

**Florida Writers Association
ROYAL PALM LITERARY AWARD 2008**

2008 RPLA Guidelines

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Any entry that does not fully comply with the official RPLA Guidelines, Category Descriptions, Cover Sheet, and Checklist instructions will be disqualified.
2. Contestant must be a current Florida Writers Association (FWA) member and remain a member in good standing through the date of the RPLA ceremony in order to be eligible for the award.
3. Royal Palm Literary Award (RPLA) Contest Committee members are **NOT** eligible.
4. For entries with multiple authors, at least one author must be a member of FWA who meets the above criteria.
5. Entries must be your original work. All authors involved in the writing must be named on the Cover Sheet.
6. Published and unpublished writing is eligible.
7. Published entries must have publication dates in 2006, 2007 or 2008 showing on the publication's copyright page.
8. Any work that has received the RPLA in prior years may **NOT** be entered again.

Formatting Requirements:

9. The author's name should **NOT** appear on any page of the submission except for the Cover Page and Checklist.
10. All prose entries must be double-spaced. Poetry need not be double-spaced. All entries should be formatted with one-inch margins.
11. All entries must be printed onto 8.5" x 11" white paper and printed in black ink only in 12 pt Courier or Times New Roman font.
12. Pages should be numbered and text should appear on only one side of the page.
13. Manuscript should be professional quality (i.e., proper formatting and no grammar or spelling mistakes).
14. Do **NOT** staple manuscript pages together.

Submission Package:

15. All entries must be accompanied by your 150-word biography and a 150-word book-jacket-type blurb about your submitted work.
16. Published book-length entry: submit two copies of the first 30 pages of your manuscript, in addition to one copy of the published book itself, and a brief synopsis not exceeding two pages.
17. Unpublished book-length entry: submit two copies of the first 30 pages of your manuscript, in addition to one copy of the completed work, and a brief synopsis not exceeding two pages.
18. Published short story or essay entry: submit two copies of your complete manuscript and the copy of the publication in which it appeared, and a brief synopsis not exceeding two pages.
19. Unpublished short story or essay entry: submit two copies of your complete manuscript and a brief synopsis not exceeding two pages.
20. Published flash fiction entry: submit two manuscript copies of up to three stories and a copy of the publication in which each work appeared.

21. Unpublished flash fiction entry: submit two manuscript copies of up to three stories.
22. Published poem entry: submit two copies of up to three poems and a copy of the publication in which each work appeared.
23. Unpublished poem entry: submit two copies of up to three poems.

Judging:

24. Published and unpublished entries will be judged separately.
25. Three judges will read each entry.
26. Scoring will be based on a rubric for each award category.
27. A perfect score from three judges is a total of 150 points. To be eligible for an award, an entry must score a minimum of 100 points. Should no entry achieve the minimum score of 100 points in a particular category, no award in that category will be given.

Prizes:

28. First and Second place winners in all categories will receive a personalized, engraved trophy.
29. Published categories will also receive 100 gold seals for use on their book covers.
30. Honorable Mention winners will receive a certificate for framing.
31. Book of the Year winner (a published book with the highest score from judges) will receive a trophy, 100 gold seals and a check for \$100.

Categories, Cover Sheet, Checklist, and Entry Fee:

32. The contestant is responsible for selecting from among the Category Descriptions the proper Category for the entry.
33. **Please note:** Each entry may only be entered in **ONE** category.
34. A separate completed Cover Sheet and Checklist must accompany each entry.
35. A separate fee must accompany each entry

Deadline and Mailing Instructions:

36. All submissions must be postmarked from March 1, 2008 to August 1, 2008. Any submissions postmarked after August 1, 2008 will be disqualified.
37. Submissions must be sent via U.S. Postal Service. No submission by electronic, FedEx, UPS, or other delivery methods can be accepted.
38. Mail submissions to:
Terri DuLong
RPLA Chairperson
PO Box 208
Cedar Key, FL 32625

Direct questions to Terri DuLong: paristjd@bellsouth.net

2008 RPLA Category Definitions

NONFICTION

Educational/Informational (book-length): “How-to” books including self-help and instructional books. (Examples: Coping with Divorce; How to Publish and Promote Online)

Biography (book-length): An account of an individual’s life written by another person

Memoir (book-length): A piece of autobiographical writing, usually shorter in nature than a comprehensive autobiography. Often captures meaningful moments in one’s past with particular scenes or a series of events. (Example: Angela’s Ashes)

History (book-length): Prose pertaining to a particular event in time, customs or styles in the past, or about the people and culture of a particular time frame.

Humor/Satire (book-length): Follows the same definition for fictional humor except the characters, setting, subjects or topics are based on real events. (Examples: authors Dave Barry, Erma Bombeck)

Travel (book-length): Descriptions of a particular or various locales, which entertain or inform the reader. May be based on the authors own experiences in story form or written as a travel guide (Examples: authors Bill Bryson and Peter Mayle)

Essays: Factual writing in which ideas on a single topic are presented, explained, argued or described in an interesting way. 5,000 words or less. (Example: The Best American Essays series)

POETRY

Poetry. An imaginative awareness of experience expressed through meaning, sound and rhythmic language choices so as to evoke an emotional response. Up to three poems per entry.

