

Ventura County Writers Club

9th Annual Short Story Contest

Deadline for entries: October 1, 2008

Grand Prize: \$500.00, AND:

Publication in the Day to Day section of the Ventura County Star, scheduled for Sunday, November 16, 2008.

Second prize: **\$250.00**

Third Prize: **\$125.00**

Contest Rules

All stories must be original and may not have been previously published in any newspaper, magazine, or book, whether or not the author received compensation. Submissions may be in any genre.

Format

Each entry must be typed (typewriter or word processor) and double-spaced, using 12-point font, 1 ¼-inch margins on both sides, 1-inch margins top and bottom. Use standard 8 ½ x 11 inch paper. Do not use legal size. Indent the first line of each paragraph, and number all pages, top or bottom. Stories must be 10 pages or fewer. Put the story title at the top of each page.

Presentation

On the Official Entry Form, write in the title of the story along with the writer's name, address, and telephone number. Do not put the writer's name on any other pages. Submit three copies of the story. A copy of the Official Entry Form may be downloaded from our website, <http://www.venturacountywriters.com/>.

Judging

Entries will be judged on the basis of plot (25 pts.), character development (25 pts.), intent/focus (15 pts.), reader interest (15 pts.), style/voice (10 pts.), grammar/punctuation (5 pts.), and title (5 pts.).

How to Enter

You may enter as many stories as you like, as long as each story is accompanied by a separate entry fee. For members of VCWC, the entry fee is \$15.00. For non-members, the entry fee is \$25.00. Please make checks payable to VCWC. Please do not send cash. Entries must be postmarked no later than October 1, 2008 to be eligible.

All decisions of the judges are final. Entries not following the contest rules will be disqualified. No entries will be returned.

Those who have won first place in the last three years are not eligible. No person may win more than one prize.

Winners will be notified by telephone prior to November 16, 2008. Prizes will be awarded at the general meeting of the Ventura County Writers Club on January 13, 2009

Information on how to purchase *Quintessence*, our anthology that includes the short story winners from 2006 and 2007, and *Out of Thin Air*, our previous anthology, is available on VCWC's website – <http://www.venturacountywriters.com/>

**Mail all entries to:
VCWC – Short Story Contest
P.O. Box 3373
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359**

For further information contact Susan Hutton, Contest Chairperson, (805) 492-3022, sjh41@yahoo.com

The VCWC meets 7:00 P.M on the second Tuesday of each month (except in December) at Borders Books, 125 W. Thousand Oaks Boulevard in Thousand Oaks. Meetings are free and open to the public.