



EPIC Competition: New Voices for Short Stories, Poetry, and Essays

In celebration of the new century and a new tradition in publishing, EPIC has established a competition to encourage reading and writing among middle school and high school students and to promote e-book literacy in public and private schools. The result of the first annual competition will be the anthology *EPIC New Voices 2006* to be published June 2006. This anthology will include all prize-winning entries as selected by the judges.

CONTEST GUIDELINES

Eligible Students: The contest is open to students attending public, private, or home schools anywhere in the world. Students should be in junior high/middle school or high school in the US or the equivalent level in the school system of their country. The student may write a story, poem, or essay for the contest or enter something written for a school assignment.

Categories of Student Writers: Middle School Category—grades 7-8, High School Category—grades 9-12 (or the appropriate grade for Middle School or High School in the school system the student attends)

Language: All entries must be in English.

Entry Limit: Each entrant may submit no more than one (1) entry in each category — a maximum of three (3) entries per entrant.

Writing Categories: Short Story (fiction), Poetry, and Essay (nonfiction)

Entry Fee: none

Judging: Entries in each category will be judged by a panel of three judges, including teachers, librarians, and published writers. Each panel of judges will include at least one EPIC member.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Nothing profane or sexually explicit will be accepted.

Guidelines for Middle School Category Submissions

Short story (fiction)

- Maximum length: 750 words
- All genres will be considered.

Poetry

- Maximum length: 20 lines
- All themes and forms will be accepted.

Essay (nonfiction)

- Maximum length: 750 words
- Any nonfiction form is eligible.

Guidelines for High School Category Submissions

Short story (fiction)

- Maximum length: 1000 words
- All genres will be considered.

Poetry

- Maximum length: 30 lines
- All themes and forms will be accepted.

Essay (nonfiction)

- Maximum length: 1000 words
- Any nonfiction form is eligible.

PRIZES

- **The grand prize winner** will be selected by the judges from among the first prize winners in the three categories and will receive \$100 cash.
- The **first prize winner in each category** will receive an e-book reader.
- The **second prize winner in each category** will receive a \$50 gift certificate for e-books.
- The **third prize winner in each category** will receive a \$25 gift certificate for e-books.
- **Up to 12 honorable mention prizes** (two from each category) will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. Each honorable mention winner will receive an Accomplishment of Merit Certificate.
- **An unlimited number of Judges' Choice Awards** may also be given. Each Judges' Choice Award winner will be included in the anthology.
- All winning entries, honorable mention entries, and Judges' Choice winners will be published in *EPIC New Voices 2006*, and all winners will receive a copy of the anthology on CD.

ANTHOLOGY

- All winning entries (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category, honorable mentions, and Judges' Choice) will be published in the e-book anthology *EPIC New Voices 2006*.
- Only minimal editing will be done to correct errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- Entrants will retain the copyright to their work; contest entry grants electronic rights only.
- The only compensation writers will receive will be prizes; no royalties will be paid.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Entries must be typed and double spaced in a MS Word (.doc) or .rtf file. Each entry must be sent by e-mail (as an attachment) to <epicnewvoices@lillieammann.com>.
- Each entrant should include a paragraph (maximum 75 words) third person biography and a paragraph (maximum 100 words) telling about his/her knowledge of and experience with e-books. These will be used in the anthology if the entry is selected for publication.
- An entry form stating the name, age, grade, and school of each entrant and including the signatures of the entrant and a parent or guardian must accompany each entry. If the entrant does not have the capability to include scanned signatures on the entry form, the signed form may be faxed or submitted by postal mail. However, the entry will not be considered complete until the entry form with signatures of both the entrant and a parent or guardian is received. A form with all information except the signatures must be e-mailed with the entry indicating how and when the signed entry was submitted.
- Please note that **ONLY** the signed entry form may be submitted by fax or postal mail. The entry, biography, and e-book paragraph **MUST** be submitted electronically, along with a copy of the entry form that is complete except for signatures.
- Deadline for entries, including signed entry forms, to be received by the coordinator is November 1, 2005. Winners will be notified by February 15, 2006.
- Winners will receive prizes at a recognition ceremony during the EPIC Conference in San Antonio, Texas, March 16-19, 2006. Time and place of the ceremony will be announced. Winners who attend the conference are responsible for their own travel, hotel, food, and other expenses. If winners are unable to attend the awards ceremony, prizes will be sent to the winners after the ceremony.
- EPIC reserves the right to cancel a category if, in the sole discretion of the judges, there are not enough entries meriting awards.
- Submission gives EPIC permission to publish the student's entry, biography, and e-book paragraph in the anthology and on the EPIC Web site. All authors retain copyright to their individual works.

ENTRY FORM

EPIC New Voices Writing Competition for 2005-2006

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

AGE: _____ GRADE: _____ NAME OF SCHOOL: _____

NAME OF COUNTRY _____ IF IN THE USA, NAME OF STATE _____

TITLE OF ENTRY _____

LEVEL CATEGORY	WRITING CATEGORY
MIDDLE SCHOOL _____	SHORT STORY (FICTION) _____
HIGH SCHOOL _____	POETRY _____
	ESSAY (NONFICTION) _____

Only one (1) entry may be submitted in each category; a separate form is required for each entry.

I acknowledge that I have read and accepted the rules of the contest. I certify that the writing submitted is my own original work. If I am a winner, I give EPIC permission to publish my submission, my bio, and my e-book paragraph in the anthology and on the EPIC Web site without any additional notice or compensation other than the prize(s) I win. I understand that my name and country (and state if in the United States) will be the only identifying information included in the publication, and that I will own the copyright to my work.

Student's signature _____

I acknowledge that I have read and accepted the rules of the contest. I certify that I am the parent or guardian of the student submitting this entry and that the student has my permission to enter. If this entry is a winner, I give EPIC permission to publish the submission, bio, and e-book paragraph in the anthology and on the EPIC Web site without any additional notice or compensation other than the prize(s) awarded. I understand that the writer's name and country (and state if in the United States) will be the only identifying information included in the publication and that the writer will own the copyright to his/her work.

Signature of parent or guardian _____

Scanned signatures are acceptable. If a scanner is not available, signed forms may be faxed to 210-344-1958 or mailed to PO Box 461603, San Antonio, TX 78246 after entries have been e-mailed as an attachment in rtf or MS Word format to <epicnewvoices@lillieammann.com>. In this case, two entry forms will be submitted, one (unsigned) electronically and one (signed) by mail or fax.

If the electronic submission is not signed, please indicate how the signed form is being submitted:

Faxed to 210-344-1958 on (Date) _____

Mailed to EPIC New Voices, PO Box 461603, San Antonio, TX 78246 on (Date) _____

The entry is not complete until the student's and parent or guardian's signatures are received.