



Short Story Contest

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MARYLAND, VIRGINIA AND D.C.

High school students from across the Washington Metropolitan Area are invited to submit short stories to the Gaithersburg Book Festival Short Story Contest. To participate, your story must be no longer than 1,000 words and start with one of the following three lines:*

1 *I've seen some odd things delivering food for Ned's Pizza, but nothing beat the lady that ordered a half-mushroom, half fish-eyeball pie, then hit me with this request at the door...*

2 *The trouble began since my cell number is one digit off from Madam O'Wiggy's, the psychic, which is how I came to be answering questions about the future to begin with...*

3 *The main thing to know, if pirates commandeer the cruise ship you're on during family vacation, is that they do much less dancing and singing than in movies...*

SUBMISSIONS

- Deadline: February 21, 2014, by midnight ET.
- Stories must be submitted electronically as a Word document to:
writingcontest@gaithersburgbookfestival.org
- Submissions must include author's name, address, phone number, e-mail address, school, grade (9, 10, 11 or 12) and English or writing teacher's name.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Author must be a high school student (public, private or homeschooled, grades 9-12, in the 2013-2014 school year) at time of entry.
- Author must live in Maryland, Virginia or Washington, D.C.
- Only one submission per author.

PRIZES

- Up to 12 stories will be selected as finalists. The finalists will have their stories posted on the Gaithersburg Book Festival website prior to the Book Festival.
- The top three stories will be announced at the Gaithersburg Book Festival on Saturday, May 17, 2014. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive \$100, \$50 and \$25 gift certificates respectively. *(Prizes provided by the Johns Hopkins Montgomery County Campus.)*

For further information, please visit www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org/gbf-programs/short-story-contest/ or e-mail writingcontest@gaithersburgbookfestival.org.

The Gaithersburg Book Festival will take place on Saturday, May 19, 2012, on the grounds of Gaithersburg City Hall. Admission and parking are free.

* Opening lines provided by Jon Methven, author of "This Is Your Captain Speaking" and contributor to McSweeney's. You can find Jon online at www.jonmethven.com

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Authors will be notified by April 1, 2014, if their story is selected as a finalist.

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

- originality
- creativity
- writing style
- overall writing quality

CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

Submitted stories must:

- Be no more than 1,000 words.
- Begin with one of the provided opening lines, unaltered.
- Be written in the English language.
- Be wholly the original work of the entrant, written solely by the entrant.
- Not be copied from any other source.
- Not have been previously broadcast or otherwise distributed or disseminated in any media or format.
- Not be in the public domain.
- Not be in violation of or in conflict with the trademark, copyright, rights of privacy, rights of publicity or any other rights, of any kind or nature, of any other person or entity.
- Not include any language or other content that is inappropriate, offensive, pornographic, or otherwise unfit for dissemination or broadcast, as determined by the City of Gaithersburg in its sole discretion.
- Meet the deadline.

Entries not satisfying these criteria in any respect will be disqualified. If the City of Gaithersburg, in its sole discretion, has reason to believe that any entry contains any material that may infringe or violate any law or any rights of a third party, or that the use or broadcast of such entry in the manner described herein may infringe or violate any law or any rights of a third party, the City of Gaithersburg may immediately disqualify such entry and take any other measures the City of Gaithersburg may deem appropriate or necessary.

GRANT OF RIGHTS

By submitting a story entry, the entrant grants to the City of Gaithersburg:

- The right to edit the Story for grammar, spelling and punctuation; and
- A non-exclusive, assignable, perpetual, license to produce, publish, distribute, transmit, exhibit, exploit, and license the Story and any portions thereof in any format (collectively “distribute” or “distribution,” as applicable) by any and all means, uses and media, whether audio, print, audiovisual or otherwise, now or hereafter known, throughout the universe in all languages without financial compensation.

NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE

The following, and their family members, are prohibited from participation in this contest:

- Employees of the City of Gaithersburg,
- City Council Members, and
- All volunteers associated with the Gaithersburg Book Festival.