

Guidelines for Story and Storytelling: Junior Category (Gr. 4–6)

Goal

Our goal is to celebrate the heritage and continued relevance of the sixteenth-century Protestant reformation. Participants are asked to write and/or narrate a story that touches their audience so that faith is strengthened, understanding increased, and praise given to our faithful Lord who continues to gather, defend, and preserve his Church. Story and storytelling are powerful and creative forms of written expression that are well suited to exploring ideas and feelings and touching the minds and hearts of readers and listeners. Story writing and telling allow the author to flesh out some of the nuances of events surrounding the circumstances of the reformation. They also give the opportunity to make characters come alive by having them give voice to their experiences through thought and dialogue.

Content

The story submitted can be on one of the following topics or themes

- Specific events during the Great Reformation (15th and 16th centuries—a list of specific topic possibilities is available)
- Experiences of key figures of the Reformation
- A representation of what lives in the heart of the Reformed Christian today as he or she reflects on what has happened in the past

Story & Story Telling Guidelines

- Stories must be original works based on historical record, and fitting for the time period of the setting described.
- All stories must be submitted in written form.
- Narrations of stories must be submitted electronically and include a written transcript.
- The narrative story may be written by one person and read by another.
- Stories must be between 500 and 2500 words in length depending on the category of submission.

There are 5 categories of entry for story submissions:

1. Junior (Grades 4–6; 500 words)
2. Intermediate (Gr. 7–10; 500–1000 words)
3. Senior High School (Gr. 11–12; 1500–2500 words)

4. Post-Secondary (College or University level: 1500–2500 words)
5. Advanced Open (for persons not currently being schooled, but skilled in writing and/or presentation: 1500–2500 words)

Submissions

We hope that you will submit your story and/or perform your storytelling for some local Reformation celebrations around October 31. The deadline for this use of your talents will be established locally, probably by your teacher, **anytime between June and October 20, 2017**.

A second submission deadline has been established for teachers to submit stories that best match the guidelines given here. Each school may determine its own selection process. This submission deadline is **December 15, 2017**.

In the junior category, participating schools should submit *no more than one story per category*. In the intermediate and senior high school categories, participating schools should submit *no more than two entries per category*. Each school may determine their own qualifying process to select and submit the best stories from each age group. Participants in the post-secondary and advanced open categories may submit one story per entrant.

To fully appreciate the excellence of a story, it should be read aloud and heard. We encourage recording your storytelling on video or audio and uploading it to **YouTube** (please use the “unlisted” privacy setting). The video links should be included with the submission of the written texts of the stories.

Please send these stories and recording links to Celebrate1517@gmail.com. You must include a filled-out **submission form**, for which you will find multiple links on our webpages. Your written text must be submitted in portable document format (**pdf**). The Celebrate 1517 Committee will code the submission to ensure complete anonymity when your poem is passed on the adjudication committee.

Permissions

By including your (or your legal guardian’s) signature on our submission form, you are giving your permission for your submitted work—should it be selected—to be included in a commemorative book to be published, Lord willing, in 2018.