



3rd Annual Texas Short Story Contest Contestant Rules

We're looking for short fiction stories! Think you can write a winning story in 5000 words or less? Enter Bethune & Son's third annual Texas Short Story Competition for your chance to win \$1,000 in cash, and get your story published! Please ensure you read the rules carefully before entering the competition.

Prizes:

One first place winner will receive:

- \$1,000 in cash
- Their short story published in the Bethune & Son Fiction Anthology, *Presidio*, sold in Bethune & Son stores
- Their story published on the Bethune & Son website
- Featured reading at the George West Storyfest

One second place winner will receive:

- \$300 in Bethune & Son store credit
- Their short story published in the Bethune & Son Fiction Anthology, *Presidio*, sold in Bethune & Son stores
- Their story published on the Bethune & Son website
- Featured reading at the George West Storyfest

One third place winner will receive:

- \$200 in Bethune & Son store credit
- Their short story published in the Bethune & Son Fiction Anthology, *Presidio*, sold in Bethune & Son stores
- Their story published on the Bethune & Son website
- Featured reading at the George West Storyfest

How to Enter:

- All entries must be submitted through our contest page on Submittable by 11:59 p.m. on August 2, 2019.
- Double check your submission follows the "rules" listed in this document.

- Entrants may enter up to 2 stories in the competition.

Entry implies acceptance of all the rules and failure to comply may result in disqualification.

*If a person under the age of 18 places as a finalist, their monetary prize will be processed as a scholarship toward academic pursuits.

Rules:

- 5000 words or less
- Be sure of your word count! Entries exceeding the word limit will be disqualified. The title is not included in the word count. Type the exact word count in the header of your first page.
- Every entry must follow the theme of “Black Gold” and discuss or reference the theme of Oil in some way, shape or form. Your story does not need to revolve around the theme, but should incorporate it into your story in any way you best see fit (e.g. setting, plot, dialogue, etc.)
- Your entry must be original, in English, unpublished and unproduced, not accepted by any other publisher or producer at the time of submission. Any discovery of publication of your story by another party will result in disqualification. Bethune & Son retains one-time non-exclusive publication rights to the winning entries. Any piece posted online, anywhere other than a personal blog, is considered published.
- Entries must be entirely the work of the entrant and by submitting you are confirming that the work is your own.
- All entries must be formatted to 8.5 x 11” or A4 paper.
- All manuscripts must be double spaced and be in 12 point font
- Entrants may enter up to 2 stories in the competition
- Manuscripts must not include name, address, phone number or other identifier of the author anywhere. All manuscripts will be given an anonymous identity for blind judging.
- The file name must be the title of the entry and it must be in PDF format. Extensions cannot be granted for corrupt, locked or unreadable documents, so be sure to test your document before submitting.

Receipt of Entry & Notifications:

- An automated response will be sent upon confirmation of receiving your submission
- An email response will be sent to participants notifying them of disqualification or if their story did not make it as a finalist
- An email response will be sent to finalists notifying them of their winning placement and any future action required
- Top award winners will be notified by October 15, 2019 by email.

- If you receive no notification by October 15, 2019, then your story did not place as a finalist. You are welcome to withdraw it for use in other contests, publications, etc.
- Runner-up stories may be personally contacted prior to December 31, 2019 if their story is selected as an honorable printing in Bethune & Son's anthology *Presidio*. Authors who agree to have their stories printed in *Presidio* are subject to the same copyright as contest winners (see below).

Copyright:

Worldwide copyright of each entry remains with the author, but Bethune & Son will have the unrestricted right to publish the winning short stories on the brand website and any relevant promotional material digital or printed. Entry implies acceptance of Bethune & Son's unrestricted right to publish the winning short stories.

Judging:

- Judging is by a panel of independent judges. Judges are local writers, community leaders, and business persons.
- Based on the average scores from the judges, the three stories with the highest average scores are designated as the contest finalists. Their placement is determined by their respective scores in ranking order from highest to lowest.
- Every entry will be read by the judges. Judge's scores are final. Scores will not be shared with the public.
- Entries must be submitted on the contest page on Submittable.com by 11:59 p.m., August 2nd, 2019. The link for our submittable web page is posted publicly on bethuneandson.com.
- Winners must provide an appropriate tax form (W9 or W8BEN) in order to receive their cash awards. If the forms are not received within 60 days, cash awards will be considered forfeited.
- The following are not permitted to enter the contest:
 - Employees of Bethune & Son and their immediate family members
 - Immediate family members of the contest judges
 - "Immediate family members" shall include spouses, siblings, parents, children, grandparents and grandchildren, whether as "in-laws," or by current or past marriage, remarriage, adoption, cohabitation or other familial extension.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Are there any restrictions regarding content, language, subject matter, etc.?

Your short story must somehow touch upon this year's theme "Black Gold". Otherwise, we do not have any restrictions or preferences

Is it okay to have illustrations or pictures? Please submit text only

Are pen names allowed?

You may enter under a pen name. Write your pen name on all communications so there are no mistakes on credits. Please be advised that we only need your real name if you are chosen as a winner (in order to issue prizes).

What if I only want to submit part of my story to stay within the word limit?

If you submit a portion of a larger work or novel it will be accepted, but please understand that it will be judged as a complete story, not as part of a larger work. It needs to read as a complete story in and of itself in order to meet judging criteria.

What if I am not a U.S. resident?

Writing competitions are open to U.S. residents only.

Is there an age limit for entrants?

There is no age limit for entrants. However, if a minor (under the age of 18) is a finalist, their monetary prize will be processed as an academic scholarship of the minor's choosing.

When will winners be notified?

October 15th, 2019. Please refer to the "Judging & Notification" section for more details.

Is there an entry fee? There is no entry fee.

Send your additional questions to info@bethuneandson.com