

Teen Creative Writing Contest

Theme: Something You Realized

Submission period: April 1st-May 15th, 2025

Writers Showcase: Wednesday, June 4th, 2025

1. Theme: Explore a moment of realization—big or small—that changed your perspective, understanding, or path in life. It could be a sudden epiphany, a lesson learned over time, or an unexpected truth revealed. Whether drawn from personal experience or pure imagination, let your writing capture the power of discovery.

2. Eligibility:

-Entrants must be between the ages of 12-17 and live in Wayne County. If you are 18 or older you may submit an entry in our Adult Creative Writing Contest.

3. Entry Requirements:

-No more than 5 pages of poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction, such as personal memoir. Longer form excerpts will be accepted as long as the submission does not exceed five pages.

Entries must be typed in a standard font (such as Times New 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 15th, 2025 via email: tpubliclibrary@trenton-mi.com
Subject: Teen Writers' Contest 2025 or via snail mail:

2790 Westfield Road
Attention: Teen Writers' Contest 2025
Trenton, MI 48183

4. Submissions are due May 15th, 2025. Entries after this date will not be included for judging.

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-Please submit original, unpublished work only.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. Prizes:

-First, Second, and Third Place will be chosen. Prizes include gift cards ranging from \$50-\$10 and an in-person acknowledgement at the library on Wednesday, June 4th. All genres will be judged together. There will not be separate prizes for Fiction, Creative Non-Fiction and Poetry.

7. Feedback:

-Participants will not receive feedback on their entries, however teens are welcome to join our Teen Writers' Group at Trenton Veterans Memorial Library to receive feedback on their writing from group members. Please email jkulik@trenton-mi.com to learn more about participating in this group.

8. 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 Teen 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 compile the winning entries into an eBook that will be featured on the library's 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.

9. Notification of Winners:

-Winners will be contacted prior to the Writers' Showcase on June 4th. Winners will also be announced on the website.

10. Content Guidelines:

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

11. Contact Information:

-Please contact Jackie Kulik, Librarian, at jkulik@trenton-mi.com with any questions or concerns pertaining to the Teen Creative Writing Contest, for questions about the Adult Creative Writing Contest please refer your questions to Erin Chapman, Adult Services Librarian, at Echapman@trenton-mi.com.

12. Disclaimer:

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