

Adult Creative Writing Contest

Theme: Some Positive Moments Stay with Us Forever

Submission period: April 1st – May 16th, 2026

Adult Writers Showcase: Saturday, June 13th from 2:00-3:00 pm

1. Theme: **Some Positive Moments Stay with Us Forever**

Write about a positive memory that you—or your character(s)—return to again and again. It might be a perfect day, an uplifting conversation, or a joyful experience that left a lasting impression. Bring that moment to life for your reader and show how it shaped you or your character(s), and why it continues to stay long after it happened.

2. Eligibility:

- Entrants must be 18 or older, have an updated library card and live in the state of Michigan.

3. Entry Requirements:

- No more than five pages of poetry, fiction or creative non-fiction, such as personal memoir. Longer form excerpts will be accepted as long the submission does not exceed five pages. Entries must be typed in a standard font (such as New Times Roman or Arial, 12-point font size, PDF format).
- One five-page entry per person allowed.
- Entries must include cover sheet with name and contact info. Do not include any identifying information in the body of your document.
- Submit your entry between April 1st – May 16th, 2026 via email: tpubliclibrary@trenton-mi.com Subject: Adult Writers' Contest 2026 or via snail mail:

2790 Westfield Road
Attention: Adult Writers' Contest 2026
Trenton, MI 48183

4. Submissions are due by May 16th, 2026.

5. Originality:

- Please submit original, unpublished work only. We welcome simultaneous submissions, but please notify us immediately if your work is accepted elsewhere. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

6. Author Identification:

- Entries must include a cover sheet with the author's name and contact information. To ensure a fair review process, please do not include any identifying information within the body of your submission. **Submissions may not be anonymous.** If selected as a winner, the author's name will be used for publication and credit.

7. Prizes:

- First, Second and Third Place will be chosen. Prizes include gift cards (\$100 First place, \$50.00 second place and \$25.00 for third place), publication of winning entry on the library's website and an in-person acknowledgement at the library on Saturday, June 13th. All genres will

be judged together. There will not be separate prizes for Fiction, Creative Non-Fiction and Poetry.

8. Feedback:

- Participants will not receive feedback on their entries from our contest judges, however adults are welcome to join the Adult Writers' Group at Trenton Veterans Memorial Library to receive feedback on their writing from group members. Please email EChapman@trenton-mi.com to learn more about participating in our monthly writing group.

9. Publication Rights:

- Trenton Veterans Memorial Library will have non-exclusive publishing and usage rights for promotional purposes of the submitted entries. This includes, but is not limited to, the right to display, distribute, and promote the entries on the library's website, social media channels, and other promotional materials associated with the contest. By submitting an entry to the Adult Creative Writing Contest, entrants retain all other rights to their work and are free to publish it elsewhere after the conclusion of the contest. However, Trenton Veterans Memorial Library may continue to use the submitted entries for promotional purposes as outlined above. The library will make reasonable efforts to provide attribution to the authors when using their entries for promotional purposes.

Trenton Veterans Memorial Library will publish winning entries on our website.

If an entrant wishes to withdraw their entry from consideration for publication or promotional use by the library, they must notify the library in writing before the announcement of the contest winners.

10. Notification of Winners:

- Winners will be contacted prior to the Writers' Showcase on Saturday, June 13th. Winners and Runners-Up will also be announced on the Library promotional materials (both online and in print).

11. Content Guidelines:

- Entries should not contain offensive language, hate speech, pornographic, injurious or explicitly violent material.

12. Contact Information:

- Please contact Erin Chapman, Adult Services Librarian, at EChapman@trenton-mi.com with any questions or concerns.

13. Disclaimer:

- Any changes to these guidelines will be at the discretion of Trenton Veterans Memorial Library; Contest organizers may make decisions in unforeseen circumstances.