



For more information, please contact:  
Allison Baron, 682-551-7172  
allison@brendathompson.com

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## **Texas Book Festival announces 2014 Fiction Writing Contest for grades 7-12**

***Topic: 'The People Our Parents Warned Us About'***

AUSTIN—Texas Book Festival is accepting entries for its 13th annual Fiction Writing Contest to encourage and reward creative writing in Texas schools. This year's fiction writing contest theme is "The People Our Parents Warned Us About." The topic was selected by Texas Book Festival fans on Facebook, who voted it as their favorite of four choices.

Texas junior and high school students (grades 7-12) are invited to submit a piece of original fiction, no more than 2,000 words in length. Entries must be submitted online via the form on the Texas Book Festival's website no later than June 2, 2014. Submitted entries are considered in three divisions: grades 7-8, grades 9-10, and grades 11-12.

Winners in each division will receive a cash prize: \$250 for first place, \$100 for second, and \$50 for third. In addition, first place winners will be awarded a plaque, have their stories published on the Texas Book Festival website, and be invited to participate on a panel during the annual fall Festival in October. Accommodations for one night will be provided for the first-place winners and their family.

Entries that do not follow all contest rules will be disqualified.

### **Contest Rules**

1. Students must enter in one of three divisions: grades 7-8, grades 9-10, or grades 11-12. Authors enter the division for which they were a student during the 2013-2014 academic year.
2. All entries must be an original piece of fiction.
3. All entries must be submitted online. The online form will be available January 27, 2014. There is no entry fee.

4. Entries must be 2,000 words or less, 12 point type, double-spaced, and related to the theme “The People Our Parents Warned Us About.”
5. Entries must have a cover page that includes the student’s name, entry title, grade level, and an automated word count.
6. All entries must be submitted between Jan. 27 and June 2, 2014.
7. The submissions will be judged by educators, authors, and community leaders.
8. Judges will look for excellence in use of dialogue, imagery, character development, setting, plot, conflict, and resolution.
9. Winners will be notified by August 3, 2014.

Since 2001, the Texas Book Festival has partnered with UIL to host its annual Fiction Writing Contest. The mission of the Texas Book Festival is to celebrate authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. The Contest serves to promote that culture to students across Texas and to educate them on the opportunities available to writers.

For more information about the Fiction Writing Contest or to submit entries, please visit <http://www.texasbookfestival.org/fiction-contest/> or contact Kendall Miller, (512) 477-4055, [kendall@texasbookfestival.org](mailto:kendall@texasbookfestival.org).

For real-time updates on the Texas Book Festival’s year-round programming, author interviews, and local literary news and events, visit the Festival’s Lit Blog, [www.texasbookfestival.org/lit-blog/](http://www.texasbookfestival.org/lit-blog/), like the Festival on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/texas-book-festival](http://www.facebook.com/texas-book-festival), and follow us on Twitter, [www.twitter.com/texasbookfest](http://www.twitter.com/texasbookfest), #txbookfest.

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### **About Texas Book Festival**

The Texas Book Festival is a nonprofit organization that celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by Laura Bush and a group of volunteers, the annual Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol. The Festival features readings and discussions from more than 250 renowned Texas and national authors, entertaining and informing more than 40,000 adults and children alike. Thanks to the Festival’s 1,000 volunteers, the event remains free and open to the public. The TBF supports Texas public libraries and literacy through its Library Grants and Reading Rock Stars programs, and also hosts year-round events across the state. Texas Book Festival members receive invitations to exclusive author events, priority seating, the latest literary news, and more. Visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) for more information.