GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

ALL ENTRIES ARE DUE December 1, 2026

Send all entries to:

e-mail using **Microsoft Word only, *NOT* PDF** to: ajthomson70@yahoo.com

For more information, call (716) 474-5070

YOUTH POETRY AND SHORT STORY CONTESTS

Open to all students in grades K - 12

Requirements:

1. Youth **(Grades K-12)** may enter one poem and/or one short story.
2. Authors must be amateurs. Earnings from writing may not exceed $500 annually.
3. Manuscripts may not have been published prior to the competition and must be the author's original work.
4. Entries should be typed, double-spaced, with minimum margins of 1" on all sides.
5. **Short stories** are limited to 2000 words. Word count must be indicated at the end of the story.
6. **Poems** can be any style with a minimum length of eight lines and maximum of 50 lines.
7. **Writing submitted must be the original work of the author, not generated by any Artificial Intelligence. Attach signed completed Creative Writing Waiver in digital format for each submission.**
8. All entries must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
9. The Six Traits of Writing will be used in judging categories 2, 3 and 4.
10. **Entries MUST have the following on the TOP RIGHT HAND CORNER OF EVERY PAGE**
    - author's name, email address, mailing address, telephone number
    - name of school, school address, and grade
    - **GFWC Servers of WNTFWC, Greater Western District, New York State Federation of Women's Clubs**
    - Category (short story or poetry)
    - Title of work
    - number the pages
    - Grade level category: Category 1: Grades K, 1 and 2 Category 2: Grades 3, 4 and 5
      Category 3: Grades 6, 7 and 8 Category 4: Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12

EXAMPLE:

Mary Smith, email address, 123 Park Street, East Aurora, NY 14052 (716) 652-5555
East Aurora Middle School, 430 Main Street, East Aurora, NY 14052 Grade 7
GFWC Servers of WNTFWC, Greater Western District, New York State Federation of Women's Clubs
Short Story
"My Favorite Teacher"
4 pages
Word count (only for short stories)
Grade Level Category 2

10. Certificates are awarded in each of the four categories. Monetary prizes are awarded in Categories 3 and 4 to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. First place winners in each category are forwarded to GFWC-New York State Federation of Women's Clubs for further judging. First Place winners at the state level are sent to GFWC headquarters in Washington, D.C. for national judging.

NOTE: Manuscripts will not be returned. Authors should keep a copy.

CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER - STUDENT WRITING CONTEST

Fillable form: Digital Library > Awards & Certificates > GFWC Creative Arts Waiver - Student

With my signature I declare that:

☐ I have created the submitted work, entitled_____ and I own the full copyright. The work has not been published before.

☐ With my written work, including pictures, tables, or additional media, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of any other person or entity. My writing was not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

☐ I grant the General Federation of Women's Clubs a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

This agreement shall become effective and binding on the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The writing submitted is for the following contest (please check only one): ☐ **STUDENT SHORT STORY** ☐ **STUDENT POETRY**		
Student Grade Classification (please check only one): ☐ **CATEGORY 1: GRADES K-2** ☐ **CATEGORY 3: GRADES 6-8** ☐ **CATEGORY 2: GRADES 3-5** ☐ **CATEGORY 4: GRADES 9-12**		
Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
Name of Club		
State Federation		

Parent/Guardian Signature (if student is under 18 years of age) _____

Writing Contest submissions are accepted digitally ONLY. Each entry must include a completed, signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Student Writing Contest form. Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State leadership for your individual deadline.