FICTION

Mainstream Novel: Popular fiction that appeals to a broad range of readers, both male and female. More plot-driven and less formulaic than romance, mystery, etc. *Usually* set in this day, age, universe, dimension or plane of existence with stories concerning the human element. (Example: “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini)

Romance Novel: Fiction in which the love relationship between a man and a woman pervade the plot. The story is often told from the viewpoint of the heroine who meets a man, falls in love with him, and then encounters a conflict that hinders their relationship. The conflict is then resolved. True love is triumphant against all odds, and there must be a happy ending. (Example: author Nora Roberts)

Women's Fiction: Fiction which includes subjects and themes that range far beyond romance. The woman is the star of the story and her changes and emotional developments are the subject. Relationships are at the core of the plot. Could involve relationships with siblings, parents, friends and not necessarily just a lover. Doesn't have to have the standard "happy ending" but there is a life-affirming resolution to the story. Focuses on the hopes, fears, dreams and even secret fantasies of women today. (Examples: "Shellseekers" Rosamonde Pilcher, "Fortunes Rocks" Anita Shreve, novels by Sue Miller and Elizabeth Berg.)

Humor/Satire Novel: Can be mainstream novels or any genre. Fictional humor follows the same definitions of those categories with character, plot, etc., but the overall focus of the story is humor or satire—much of which is laugh-out-loud funny (Examples: author Janet Evanovich, and Ann B. Ross and her "Miss Julia" series) rarely utilizes science, instead relying on magic, mythological beings and outright invention for conflict and setting.

Mystery Novel: A novel in which a detective, either an amateur or a professional, solves a crime or series of crimes. The detective may be a private investigator, policeman, an elderly widow or a young girl, but he/she generally has nothing material to gain from solving the crime. (Examples: authors Agatha Christie, Patricia Cornwell)

Thriller Novel: A novel intended to arouse feelings of excitement or suspense. Stories usually focus on illegal activities, international espionage, sex and violence. A thriller is often a detective story in which the forces of good are pitted against the forces of evil in a kill-or-be-killed situation. (Examples: authors Tess Gerritsen, John Grisham)

Children's Book: Storybooks and early or middle readers that appeal to children under the age of 10. (Think "Madeline", "Eloise" or "The Velveteen Rabbit")

Young Adult Novel: Portray an adolescent as the protagonist, rather than an adult or a child. The subject matter and story lines are typically consistent with the age and experience of the main character. Employs fundamental elements of fiction: character, plot, setting, theme, and style. (Examples: "Forever" by Judy Blume, Harry Potter Series)

The following two categories will be combined for judging:

Horror Novel: Intended to chill the spine and curdle the blood. Can be Gothic or present day. The story creates an atmosphere of brooding and unknown terror. Can rely heavily on setting to contribute to this atmosphere and unknown forces must be present. (Examples: most of the works of Stephen King)

Sci-Fi/Fantasy Novel: Sci-fi novels employ elements of science in either the conflict or the setting and usually both. The story involves technology, spaceships, aliens, time-travel, etc. Is about exploration of the unknown universe. Fantasy

Flash Fiction: Very short fiction that tells a complete story and often includes a twist ending. 1000 words or less.

Short Story: Fiction that contains less than 5000 words and has the basic elements: Character, setting, plot, conflict, resolution, climax, dialogue, protagonist and antagonist.

2008 RPLA Cover Sheet

*A Cover Sheet must be completed and mailed for each entry.
Please make sure to complete all items.*

ENTRY FEE:

[] I have enclosed a check for \$35 made out to the Florida Writers Association.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Your Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone # _____

E-Mail: _____

ENTRY INFORMATION:

Title of Your Entry: _____

Author(s) Names: _____

Refer to "Category Descriptions, and indicate one category in which you are entering this work:

This work is (check one): [] published [] unpublished

RPLA Checklist

Before you submit your entry, we recommend that you go through the Guidelines, Categories, and Cover Sheet to check that your entry meets all the criteria and your submission package is complete.

Then, as you ready your submission for mailing, please check off each item listed below upon completion, sign where indicated, and include this checklist page with your contest entry.

_____ My entry meets the Eligibility Requirements. (see # 1 – 8)

_____ My entry meets the Formatting Requirements. My name does not appear anywhere manuscript. (see # 9 – 14)

_____ My entry includes a 150-word biography and a 150-word book-jacket-type blurb about my submitted work (see #15).

_____ My entry includes the required number of copies and supporting material. (see #17 – 23)

_____ My entry includes a completed Cover Sheet

_____ My entry includes a signed check for \$35. made out to the Florida Writers Association

_____ My entry includes a completed Checklist.

Name, Signed: _____

Name, Printed: _____

Date: _____