
CREATIVE WRITING RULES

Note: Entries must adhere to guidelines and length restrictions for each Class or will be disqualified. Entrants are requested to include an email address on Entry Form. Zone winners will be contacted to re-send their entry as an email attachment in a specified format.

Class A – Poetry

Maximum 34 lines

An expression of thoughts, feelings or imagery that uses distinctive style and rhythm. Poetry may be rhymed or free verse.

Example - Free Verse: *A Time to Talk* by Robert Frost

When a friend calls to me from the road	No, not as there is a time to talk.
And slows his horse to a meaning walk,	I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground,
I don't stand still and look around	Blade end up and five feet tall,
On all the hills I haven't hoed,	And plod: I go up to the stone wall
And shout from where I am, "What is it?"	For a friendly visit.

Class B –Light Verse

Maximum: Limerick 5 lines; or Haiku 3 lines; or Humorous verse 15 lines

A category for a limerick, **OR** haiku, **OR** "Ogden Nash" style humorous poetry.

- Example – Limerick (5 lines)

Here lies a young salesman named Phipps,
Who married, on one of his trips,
A widow named Block –
Then died of the shock,
When he saw there were six little chips. *Anonymous*

- Example – Haiku (a 3-line traditional Japanese verse form consisting of 17 syllables in 3 metrical units of 5, 7 and 5 syllables)

Little butterfly
floating over the flowers
spring is beginning. *Unknown*

Class C - Fiction

Maximum 2000 words

A story that is based on imagined characters and events; or on real characters placed in imaginary situations, and written in the form of a mystery, romance, tale, etc., and composed for entertainment. Strong fictional story structure includes conflict, story climax and resolution.

Note**: if the entry is written in the first person, a disclaimer must be signed on the entry form that any resemblance to actual persons or events is purely co-incidental.

Class D - Non-fiction - Serious

Maximum 2000 words

A literary composition that is written as

- a) a composition based on facts, real people and real events, or
- b) an essay that expresses the author's point of view on a particular subject and is intended to instruct, to inform, to explain, or to convince.

Class E - Non-fiction - Humorous

Maximum 2000 words

The kind of writing in which humor means "in a lighthearted manner". A serious subject can be written in a way that is clever, ironic, or satirical but should, overall, produce a "real chuckle".

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RULES AND "PLAYOFF" INFORMATION for CREATIVE WRITING

1. Prior to competing at any level, all participants must obtain current membership in the Alberta 55 plus Association. Entries may be submitted to the Creative Writing competition in one zone only.
2. Entries must have been written since October 1, 2016. Only one entry per Class per participant.
3. Competitors may write on any topic of their choice. Entries must be unpublished scripts. (Exception: Works that have been published and for which the participant has not received financial benefit are eligible for entry.) Participants in writing clubs, classes, etc. should not submit writing assignments that may bear marked similarities to another entrant's work.
4. **Maximum length restrictions for each Class must be observed or work will be disqualified. HANDWRITTEN WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Entries in all Classes must be submitted in the formats outlined below. Entrant's name must **NOT** appear on work. Competitors are requested to include an e-mail address on the entry form and will be contacted to re-send their zone winning entries to the Provincial Creative Writing Coordinator as an email attachment in a specified format.

Entries in **Class A Poetry**, must be 34 lines or less; entries in **Class B Light Verse** must be: limerick – 5 lines, haiku – 3 lines, or humorous verse - 15 lines or less (longer works will not be accepted). Entries in Classes A and Class B must be typed on 8 1/2 x 11 inch white paper, but may be single- or double-spaced with margins of at least 1. inch or 2.5 cm at the top and bottom (may be centered on page). Entrant's name must **NOT** appear on work.

Entries in Classes C, D and E must be 2000 words or less, typed on 8.5x11 inch white paper, single-spaced with margins at least 1 inch or 2.54 cm at top, bottom and sides. Entries should be in "ARIAL" font, size 12, 'justified' with indents to begin paragraphs.
5. Participants must submit their entries to their Alberta 55 Plus Zone Contact for Creative Writing in accordance with the deadline outlined on the Zone Entry Form. Participants must complete only one entry form, specifying all Classes entered.
6. Entries will be judged on both technical quality and content (refer to "Judging Criteria" on next page).
Participants who would like their submissions (and/or judges' comments) returned after the judging **at the zone level** are requested to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with their entries. (Zone judges may supply comments - optional, but are requested not to write comments directly on submissions.)
Neither judges' comments nor entries will be returned after judging at the provincial level.
7. In each zone, the **top three entries in each Class (A, B, C, D and E)** will advance to the Alberta 55 plus Provincial Creative Writing Coordinator for final judging. Maximum number of entries per zone: 15 entries.
9. At the provincial competition in Edmonton, gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the top three entries in each Class.
10. Procedures for Medal Presentations: Following judging, Creative Writing medals will be awarded at the Edmonton Games.
11. Creative Writing competitors are welcome to make their own arrangements to attend the Provincial Games (at their own expense).

CREATIVE WRITING RULES

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR CREATIVE WRITING

Note that entries that do not adhere to the length restrictions for each Class will be disqualified.

CLASS A – POETRY (MAX. 34 LINES)

1. Technical correctness.
2. Use of appropriate imagery.
3. Clarity of expression.
4. Significance, depth of thought.
5. Originality of idea and presentation.

CLASS B – LIGHT VERSE (MAX. 15 LINES)

1. Technical correctness.
2. Use of appropriate imagery.
3. Clarity of expression.
4. Significance, depth of thought.
5. Originality of idea and presentation.

CLASS C – SHORT FICTION (MAX. 2000 WORDS)

1. Clarity and originality of expression.
2. Significance and originality of thought.
3. Characters: presentation and development.
4. Structure: consistent with short story.
5. Technical correctness.

CLASS D – NON-FICTION – SERIOUS (MAX. 2000 WORDS)

1. Matters of Convention*.
2. Matters of Organization**.
3. Matters of Choice***.
4. Knowledge of Subject Area.
5. Interest value, significance, depth of thought.

CLASS E – NON-FICTION - HUMOROUS (MAX. 2000 WORDS)

1. Matters of Convention*.
2. Matters of Organization**.
3. Matters of Choice***.
4. Universality of Humor.
5. Application of Humorous Devices

***Matters of Convention**

When judging Matters of Convention, the judge will consider the correctness of

- mechanics (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.)
 - grammar (agreement of subject-verb/pronoun-antecedent, pronoun reference, etc.)
- Proportion of error to complexity and length of response will also be considered.

****Matters of Organization**

When judging Organization, the judge will consider how effectively the writing demonstrates

- a focused and ordered discussion
- establishment and maintenance of a controlling idea
- a developed and concluded discussion of ideas.

*****Matters of Choice**

When judging Matters of Choice, the judge will consider the extent to which the writing exhibits effective control of

- tone, including the total impression of stylistic control;
- diction, including any connotative language, imagery and/or idiomatic expressions; and
- syntax, including such choices as parallelism, balance, inversion and sentence length and variety.

