



# 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Power of the Pen Creative Writing Contest

Presented by  
The Hamilton Public Library and The Hamilton Spectator

Submit online at [teens.hpl.ca](http://teens.hpl.ca)  
**Call for Entry – Contest Closes September 30th, 2017**

Writers of short stories and poetry are encouraged to submit their works to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Power of the Pen Awards. Entrants must be between the ages of 12 and 18 and be a resident of Hamilton, Burlington, Flamborough, Dundas, Ancaster, Stoney Creek, Grimsby and communities within the outermost boundaries of those locations. Please submit an original short story or poem before September 30, 2017 to be eligible. If based upon another work (ie. fanfiction), clearly state the work of inspiration. A distinguished panel of professional writers and reviewers will judge the entries on the basis of originality, style, general presentation as well as spelling and grammar. Online submissions are encouraged – [hpl.ca/teens](http://hpl.ca/teens).

## **New Category!**

For 2017, we are excited to have a French category! There will be four categories: Age 12-14 Poetry, Age 12-14 Short Fiction, Age 15-18 Poetry, Age 15-18 Short Fiction. A first and second prize will also be offered for each category. Contestants can submit entries in both languages.

## **Prizes:**

A first and second prize winner will be chosen in each age category – 12 through 18 years of age. First prize winners in each age category will receive a cash prize of \$100 while second prize winners in each age category will receive \$25. Award winners will receive a copy of the Power of the Pen publication.

Each prize-winning entry will also qualify for the Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Literature, Science and Art's prestigious Maitland Banting Silver Quill Award and the Hamilton Association Young Poet's Award. The winner in each category will receive a cash prize of \$250.

Each participant will be entered into an online draw for the chance to win an iPad mini.

## **Contest Rules:**

- One poem and/or short story per person may be submitted in both the English and French categories. Each entry requires a separate entry form.
- Short stories must not exceed 2,500 words in length. Poems may be any length.
- Entries should be typed, double-spaced and all pages numbered. Paper copies are required for mailed and hand-delivered submissions.
- Typed entries must double-spaced, with font Arial or Times New Roman and size 11 or 12 point.
- Do not put your name anywhere on your work. Your name must be on the entry form only.
- All works submitted must be original. If it is fanfiction, the work of inspiration must be clearly named.
- The decision of the judges is final.
- Judged submissions will be available for pick-up the evening of the awards ceremony or during the month of January at Central Library.
- All entries will be scanned to ensure originality. Plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification.

## **How to Enter:**

Attach an entry form to your submission. Submit your original short story and or poem to any branch of the Hamilton Public Library by September 30, 2017.

Winners will be notified in December and will be asked to provide an electronic copy of their winning submission for publication and posting. For more information, please call 905-546-3200 x1045.

## **Note to Teachers:**

If you are submitting a short story or poem on behalf of a student, please ensure that each work is accompanied by a completed official entry form.

# Power of the Pen 2017 - ENTRY FORM



\*Please complete all sections of the entry form and print clearly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade completed in June: \_\_\_\_\_

## Completing this form gives the Hamilton Public Library your consent to:

- Collect your personal information, which will only be used by the Hamilton Public Library and the Hamilton Spectator to communicate with you about the Power of the Pen Writing contest;
- Use you/your child's original written submission or photograph for publicity.\*

\*Publicity can include: print materials such as: posters, brochures, etc..., local and social media, in addition to online sites such as: [hpl.ca](http://hpl.ca).

## TITLE OF SUBMISSION:

\_\_\_\_\_

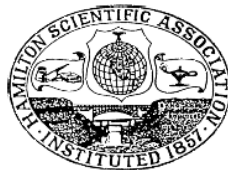
POEM  SHORT STORY  ENGLISH  FRENCH

\*Please use one entry form per submission.

## How did you find out about the Power of the Pen?

Word of mouth (Family/friends)  Teacher  In library  Website  Participated last year

Thank you for submitting your work to the Power of the Pen Creative Writing Contest. Winners will be notified in December. All judged submissions will be available for pick-up the evening of the awards ceremony or during the month of January at Central Library.



STAFF: PLEASE FORWARD TO CENTRAL LIBRARY – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Attn: Marcel Faulkner