

2025 Arizona Authors Literary Contest

CONTEST AND SUBMISSION RULES

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. Any entries not following these rules may be disqualified without notification or refund. The Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest opens at 12:01 am MST on January 1, 2025, and closes at 11:59 pm MST on June 1, 2025.

The contest is open to any author, editor, publisher or agent who:

1. Submits entries in standard American English. Entries may contain passages in a foreign language, but such passages may not exceed five percent of the total content.
2. Pays for entry fees in US funds via one of the payment methods available on the [Contest Page](#).
3. Is the author of the entry OR has been designated in writing by the author or authors to act as their authorized agent. Any prizes awarded will be sent to the author except for compilations. If a compilation by more than one unrelated author is submitted by an authorized agent, the authorized agent may, upon proof of authorization, receive any awarded prize. In no case shall the Arizona Authors Association be held liable for unauthorized submissions or for errors resulting from such submissions.

To become a registered contestant, please complete the three-step admission process:

Step One: Fill out all sections of the entry form on the [Contest Page](#). Please specify the category/subcategory on your entry form.

Step Two: Pay the entry fee via one of the methods available on the [Contest Page](#). If the payment is submitted from a different name or email address, be sure to include identifying information so that we may match the payment to the submission.

Step Three: Send a **.DOC, .DOCX, or PDF** of your entry within 72 hours of payment to: arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com. Include your entry's title and category in the email, as well as your name. If you mail a check via postal mail, include that information in the email containing your file.

We will not open attachments until your payment has been processed.

GENERAL RULES

Each title may be entered once. Submissions of different titles from the same author require separate entry forms, but you may pay in one sum via any method listed on the [Contest Page](#). All electronic payments must be received by 11:59 pm MST June 1, 2025. Any payment made through the US Postal Service must be postmarked by June 1, 2025, and received within 7 days of the deadline.

Any entry that has won a prize in the Arizona Authors Literary Contest, in any category or year, is ineligible to win again. Nonwinning entries from previous years are welcome, and we encourage authors to resubmit in our Oldie but Goldie categories. Prizes or awards earned from other contests do not affect an entry's eligibility in this contest.

Entries that contain explicit pornography, sexism, racism, or homophobia, as determined by the Arizona

Authors Association Board of Directors, will be disqualified. Published or unpublished works in any category may include previously published, properly cited quotes for no more than twenty percent of the total content. Plagiarized content will result in disqualification. All published sources must be cited with Author, Title, and Original Date of Publication.

Once the three-step submission is complete, the submission cannot be edited or altered, but it may be withdrawn with the entry fee forfeited.

UNPUBLISHED ENTRIES

(Never published or self-published in any form.)

There are four subcategories in the Unpublished category:

Poetry/Prose (Poetry and Prose up to 50 lines.)

Short Fiction (5,000 words or less)

Short Nonfiction (5000 words or less)

Novels/Novellas/Plays (Submit the first twenty-five pages of your finished work **and** a full synopsis of between 2-5 pages. **Both parts** must be included in one email.)

Unpublished works are unpublished in any form. Quotes or passages published on a personal or social media web page are allowed provided the published content does not exceed twenty percent of the entry.

All unpublished entries must be double-spaced with a 12 point Times New Roman, Courier or Ariel font for the body of the text, and no more than a 16 point font for headers or short pieces of highlighted text. Submit entries in standard letter size, 8.5"x11" format with one-inch margins. Place title and page numbers in either the header or footer of the document.

Unpublished Short Fiction or Short Nonfiction entries cannot exceed 5,000 words. Unpublished Poetry/Prose cannot exceed 50 lines. A "line" is defined as one single line on a standard 8.5"x11" page that does not exceed the width of the page, written in an accepted font (see above). Single spacing within stanzas is OK. Unpublished Novel/Novella/Play entries must include a **synopsis** (2-5 pages) and the **first 25 pages** of the completed manuscript. The synopsis must summarize the entire story.

