

# Short Story Contest Guidelines



Whether you write mystery, fantasy, adventure, or heartfelt realism—let your imagination explore what might be hiding behind *The Secret Shelf*.

## Theme / Prompt:

You may write on any topic of your choice, or use our optional prompt: “*A secret shelf in a library...*”

## Guidelines:

- Stories must be original works by the author.
- Maximum 750 words (about two one-sided, 8.5x11 pages).
- Open to all ages!
- Each person may submit up to two stories.
- Submissions may be dropped off in person or emailed to us.

**Deadline:** Friday, February 6, 2026

**Questions or Submissions to:**

[bosma.marijka@miltonpubliclibrary.org](mailto:bosma.marijka@miltonpubliclibrary.org)

Small prizes, bragging rights, and a chance to see your story shared with the community await!