

## PLEASE NOTE:

- A panel of judges will select the winners based on creativity, grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, neatness, and attention to detail.
- Winners and Honorable Mentions (up to 3 of each) will be selected in four categories:
  - Grades 1 & 2
  - Grades 3 & 4
  - Grades 5 & 6
  - Past Winners
- Winners will be notified by letter in April 2025. If your book is not chosen, we will return it by mail.
- Everyone will receive a certificate of participation.
- We will honor the winners at a special ceremony in late Spring 2025.
- The winning books will be bound and added as a permanent part of the Children's Department collection.

# TIPS FOR NOVEL WRITING

## Write & Illustrate Your Own Book Contest



# Need help?

## Come to the Young Writers Workshop!

Find out what the Write And Illustrate Your Own Book Contest judges are looking for!

Improve your writing skills and discuss mistakes to avoid. If you plan to stay for a brief personal evaluation after the class, please prepare questions or ideas ahead of time or bring one or two pages of your story for review.

The Young Writers Workshop is typically offered during the fall and spring semesters. Please check the Children's Department calendar or our website calendar at **[schlowlibrary.org](http://schlowlibrary.org)** for dates and to register.



## TIPS FOR NOVEL WRITING

1. Start early.
2. Create a writing schedule.
3. Write about what you know, or do research about a time in history, place, or person you find interesting so you can write a good story.
4. Be creative! Create characters and situations that are fun and imaginative.
5. Grab your reader with an exciting title and a well-written opening sentence.
6. Avoid relying on violence to advance your story, unless it is absolutely necessary such as in a novel about war.
7. Be sure your novel is original and does not follow the plot line, characters, or setting of another book.
8. Use strong vocabulary. Make your story interesting to read by using a variety of words.
9. Proofread your book so it is free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. It is often helpful to ask another person to help you proofread, too. They might see something you missed.
10. Follow the contest rules and make sure your text and drawings fall within the acceptable margins.