



**TEXAS
BOOK
FESTIVAL**

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March 27, 2015

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

Topic: 'I never told you, but...'

AUSTIN—The Texas Book Festival is accepting entries for its 15th annual Fiction Writing Contest to encourage and reward creative writing in Texas schools. This year's theme is "I never told you, but..." The topic was selected by the Texas Book Festival's fans on social media, who voted it as their favorite of three choices.

Texas junior and high school students in grades 7-12 are invited to submit a piece of original fiction, no more than 2,000 words. Entries must be submitted online via the form on the Texas Book Festival's website no later than June 15. 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. 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 Festival, October 17-18. Accommodations for one night will be provided for the first-place winners and their families. In addition, the top five finalists in the two older divisions, grades 9-10 and grades 11-12, will be invited to attend a writing workshop hosted by Austin Bat Cave during the Festival.

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

Contest Rules

1. Students must reside in Texas and 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 2014-2015 academic year.
2. All entries must be an original piece of fiction.

3. All entries must be submitted online. The online form is available on the Texas Book Festival's website at <http://www.texasbookfestival.org/fiction-contest/>. There is no entry fee.
4. Entries must be 2,000 words or less, 12 point type, double-spaced, and related to the theme "I never told you, but..."
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 March 2 and June 15, 2015.
7. Students may only enter one submission. 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, 2015.

Since 2001, the Texas Book Festival has held an 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 promotes that culture to students across Texas and helps them learn about 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.

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About the Texas Book Festival

The Texas Book Festival celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by first lady Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of volunteers, the nonprofit Texas Book Festival promotes the joys of reading and writing through its annual Festival Weekend, the one-day Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars program, grants to Texas libraries, youth fiction writing contest, and year-round literary programming. The Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol each fall and features more than 280 renowned authors, panels, book signings, live music, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) @texasbookfest.