

Media-Upper Providence Free Library

Presents:



Spooky Stories 4th Grade Writing Contest

Welcome to our fifth annual Spooky Stories Youth Writing Contest! Prizes will be awarded, and all qualifying and appropriate entries will be bound into a book and included in the Media-Upper Providence Free Library's collection.

Teachers and parents will also receive a digital copy of all the entries.

Who Can Enter:

Fourth grade students who live or go to school in Delaware County

Criteria:

- Typed in black ink in an easy-to-read font no smaller than 12 point
- Use standard spacing and paragraph breaks for readability
- Have a title
- Maximum 2 pages and 500ish words
- Have a "spooky" or Halloween theme
- Appropriate for a general audience; no foul language or mature themes
- Illustrations are fine, but will not be part of the judging
- Adults *may* help refine and edit for readability (please do not feel obligated), but the story must be mainly the child's work.

At the top of the page, please include:

- Author's first and last name
- School (or homeschool)
- Teacher (if applicable)



Where and When to Submit:

Submit the story via email to Vicki, Youth Services Librarian at **mecsd@delcolibraries.org by Sunday, October 18, 2026, preferably as a PDF.**

If you send a Google doc, make sure we have permission to open it. :)

No Apple documents. We can't open them.

If you do not receive a "thanks" reply to your submission email from Vicki (usually by the next weekday), please resubmit from a different email address as Vicki may not have received the story; some email addresses get blocked.

Judging and Prizes:

Judging will be done by local teen volunteers and winners announced on the library's Facebook page on **Monday, October 26**. (We announce teacher/class. first name and first initial unless directed otherwise for privacy.)

Vicki will send an email

to parents & teachers listing the winners and include a copy of all the stories.

Judging will be based on enjoyableness, clarity and adherence to the spooky/Halloween theme. Stories not adhering to the writing criteria may be excluded from judging, particularly if the word count is way too high or the font or spacing make it difficult to read.

Each class with at least 8 qualifying submissions will have at least one winner. Classes with fewer than 8 submissions *may* be combined with other groups for prize purposes.

Main prizes will be Scooped gift cards (as available).

Other prizes may also be awarded.

Winners will pick up their prizes at the library's checkout desk by the end of November.

