**Laurier Stedman Prize 2025-26 Author Guidelines**

**Do you have a story to tell? Write it and ask your teacher to consider entering it in the Laurier Stedman Prize contest. You could win up to 3500$!**

1) To be ELIGIBLE you must have been a student in a Grand Erie or BHNC District School Board high school (or a secondary level student in these boards’ catchment areas) in the 2024-25 or 2025-26 school years.

2) TALK TO AN ENGLISH TEACHER at your school to find out how to submit your story and when it is due. **April 2, 2026 is the final deadline**, but your teacher will probably want it earlier than that. Supervisors of homeschooled students will submit their stories by **March 26, 2026.**

3) WRITE YOUR STORY! It must be your own original, previously unpublished fiction, written in English, and 1500 words or less. (Include the word count at the end of the story). Set all margins to 1” (2.54 cm), doublespace all text, and use Calibri 12pt font. Write the title of the story on the top line of the first page, and in a header that is at the top of each page of the story. Number all the pages. DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE STORY. Stories must be judged “blind”: remove any information from your story that could be used to identify yourself or your school.

4) SUBMIT your story. Find out which teacher is coordinating the contest at your school. Refer to the Student Checklist and ensure all relevant information is submitted to the teacher coordinator. Email that teacher the following THREE things.

1. A PDF file of your story, laid out as described above in #3.
2. A 100-150 word passage from your story that may be showcased.

c) A declaration of eligibility, originality and consent for publication. Here’s how you do that:

On a separate page clearly print **your name**, **the date**, and the words: **“I am eligible to enter the Laurier Stedman Prize contest. [***your story’s title***] is my own original, previously unpublished work of fiction. I consent to have my story published by Wilfrid Laurier University, and my name and photo used in the promotion of the Laurier Stedman Prize contest.”**

Sign this and take a photo of it. Attach that photo to the email to your teacher, along with the PDF of your story and your 100-150 word passage.

Homeschooled students, please ask your supervisor to use the submission form on our website to send all relevant documents by **March 26, 2026**. Your story will be evaluated by a special jury at Laurier Brantford, and 1 of every 5 homeschooled student stories will be chosen to be entered in the Laurier Stedman Prize contest.

5) CROSS YOUR FINGERS!!! After you’ve submitted your story, wait and find out if it was chosen to be one of the limited number of stories that your school can enter in the Laurier Stedman Prize contest. If it is, congratulations! It will now be read and evaluated by juries at Laurier Brantford made up of English students, professors and published authors.

If your story is entered by your school in the Laurier Stedman Prize contest or you are a homeschooled student whose story is selected by the Laurier jury to move into the competition, you will be invited to attend the Awards Celebration to be held in May 2026 on the campus of Laurier Brantford. The authors of all stories that are entered by their school will receive a prize package. Ten finalists chosen from the pool of entrants will receive larger prizes, from a 200$ gift package, to as much as 3500$ cash for the Grand Prize winner.

**New this year,** following the competition student authors wishing to receive some brief feedback about their stories from the jurors can contact the contest administrator at lsp@wlu.ca and request this.

GOOD LUCK!