

## Contests! for Children & Teens

### Kids Are Authors

Complete information and an entry form available at [www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/contest/kaa\\_about.asp](http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/contest/kaa_about.asp).

**Deadline: March 15, 2010**

**Prize:** One Grand Prize winner will be selected from each of two categories: Fiction and Nonfiction. Each Grand Prize winning team receives

- \$5,000 in merchandise from Scholastic Book Fair's *Instructional Resource Catalog* to be awarded to the public/private school or non-profit organization of their choice.
- 100 copies of their published book.

Honorable Mentions: Each winning school receives

- \$500 in merchandise from the Scholastic Book Fair's *Instructional Resource Catalog* to be awarded to the public/private school or non-profit organization of their choice.
- Student Award Certificates.

Kids Are Authors is an annual competition open to Grades K-8 and is designed to encourage students to use their reading, writing, and artistic skills to create their own books. Under the guidance of a project coordinator, students work in teams of three or more to write and illustrate their own book. The winning books will be published by Scholastic and sold at book fairs throughout the country.

### Weekly Reader Student Publishing Contest

Complete information and entry form available at [www.weeklyreader.com/pdfs/WRSPCwebad10.pdf](http://www.weeklyreader.com/pdfs/WRSPCwebad10.pdf).

**Deadline: March 19, 2010**

**Prize:** Three winning authors and three school publications will each receive \$500. Winners will also receive a round-trip flight to Washington, D.C., and a one-night hotel stay in the nation's capital.

This contest recognizes outstanding student newspapers and individual nonfiction work by students in Grades 3-12. Top prizes include publication of winning students' work, expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C. for students and teachers, and a cash award!

### Listen to a Life Contest

Complete information and details at [www.legacyproject.org/contests/ltal.html](http://www.legacyproject.org/contests/ltal.html).

**Deadline: March 26, 2010**

**Prize:** Grand prize: A Lenovo ThinkCentre computer with \$800 of Orchard Software and an iPod nano from Orchard Software, plus \$25,000 of Orchard Software for the school

20 Runner-Up prizes: \$400 of Orchard Software and an MP3 Player from Orchard Software

The annual Listen to a Life Essay Contest is an opportunity to build closer connections between young and old as they get to know each other in new, often unexpected ways, and is an opportunity also for young people to become more aware of their own dreams and goals when they hear the real-life stories of older adults. Those 8-18 are invited to interview an older person over 50 years (cannot be a parent) about their hopes and goals through life, how they achieved goals and overcame obstacles, or how their dreams may have changed along the way. Young people can then submit a 300-word essay based on the interview.

### PBS Kids Go!

Complete information an entry form available at <http://pbskids.org/writerscontest/>.

**Deadline: March 26, 2010**

**Prize:** First place: Laptop computer

Second place: Digital camera

Third place: MP3 Player

National winners will have their stories published on the PBS Kids Go! website.

This writers contest is open to those in Grades K-3. What story do you want to tell? Write it, draw it, enter it! Stories can be fact or fiction, prose or poetry. Check the website for word limits and other details.

### Signet Classics Student Scholarship Essay Contest

Complete information and details at <http://us.penguingroup.com/static/pages/services-academic/essayhome.html>.

**Deadline: April 15, 2010**

**Prize:** Five winners each will be awarded a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be used toward tuition and/or expenses related to their higher education. Each winner will also receive a Signet Classics Library for their school library, or public library in the case of a home-schooled winner.

Students in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (or homeschoolers between the ages of 16-18) enter by writing an essay on one of five topics posed for this year's competition book, *The War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells. Topic questions can be found on the website listed above.

### Fire Escape Writing Contest

Complete information and details at [www.mitaliperkins.com/teencontests.htm](http://www.mitaliperkins.com/teencontests.htm).

**Deadline: June 1, 2010**

**Prize:** First prize: \$50.00

Second prize: \$35.00

Third prize: \$15.00

This contest is open to immigrants or those adopted from another culture (but who now live in America or Canada) who are between the ages of 13-19. For the submission to qualify, you are at least one of your parents must have been born in a country outside of America or Canada. Submit an original, unpublished poem or story that reflects some of the joys and struggles of growing up between two cultures in America. The Fire Escape will only consider one poem and story per person, so send your best work.

### Totem Head's Story Contest

Complete information and details at [www.adventurewrite.com/kids/contest.html](http://www.adventurewrite.com/kids/contest.html).

**Deadline: December 31, 2010**

**Prize:** One winner in each category (ages 11 and younger; ages 12-18) will receive publication on [adventurewrite.com/kids](http://adventurewrite.com/kids), \$50 cash, and a certificate of achievement.

Kids and teens are invited to write a kid-friendly story beginning with "So there I was . . ." Entries should be no more than 1500 words and must be submitted with a contest entry form found on the website.

### The Exquisite Prompt Writing Challenge

Complete information and details at [www.adlit.org/fun/writing\\_contests/exquisite\\_prompt\\_challenge](http://www.adlit.org/fun/writing_contests/exquisite_prompt_challenge).

**Deadline: open** (October 2009 through June 2010)

**Prize:** Prizes include being published on Reading Rockets and AdLit and receiving a selection of books, including titles autographed by the authors and illustrators. Winners are also eligible for a classroom visit by one of the authors or illustrators via Skype!

The AdLit.org Exquisite Prompt challenge gives K-12 students a chance each month to flex their writing muscles with writing prompts, and win fabulous prizes! The prompts are inspired by 18 authors and illustrators participating in the Exquisite Corpse Adventure.

### Next Step Teen Writing Contest

Complete information and details at <http://www.nextstepmagazine.com/nextstep/teen-contests.aspx>.

You must register at this website to take part in their \$100 Teen Writing Contest!

## Teen Ink Contests

Complete information and details at <http://www.teenink.com/Contests/>.

Current opportunities include:

Interview Contest

Fiction Contest (May 1)

Nonfiction Contest

Travel & Culture Contest (May 1)

Poetry Contest

Community Service Awards (May 1)

*Teen Ink* Cover Photo Contest

Environment Contest

Educator of the Year Contest (April 30)

## Teen Ink Submissions

Complete information and details at <http://teenink.com/submissions/guidlines.php> or email [editor@teenink.com](mailto:editor@teenink.com)

**Deadline:** open

**Prize:** Get published in a national magazine!

*Teen Ink* is a national teen magazine, book series, and website devoted entirely to teenage writing and art. They have no staff writers or artists; they depend completely on submissions from teenagers nationwide for their content, which includes stories, poems, photography, and other artwork.

## Youthful Thoughts Anthology Quarterly Contest

Information, rules, and a submission form at <http://youthfulwisdompress.com/contests/>.

**Deadline:** open

Youthful Wisdom Press is a small independent press that specializes in publishing material written by young adults, ages 13-18. YWP believes that our youth will always have a story to tell and should have a place of their own in which to express it. We encourage their creativity by giving them an opportunity to see their work in print within three months to a year, while experiencing the aspects of traditional publishing. YWP also offers quarterly writing contests.

## Speculative Fiction Contests

Complete information and details at <http://www.davidbarrkirtley.com/teenwriter/Contests.html>

**Deadline:** varied

**Prize:** varied

This website provides links to various websites hosting writing contests especially for those interested in science fiction, fantasy, and speculative fiction!

*last updated by kmv, 02 mar 2010*