



11th Annual MISFITS Writing Contest

Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Supernatural and Alternate History Fiction

This contest is sponsored by MISFITS (subcommittee of the Minnesota Society for Interest in Science Fiction & Fantasy). MISFITS is a non-profit organization working to encourage and enhance literacy in Minnesota.

Entries will be grouped and judged in these categories:

OPEN DIVISION: Open to writers of any age. There will be TWO (2) winners chosen from this category. One winner will be chosen from all entries. An additional winner will be chosen from contestants residing in the local area to receive the Scott Imes Award.

SCOTT IMES AWARD

The MISFITS premier award proudly honors Scott Imes, a major force in the Twin Cities' science fiction reading and writing community, who passed away in December 2001. For over two decades, Scott Imes worked at Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Bookstore; his recommendations served those far beyond its doors.

POETRY DIVISION: Open to entries from writers of any age.

YOUTH DIVISION 1: Open to writers 11 years of age or younger (as of May 1, 2009).

YOUTH DIVISION 2: Open to writers 12-13 years of age (as of May 1, 2009).

YOUTH DIVISION 3: Open to writers 14-16 years of age (as of May 1, 2009).

Contest Rules

- 1) **All entries must be original unpublished works by nonprofessional (amateur) authors.**
- 2) ONE ENTRY PER PERSON in either the Open Division or one of the Youth Divisions. An entry can be made to the Poetry Division in addition to ONE of the other Divisions.
- 3) There is NO entry fee for any submission.
- 4) Division winners from 2008 are not eligible to win in the same division in 2009 – but are allowed to enter a different division.
- 5) Entries must meet the stated Rules and Submission Format or they will be refused. If this happens the author will be notified via email and allowed to resubmit the corrected entry by the contest deadline (11:59 pm CDT on May 1, 2009)
- 6) **By entering the contest, the author of a winning entry gives permission to MISFITS to publish their submission in a yearly volume of contest-winning entries and any anthologies of winning entries. The winning entries may also be posted on the MISFITS web site.**

Submission Details

- 1) Entries must be an MS Word (or equivalent word processing software) document.
- 2) Entries must be 5,000 words OR FEWER.
- 3) Entries must be typed as follows:
8.5" x 11" size; 1 inch margins; double-spaced; 11 pt font; black text in arial, verdana or times new roman; pages numbered.
- 4) Story/poem title should appear on each page of the manuscript, but author's name should only appear on the title page.
- 5) Entries must be submitted electronically by emailing the entry as an attachment to writingcontest@misfit.org.
ONE ENTRY PER EMAIL MESSAGE. If you have more than one entry they must be sent in separate email messages.

Title Page

The title page should include the following contact information:

All divisions: story/poem title; division, word count, author name, complete mailing address and email address.

Youth divisions: age of youth, birth date of youth, name of parent or guardian, email address of parent or guardian, name of school, city where school is located.

Submission Deadline

Entries will be accepted from April 1, 2009 through May 1, 2009. Entries should be emailed as attachments to writingcontest@misfit.org. **All entries are due by 11:59 pm CDT on May 1, 2009.**

Prizes

- The winner of each Youth Division will receive a \$75 Amazon.com gift certificate, with a second \$75 gift certificate being awarded to the winner's school.
- The Poetry Division winner will receive a \$75 Amazon.com gift certificate.
- The general winner of the Open Division will receive a \$125 Amazon.com gift certificate.
- The Scott Imes Award Winner will receive a \$225 gift certificate from Uncle Hugo's.

Judging

Two or more qualified writers or editors will evaluate each submission. All works will be pre-screened to ensure they meet the rules and submission format stated above. **The judges will NOT read any entries that do not meet the requirements.**

Questions

Please contact Jodie Gustafson, Writing Contest Coordinator at writingcontest@misfit.org with any questions you may have.