



Imagine Your Story With Hamden Public Library

Teens (entering grades 6-12)! Want to be entered to win a \$50 gift card? Of course you do!

Ok, what do I have to do?

Write me a story! Any story. Seriously, I can not make this any easier for you. Tell me that Cinderella chose to leave the prince and travel the world. Maybe the Prince Charmings are in love and don't want to marry princesses anyway. Whatever, I want it all! Then, email it to me at abussard@hamdenlibrary.org by 5pm on August 28, 2020.

How long does the story have to be?

As short or as long as you want it to be. For the most part. It still needs to have a beginning, a middle, and an end. Ever heard of 6 word stories? Or two sentence horror stories? They exist. Here is an example of a short story that works within those guidelines:

Growing up with cats and dogs, I got used the sounds of scratching at my door while I slept. Now that I live alone, it's much more unsettling.
(creepypasta.com)

Good, right? But that doesn't mean you can't write me a longer story. Write what you are comfortable writing.

Does it have to be a fairy tale?

No way! I just love fairy tales. Write me a sad story, a scary story, a silly story. Or, reimagine a fairy tale! Whatever you want.

Are you going to be reading these stories to choose a winner?

I am for sure going to read the stories, but I am not judging them and giving the gift card to the “best,” or to my “favorite.” Mostly because I think they are all the best and they will all be my favorite and I don’t need that sort of pressure.

So, how do I win?

Write a story. Send it to me at abussard@hamdenlibrary.org by 5pm on August 28. Congrats, you are entered to win!

Do you have any writing prompts?

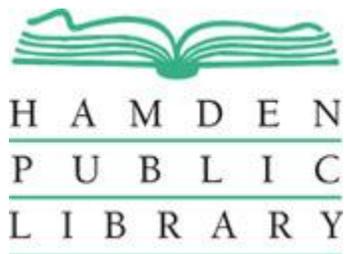
Sure! How about these:

- Write about a character who finds an odd-looking egg in the forest. When they take it home, they never could have predicted what was inside it.
- Write about a character whose world is dying. The actual earth is sick and killing all the plants and probably life as they know it.
- Your character boards a ship to sail across to a newly discovered land. What they find when they get there are undiscovered species - both animal and humanoid.
- Write a story about your character and while awaiting test results in the hospital, they encounter an...*odd* person who teaches them about a world beyond their own - and better than their own.
- Write a fantasy story about a character who wakes up every day feeling the same thing: that something in their life is just...*missing*. When they realize their frequent nightmares are actually memories, it all becomes clear.
- Your character hears a language they’ve never heard uttered before that day...yet they understood every single word. Turns out, they’re not really from where they think.
- A flood swept away an entire town, leaving only the library and its strange secret.
- A character in your story becomes aware that they are in a story.
- Your protagonist is visited by a comic book hero who needs their help.
- Your main character finds himself/herself in the video game they were playing.
- A writer’s manuscript contains words he didn’t write...ghostwriting in its truest form. But who is his co-author and what does the ghost want?
- Your protagonist awoke from a nightmare to find an object from his/her dream laying on the pillow.
- Your protagonist wakes up aged considerably, after a Rip Van Winkle-esque 20-year nap, and his friends don’t believe his story.
- Your main character is given an important heirloom, an item passed down for generations in their family. But it is cursed.
- The doorbell rings. No one is there, but a mysterious package was left behind. Your character opens it up and find something inside that’s very unexpected.
- At the library one afternoon doing some research, your character notices an unusual photograph. Your character is immediately captivated by it. What’s in the photograph?

- The glass slipper would not fit, and that would never do. Only moments now, before they knocked on her dressing room door, and her sister's slipper would not slide onto her foot.
- "What's that smell?"
- "How did you get that scar?"
- "You don't understand," she said, looking at him sadly. "I am not who you think I am."

What else?

- This is open to students in grades 6-12.
- Don't write anything vulgar. Or mean. Or gross. Just don't.
- Don't plagiarize.
- We will randomly choose a winner on August 31.
- Have fun!



Miller Memorial Library 2901 Dixwell Avenue Hamden, CT 06518 (203) 230-3770