

## STARWATCH XXXIX Creative Writing Contest 2019

Sponsored by Tahlequah Friends of the Library and Tahlequah Public Library

Once again, the Tahlequah Friends of the Library is sponsoring a writing contest in Cherokee County for students and adults. This year we are accepting entries for six levels of writers: 4th Grade, 5th Grade, 6th Grade, 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grades, 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grades, and Adults. Everyone is invited to submit entries (one or two in any or all of the three following entry categories).

**Poetry** – no more than 30 lines. Poetry is a **word song** with a beat and sometimes rhymes. Sounds and syllables may be repeated. Line breaks create form and space. Rules about sentences, paragraphs, and punctuation are suspended. Some types of poetry have rules about rhyme patterns or numbers of syllables in a line while others are “free form”.

**Fiction** - under 1500 words. **A fictional short story (including fictional essay)**, is made from imagination and written in sentences and paragraphs. The writer makes fantasized scenes seem real by writing believable characters, scenery, dialogue and action. Historical fiction mixes known history with information that can't be known exactly. **This applies to the essays written for the DAR contest, etc., where you use a historical event and put yourself into the course of events.**

**Nonfiction** - under 1500 words. Nonfiction is a **true account** written in sentences and paragraphs. Nonfiction includes essays: personal factual, memoir, information, history, biography, and inspiration.

**\*\*\*Very important\*\*\* All entries must be single-spaced and typed in Arial font size 12. Do not use italics or bold or script font. Set margins at ¾ inch. Please do not put your name on your work. Do put the title on each page and number the pages in the upper right hand corner. Under the title on the first page indicate your category: poetry, fiction, or nonfiction. Failure to follow these guidelines will lead to disqualification. Submissions will be accepted by email in Google document format or Microsoft Word format.**

Entries may be submitted from **Friday, February 22 and no later than noon Saturday March 2, 2019, by email.** Winners will be notified, and **awards will be presented at a reception to be held on Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m. in Richardson Hall at Go Ye Village.** Winning entries will be published in the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Starwatch Anthology, with first-place winners receiving one free copy of the anthology.

Teachers, please feel free to make multiple copies of the information sheet with the entry form. It can also be downloaded at [www.eodls.lib.ok.us](http://www.eodls.lib.ok.us). Entry forms can be picked up at the circulation desk in the Tahlequah Public Library, 120 South College Street.

We look forward to your participation in Starwatch XXXIX.