

Publication Opportunities for Students

Before you send any work in, check the Writers' Guidelines, which are usually either on the website or inside the magazine. Pay attention to word count and any themes that might be requested. If a contest has a DEADLINE, make sure that your work arrives before deadline. There is usually no fee to submit your work to a legitimate publisher like those listed below.

Send your best work; and have a teacher, friend, or parent check your manuscript for typos. Use white paper, 8 1/2" x 11" and black ink with a normal font like Times / 12. Follow the guidelines carefully. For example, type your name and page # on each page, unless requested NOT to—sometimes contests want “blind” manuscripts with a separate cover sheet that has your title listed on it.

Every submission may need a cover letter and a SASE (self-addressed-stamped-envelope) so that the publisher can reply to your submission. Don't be discouraged if at first you don't succeed. Every rejection slip brings you one step closer to being published. Make sure to keep copies of any work that you submit. When your work is published, you will receive a copy of the issue, and sometimes payment, too. Keep copies or “clips” of all your published work. Best of luck in your efforts!

The Blue Pencil Online: new online journal *where high school writers publish*. Poetry, fiction, reviews and more. www.thebluepencil.net.

Highlights for Children: youth up to age 12 may send poems, drawings, book reviews. Guidelines are at <http://www.highlightskids.com/Express/h11magCall.asp>.

Merlyn's Pen: Fiction, essays and poems by America's teens. Many resources for writers and teachers. Check it out at www.merlynspen.com.

New Moon: The Magazine for Girls and their Dreams, for girls age 8 – 12. Check out their website and guidelines before submitting work since issues are themed. www.newmoonmagazine.org .

Scholastic sponsors annual competition for writers, photographers and artists. For grades 7 – 12. Website has entry information and examples of past award winners. www.artandwriting.org.

Teen Ink publishes poetry and short prose on-line and in print. Read a sample before submitting your work. Information about workshops, college programs and writing-related resources. www.teenink.com

ukiaHaiku is an annual festival of Haiku. No cost to enter. Haiku resources online: www.ukiaHaiku.org.

Waging Peace. A wealth of peace resources, including poetry and essay contests and interviews with peacemakers and world leaders. www.wagingpeace.org Check awards and contests link.

Writing and Read Magazines, For grades 6-10, including contests at www.weeklyreader.com.

Other Writing & Enrichment Resources, Online

Academy of American Poets. Find a poet, find a poem. www.poets.org

California Arts Council: Advancing California Through Arts and Creativity. www.cac.ca.gov for information about Poetry Out Loud and other writing projects.

California Poets in the Schools, 1333 Balboa Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. (415) 221-4201. www.cpits.org. Places professional writers in classrooms throughout California.

Figment: new, online community where young writers share and read new writing. Launched by former editors of the New Yorker and Conde Nast family of publications. www.figment.com

Inner Spark summer program held at Cal Arts for 8th-12th grade students passionate about music, creative writing, dance, film, visual art, animation, or theatre. Details about portfolio preparation on their website at www.csssa.org. February deadline to apply. Excellent student support and lifelong friendships.

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. Offers seminars, summer programs, and *Imagine* magazine, which is a treasure trove of opportunities in writing and other fields of interest. <http://cty.jhu.edu/imagine>.

National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts sponsors annual scholarship programs, including Presidential Scholars in the Arts awards, for high school seniors. See www.youngARTS.org for application and writing portfolio guidelines. October 1 deadline to register. Fee waivers available.

National Geographic Expeditions for high school students. Scholarships for students seeking summer outdoors adventure, nature, wildlife, archaeology, creative writing. www.ngstudentexpeditions.com

National Novel Writing Month. Every November, writers log in to chart their progress toward finishing a 50,000 word first-draft. Special forum and resources for teen novelists. Lots of support, ideas, and bulletin boards for different genres of writing. www.nanowrimo.org.

Poetry Foundation, www.poetryfoundation.org Is committed to bringing poetry to everyone. A wonderful site to find a poem or to learn about new forms like poetry-comics.

Poetry Out Loud, Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation. High School poetry recitation contest. Great poems archived on site. www.poetryoutloud.org.

Teachers & Writers Collaborative, 5 Union Square West, NYC 10003-3306. Publishes catalog of writing tools and offers comprehensive website with many literary links. www.twc.org.

Write Girl provides pre-collegiate mentoring, creative writing workshops, performance and publication opportunities for teen girls in the Los Angeles region. Find them at www.writegirl.org