

Quesnel and Area - 2026 Short Story Writing Contest

Quesnel Art Gallery, in partnership with the Quesnel Writers Group, present a unique collaborative writing contest featuring paintings by local artists as prompts for local writers.

Using one of the two chosen paintings below as inspiration, write a short story (500 words max). At one point in your story, you must somehow address the subject of your chosen image.

Prizes will be awarded in three categories:

Children — 9-13

Youth — 14-18

Adult — 19+

Please carefully read the contest rules and instructions below before submitting a story.

Deadline to enter: May 15, 2026

Entry fee: \$5

This form asks for your email. Please do not use a School District email address, as these accounts block our contest email addresses.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

Inspiration

Choose one of the two paintings as inspiration. At one point in your story, you must somehow address the subject of your chosen inspiration.

To see your chosen inspiration up close, and to fully appreciate its impact, come to the Quesnel Arts & Rec Centre. **The original pieces will be on display in the Arts & Rec Centre at the Art Gallery, 500 North Star Road.**

OPEN TO BEAUTY

Artist: Sandy Meidlinger



FRIENDS

Artist: Pat Hildebrandt



Contest rules

- Short stories are limited to 500 words. Entries of more than 500 words will not be considered.
- Entries must be inspired by one of the two art pieces, and in some way address the subject of the art piece.
- Entries must be typed, double-spaced in 12 or 14 pt font. Acceptable file formats: Word, Google Doc, or PDF. Hand-written entries will not be accepted.
- The contest is open to residents of the Cariboo & Prince George areas.
- One entry per person. Multiple entries by one writer will result in all entries being disqualified. Please choose one of the art pieces only.
- All work must be original and cannot be generated in whole or in part by Artificial Intelligence.
- All work must be previously unpublished and winners cannot submit their story to any other contest.
- Winning submissions may appear in local print publications and online media.

Prizes will be awarded in three categories:

Children – ages 9-13

Youth – ages 14-18

Adult – ages 19+

Winners will be notified by email from writingcontest@quesnelartgallery.ca by the end of August. Prizes will be awarded at Quesnel Writers Day event at the Quesnel Public Library on October 3. Information will be included in winners' notification emails.

Judging criteria

- Is it convincing?
- Does it draw the reader into its world?
- Do the characters come alive?
- Is it exciting or moving?

Judges will do their best to provide comments and feedback on your short story. All stories, along with the judges' comments, can be picked up at the Quesnel Writers Day event at the Quesnel Public Library on October 3. If you cannot pick up your story on October 3, you can pick it up at the Art Gallery between October 4 and October 31, 2026.

How to submit

1. **Complete the registration questions below.**
2. **Attach your short story as a digital file in the space provided at the end of this form. Entries must be in Word, Google Doc, or PDF format.**

Entries can also be emailed to writingcontest@quesnelartgallery.ca or dropped off at the Art Gallery at 500 North Star Road. If you are submitting by email or in person, you must ensure that you either complete and submit the registration questions below, or include answers to the questions in your email or cover sheet. Stories submitted with incomplete registration questions will not be accepted.

*** Please do not use a School District email address, as these accounts block emails from our contest email addresses. ***

3. **Send an Interac e-Transfer with your \$5 entry fee to quesnelwritersday@gmail.com**

If you are sending your e-Transfer from a different email address than you used to submit your form, please include in the e-Transfer memo either the email, contact name, or author's name you used on the registration form. This will us match your entry fee with your short story and registration form.

DEADLINE:

May 15, 2026

Your

registration, short story, and entry fee must be received by May 15, 2026 in order to be entered into the contest.

Why do I have to send my entry fee to a different email address?

We are asking that entry fees be submitted to the

Quesnel Writers Group (quesnelwritersday@gmail.com) because they are coordinating the judging of the

contest. The Writers group are accepting entry fees, giving honorariums to the volunteer judges, and awarding prizes.

Why is there an entry fee?

Entry fees help cover the cost of the writing contest and Quesnel Writers Day. The contest

does not generate a profit.

2. **Contact Name:** *

3. **Author's Name (if different than contact):**

4. **Phone Number:** *

5. **Mailing Address:** *

6. Please choose your category: *

Mark only one oval.

Children — 9-13

Youth — 14-18

Adult — 19+

7. Which painting did you choose as your inspiration? *

Mark only one oval.



Esc
ape



Dad's
Skates

8. How did you hear about the writing contest? *

Mark only one oval.

Poster

Art Gallery social media

Heard from a friend

Quesnel Writers Group

Other:

—

9. Would you like to subscribe to the email list for updates and information for future contests hosted by the Quesnel Writers' Group?

Mark only one oval.

Yes!

No

10. **Submit your short story**

You may upload your story here.

Accepted file formats: Word, Google Doc, PDF

Otherwise, entries can be emailed

to writingcontest@quesnelartgallery.ca or dropped off at the Art Gallery.

Files submitted:

Contact us

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at

writingcontest@quesnelartgallery.ca or call the Gallery at **250-991-4014**.

Shae Lightning, Operations Manager

Quesnel Art Gallery

500 North Star Road

Quesnel, BC V2J 5P6

Kathy, Tristin, Shannon, and Katie

Quesnel Writers Group

quesnelwritersday@gmail.com

Thank You to our partners & sponsors!



**Quesnel
Writers'
Group**



Rotary
Quesnel



My Own Collection



vancouver
foundation