

44th Annual Creative Writing Contest

September 2026

Dear School Administrator:

It is time once again to prepare for the AACCS Creative Writing Contest for elementary (grades 4–6) and junior high (grades 7–8) students. We trust that your school will participate in this year's contest.

Enclosed are the rules and a copy of each judging sheet. Schools should submit the student's unmarked work. **Note that digital entries are required.** See the submission guidelines.

Teachers are encouraged to prepare and guide the students as they write. Pre-writing steps allow teachers to incorporate the project into the teaching and learning process and improve the contest entries. Note that student entries are not required to be spiritual in nature or application. Content should be wholesome and within the boundaries of appropriate Christian thought and behavior (Phil. 4:8). Vulgarity, sexual innuendoes, crass humor, dark subject matter, distasteful, and biblically objectionable content are not appropriate.

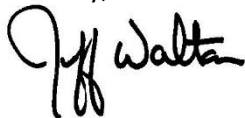
You will select one poetry winner and one short story winner on the elementary level (grades 4–6), and one poetry winner and one short story winner on the junior high level (grades 7–8). Please note: The junior high competition is limited to grades 7 and 8, since 9th-grade students can compete in the AACCS National Competition, which includes creative writing. ***A student may enter only one category—either short story or poetry.*** These four entries are the only entries (and judging forms) that you email to your state office for judging.

Digital submission is required. For each of the four entries submitted to your state office, email the student entry and the student judging form as attachments. Follow the instructions on the rules sheet for naming files.

We look forward to another exciting contest as students use their God-given skills. ***Only schools that have submitted their 2026–2027 membership application and proper membership dues are eligible to compete in the 2026–2027 Creative Writing Contest.***

All entries must be submitted to your state office by December 7, 2026. (This date may vary by state. Please contact your state office for exact deadline for your state.) National winners are announced in April.

Sincerely,



Jeff Walton
AACCS Executive Director