

2026

Thomas Wolfe Memorial Student Writing Competition

Guidelines and Instructions

ALL SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE TURNED IN BY 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 25th.

Submit via Google Form: <https://forms.gle/URjzYmgpF2HEehys7>

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 "*Gulliver the Story of a Tall Man*," 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 "*Gulliver the Story of a Tall Man*" 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!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION:

- 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 "*Gulliver the Story of a Tall Man*." 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 two of the prompts from "Writing Competition 2026 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. The document should be named "Title of your Story- First and Last Name of the Author - Original- 2026" If you would like an example of the formatting please refer to our website under the Student Writing Competition page for a PDF.

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 and prompt on the top of every page in the upper right corner with the page number. Example: Story Title (2) Page 1

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 with no AI usage. If a story is suspected of plagiarism or AI usage, we will reach out to the student with the provided information and further examination will take place.

9) The manuscript will not be returned. Keep a copy of your entry.

10) It is preferred for entries to be submitted through the provided Google Form on our website on the Student Writing Competition Landing Page. Doing so will help staff have the needed information for judging without a separate submission form. If parents or teachers decide to submit them by mail, email, or hand delivered to the Thomas Wolfe Memorial please fill out the provided submission form on our website under the Student Writing Competition Landing Page.

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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@dncr.nc.gov

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Bonnie Showfety at bonnie.showfety@dncr.nc.gov or call the Wolfe Memorial at 828-253-8304 Tuesday-Saturday 8:30am - 4:30pm. You can also visit us in person if that is easier for you at

52 N. Market Street, Asheville, NC 28801