

# Guidelines for Writers

*We're delighted that you have chosen to share your writing talent with us!*

1. When submitting a story, work to have both an opening and a closing which are as effective as the main body of your tale.
2. **Thoroughly proofread and edit your story before submitting it.** Work toward applying standard writing conventions such as those for spelling, punctuation, grammar, paragraphing, consistency of verb tenses, etc. Insufficient proofreading or editing often detracts from the creative, core ideas of an otherwise exceptional piece of writing and may even lower its score. Dialog among story characters requires special attention. **Standard writing conventions help the reader to understand the ideas in the story!**
3. Put your story or poem aside for a few days after writing. Then go over it with a fresh eye and polish it as needed before submitting it.
4. Think about how your writing could move beyond a literal interpretation of the theme you choose by taking a more figurative approach.
5. Give your story entry an original, creative title. Generally speaking, the theme that you choose from the given list, for either a story or poem, should **NOT** serve as the title for your entry. (Titles are optional for poetry.)
6. Take a look at the **Torrance Legacy Creative Writing Awards Rubrics for Stories and Poems**. You may find them to be helpful resources.

*Enjoy the process of writing and let your imagination soar!*