Unpublished winners automatically consign **FIRST** serial rights to the Arizona Authors Association. We will include all winning unpublished entries in the *2026 Arizona Literary Magazine*, due out in November, 2025 (if a winning unpublished entry in the Novel, Novella and Play category exceeds 5000 words, only a portion, such as the first chapter, will be published). If the entry is published elsewhere before November 30, 2025, any prize won will be forfeited.

PUBLISHED ENTRIES

(Published books of at least 100 pages.)

There are four subcategories in the Published category:

Fiction (Published in 2024 or 2025.)

Nonfiction (Published in 2024 or 2025.)

Oldie But Goldie (OBG) Fiction (Originally published after 1974 but before 2024.)

Oldie But Goldie (OBG) Nonfiction (Originally published after 1974 but before 2024.)

All entries **except** Oldie but Goldie must bear a 2024 or 2025 original copyright date. An Oldie but

Goldie (OBG) entry **may have any original copyright date** after 1974 but before 2024.

Published entries may employ the format, spacing, size, etc., of the original published work, provided it is in DOC, DOCX, or PDF format, or the author may choose to create a new file. Any new file's actual content (illustrations and text) must be identical to the author's most recently published unabridged version of the book. Published books must include copyright date.

PUBLISHED YOUTH ENTRIES

(Published books of at least 25 pages written for children, teens and young adults.)

There are three subcategories in the Youth category:

Children's Books (Published in 2024 or 2025 specifically for children under 12 years of age.)

Teen/Young Adult (Published in 2024 or 2025 specifically for youths aged 12 and up.)

Oldie But Goldie Youth (Fiction or Nonfiction books originally published after 1974 but before 2024. This category includes all titles written for children, teens and young adults.)

All entries **except** Oldie but Goldie Youth must bear a 2024 or 2025 original copyright date. An Oldie but Goldie Youth entry **may have any original copyright date** after 1974 but before 2024.

Published Youth entries may employ the format, spacing, size, etc., of the original published work, provided it is in DOC, DOCX, or PDF format, or the author may choose to create a new file. Any new file's actual content (illustrations and text) must be identical to the author's most recently published unabridged version of the book. Published books must include copyright date.

Optional Critiques/Evaluations

You may purchase a 2-page critique/evaluation of a self-published novel or memoir, or an unpublished work. One of our appraisers will offer an assessment as well as a few tips for improvement. None of the judges will receive a copy of the appraiser's assessment before finalizing their scores. Whether or not you order an appraisal **will not affect** your chance of winning a prize. The critique will be reviewed for quality assurance and then sent to the author's email address no later than 60 days after the request was submitted. Please be patient. Even short assessments require many hours of reading and review. The cost is \$35, a fraction of industry standard.

Selecting Winners:

Each entry will normally be rated by between three and five judges selected from within the Arizona Authors Association membership. When an insufficient number of judges are available, we may include nonmember judges with literary skills, such as teachers, editors, publishers, journalists or others. All judges use standard scoring sheets to award entries from zero to eighty points based **solely** on literary merit. No entry whose average score falls below 40 points may earn a prize, and categories may be canceled if no entries within such categories score at least 40 points.

In addition to the eighty possible points that a work may receive on the standard evaluation, a book of more than 100 pages in any category, including Youth, may earn up to five bonus points for extensive research or authenticity that, in the opinion of the judges, greatly enhances the value of the title.

All judges' scores will be sent to our official Gmail address, where at least two unrelated Board Members will independently match their tallies before finalists are announced. Board Members may not submit

entries of their own to the contest. All entries will be scored using the same evaluation methods. Authors entering the Arizona Authors Literary Contest agree to hold the Arizona Authors Association and its Board of Directors harmless in any disputes arising from entries, awards, submissions or payments. The decision of the Board of Directors in any disputes will be final.

Notification:

All contestants will receive notification of entry registration within 72 hours of receipt of all three parts of their entry. Finalists will be chosen in mid-September, and the list of finalists will be sent to all registered contestants by the end of September. The winners will be announced at the Literary Awards Event held in November, 2025. Winners not attending the Awards Event will be notified via email of their prize within 72 hours after the event. No general contest notifications or results, other than those listed in this paragraph, will be sent to non-winning contestants.

Good Luck To All Of Our Contestants!