/for-writers/

Paper entries must be accompanied by an entry form and can be submitted at any New Orleans Public Library branch.



RULES:

- One entry per person of one piece of fiction or up to 3 poems. One poem per submission will be eligible for prizes and publication. Entries must be no more than 2,000 words total.
- Please include the title of your piece, but do not include your name or other personally identifying information in your submission.
- Submissions should be text only. Please do not include images in your submission.
- Entrants must be 18 years of age or older, have an active New Orleans Public Library card, and be a resident of Orleans Parish.
- All writings must be the original work of the participant and not previously published. Writing should be suitable for a general audience.

JUDGING:

Winning entries will be selected on originality, quality, and relevance to the theme.

Winners will be publicly announced on September 11th. All winners and finalists will be notified by phone or email prior to that date. Due to the large number of submissions received, we cannot acknowledge receipt of individual submissions or notify writers not selected as a winner or finalist.

ADDITIONAL INFO:

Submission to this contest grants the New Orleans Public Library non-exclusive print and electronic rights to all winning entries and finalists. The author retains all permissions and copyright to the submitted work. Winners will be honored at a celebration and reading, date to be determined.

Participation in the contest permits the New Orleans Public Library to use winners' photographs, names, and/or likenesses for promotion of the library without further compensation. All information gathered is for the use of the New Orleans Public Library in administering the contest and will not be shared except to publicize the winners.

NAME

LIBRARY CARD NUMBER

EMAIL

PHONE NUMBER

PRIMARY LIBRARY LOCATION

GENRE: Fiction Poetry

The contest is sponsored by the Library Foundation of New Orleans.

 Library
Foundation
of New Orleans

 NEW ORLEANS
PUBLIC LIBRARY