

WRITE

An original story starting with
the first line:
WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT...

Any genre. Min 250 words,
Max 500 words.

SUBMIT ENTRY

Complete form and upload
your story on our website.

Deadline: October 15

Stlwritersguild.org/young-writers-awards

WINNERS & FINALISTS ARE PUBLISHED IN ANTHOLOGY

Young Writers Collection
Published in January.
Book is priced as low as
possible, and money earned
is used for young writers
programming.

SLWG YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

FOR 4TH - 8TH GRADERS

2023 FIRST LINE: **WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT...**

Opens August 1, Deadline October 15

- No entry fee required
- Word count: Over 250 words, and a maximum of 500 words
- Stories must begin with the prompt: **WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT...**
- Stories must be the original creative work of the writer submitting it
- Stories may be scary, adventurous, humorous, or just plain fun
- Stories will be judged based on originality, cohesiveness, spelling, punctuation, and grammar
- Do not include pictures with your story
- Do not write the young writer's name on the story pages
- Title should be different from the first line
- Multiple entries are allowed. Entries can be uploaded via an online form, or mailed via USPS
- Each entry should be typed using a standard 12-point black font. No fancy fonts or colored paper! Use black ink on white paper if handwritten – print neatly

Eligibility: Any young writer may enter who qualifies for one of the two age groups. **Group 1: 4th & 5th Graders** and **Group 2: 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders**
Academic year is defined by the school district in which the writer attends or the curriculum the writer studies in a home school setting as of Oct. 15 of the current year.

To Enter: Please visit <https://www.stlwritersguild.org/young-writers-awards>, fill out the online form, and upload the file to enter. File name should include title and author name: StoryTitle_FirstNameLastName
File types accepted for upload: PDF, .doc, .docx, .txt
Entry & cover letter can be sent via USPS to: St. Louis Writers Guild, Attn: Young Writers Awards, P.O. Box 411757, St. Louis, MO, 63141

Prize: The winners and finalists in each category will be published in an anthology produced by St. Louis Writers Guild. They will be invited to read at a book party in January. No money will be paid. A print copy will be awarded to the winners and an ebook to the finalists. A recording may be made of the reading but will only be viewable to SLWG Members and Associate Members.

Throughout its history, St. Louis Writers Guild has encouraged writers of all ages. To inspire young writers and recognize excellence in creative writing, St. Louis Writers Guild created the Young Writers Awards in 2011.

Stlwritersguild.org | [@stlwritersguild](https://twitter.com/stlwritersguild) | Good luck to all who enter