

“Telling Our Tales” 2025 Guidelines and Instructions

Thomas Wolfe is often considered North Carolina’s greatest author. Best known for his style of autobiographical fiction, Wolfe used observations of his life and the world around him in his writing. In his short story “The Sun and the Rain,” Wolfe demonstrates his mastery in a piece of writing characterized by a main character in a setting who encounters and engages with and learns from people he’s only just met. In honor of Wolfe’s legacy, the Thomas Wolfe Memorial encourages students to submit their own creative work, inspired by “The Sun and the Rain” 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 \$100, \$50, and \$30 will be given to first, second, and third place winners, respectively. Additionally, teachers of first place winners will receive \$100 to spend on classroom needs and materials.** Manuscripts will not be returned, so be sure to keep a copy of your entry.

- 1) Access www.wolfememorial.com and under the “Student and Teachers” tab click on “Student Writing Competition” for links to the story, lesson plan, and subsequent materials.
- 2) Read Thomas Wolfe’s “The Sun and the Rain.” Refer to pages under the “History” tab on the Wolfe Memorial website for more information about Wolfe and the Memorial: www.wolfememorial.com.
- 3) Choose one or more of the prompts from “Writing Competition 2025 Prompts” for your writing.
- 4) Entries must be between 500-1000 words (2-4 pages), typed 12 point font, double-spaced, and in Word or PDF format.
- 5) 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, and the prompt number(s) your story follows** (Ex: “Prompt # 4).
- 6) All entries should have the title on the top of every page in the upper right corner with the page number.
- 7) Submissions will be judged anonymously. To assure confidentiality, **the author’s name should only appear on the cover page**, and not on the pages of the story itself.
- 8) All entries must be original, written by the author, and unpublished.
- 9) Be sure to include the mandatory **submission form** with your paper submission.
- 10) The manuscript will not be returned. Keep a copy of your entry.
- 11) Entries can be sent by mail, email, or hand delivered to the Thomas Wolfe Memorial by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 27th. Stories sent by mail must be sent to:

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

Please send emailed submissions to Bonnie Showfety at bonnie.showfety@dn-cr.nc.gov