

# “Telling Our Tales” 2022 Guidelines and Instructions

Thomas Wolfe is well known for his autobiographical fiction. Wolfe used observations from his life and the world around him in his writing. In his short story “The Return of the Prodigal: The Thing Imagined,” Wolfe demonstrates his skills in an imaginative story about returning home after many years away. In honor of Wolfe’s legacy, the Thomas Wolfe Memorial encourages students to submit their own creative work, inspired by the story and Wolfe’s style of fiction. First, second, and third place winners will be chosen from three age groups: Grades 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Cash awards of \$50, \$30, and \$20 will be given to first, second, and third place winners. Winners will be announced in the last week of October. Manuscripts will not be returned, so be sure to keep a copy of your entry.

- 1) Read Thomas Wolfe’s “The Return of the Prodigal: The Thing Imagined” and the other material and information for the student writing competition found under the tab “For Teachers/Lessons and Programs” at [www.wolfememorial.com](http://www.wolfememorial.com).
- 2) Students will submit an essay using one or more of the prompts from “Ideas for Student Consideration 2022.”
- 3) Entries must be between 500-1000 words (2-4 pages), typed 12-point font, double-spaced, and in Word or PDF format.
- 4) Include a title page with the following information: title of story, your name, address, phone number, grade, the name of your school or home school.
- 5) Submissions will be judged anonymously. To assure confidentiality, **please only put the author's name on the title page.**
- 6) Please include the title of the story on the top of every page, in the upper right corner with the page number.
- 7) All entries must be original, written by the author, and unpublished.
- 8) Be sure to include the mandatory **Submission Form** with your paper.
- 9) Entries must be sent via mail or emailed to the Thomas Wolfe Memorial by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 8th. Stories sent by mail (postmarked no later than the 8<sup>th</sup>) must be sent to:

**Thomas Wolfe Memorial  
52 N. Market Street  
Asheville, NC 28801.**

Stories sent by email should be in .pdf or Microsoft Word format, with a scanned or digitally signed, mandatory **Submission Form** (included with materials on our website). Emailed entries should be sent to David Rayburn at [david.rayburn@ncdcr.gov](mailto:david.rayburn@ncdcr.gov).