

THE 2026 CISTERCIAN LITERARY COMPETITION

Rules and Guidelines

Deadline: Midnight, Tuesday, April 7

1. Email entries to the link provided by midnight on Tuesday, April 7. The official entry form is linked on the Cistercian School Website or the Cistercian Library Website: www.cistercian.org. Click on the link “Cistercian Literary Competition,” fill out the entry form accurately, and complete the submission instructions.
2. All entries must be independent and original work (no AI assistance). Help with the final preparation of the text (such as typing and formatting) is permitted. Questions relating to other types of outside assistance should be directed to members of the English Department or to Ms. Williams, Head of the English Department.
3. Entries must be 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, one-inch margins; poetry can be single-spaced.
4. A student may only submit one entry per category.
5. There are three levels of competition:
 - Novice: Forms I and II**
Categories: Poetry, Fiction, and Non-Fiction
Prizes: \$50 in each category
 - Junior High: Forms III and IV**
Categories: Poetry, Fiction, and Non-Fiction
Prizes: \$75 in each category
 - High School: Forms V-VIII**
Categories: Poetry, Fiction, and Non-Fiction
Prizes: \$125 in each category
6. One **GRAND PRIZE** is awarded to the most outstanding entry in the entire competition: \$250 award. A submission can win both the entry level prize and the grand prize.
7. Note that non-fiction entries at all levels **exclude** such items as term papers, science projects, history class reports, or family histories.
8. All entries must observe the following limits regarding length:
 - Poetry: 100 lines
 - Fiction: 2500 words
 - Non-Fiction: 1500 words
9. No entry may have been submitted to a previous Cistercian Literary Competition. Entries previously submitted to other writing contests are allowed.
10. Any award may be withheld if the quality or quantity of the entries is lacking. *
11. Any entry may be ruled ineligible because of objectionable content, plagiarism, or unacceptable outside assistance. *
12. All entries will be automatically submitted for consideration to *Reflections* literary magazine unless the student indicates on the cover sheet that he would prefer otherwise.

* Determined by the English Department.