

LITERARY CONTEST GUIDE

Participants are challenged to exercise their creative writing skills to **write an essay and/or poem on the theme of Remembrance.**

Winning entries at the Legion Branch level move forward to the Legion's Provincial level contests. Finalists are then forwarded to the Legion National Foundation in Ottawa to be judged at the national level.

The First-Place Senior entries in both the Essay & Poem Literary Contest, are displayed at the Canadian War Museum from November to October of the following year.

RULES

- 1** This contest is open to all students (including homeschool students) from grade 4 through grade 12 (Quebec: grade 4 through secondary 5) in the Canadian school system.
- 2** All entries are to be submitted to the local Legion Branch. Please contact the Legion Branch nearest you for their specific deadline date for entries: legion.ca/contact-us/find-a-branch.
- 3** Participants must complete and include an official registration form with their entry. (No staples.) This form is available through your local Legion Branch or online: RemembranceContests.ca.
- 4** Participants under the age of 18 must confirm parental permission via their official registration form.
- 5** Entries may be submitted in either English, French or bilingual.
- 6** Both printed and handwritten submissions must be single sided.
- 7** Entries must not exceed the word or line limit as outlined on the entry form.
SENIOR LEVEL Participants will submit an essay of not more than 800 words or a poem of not more than 32 lines.
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL Participants will submit an essay of not more than 500 words or a poem of not more than 32 lines.
JUNIOR LEVEL Participants will submit an essay of not more than 350 words or a poem of not more than 32 lines.
- 8** A participant may submit both an essay and a poem, but only one entry per category.
- 9** All submissions must be the participant's original work. Submissions that appear to be computer generated, rendered by AI or machine will not be accepted. Copying or reproducing previously published works in whole or in part is prohibited and will result in disqualification of the entry.
- 10** The work should reflect Remembrance with a Canadian theme. If symbols are used, Canadian symbols shall be pre-eminent.

JUDGING CRITERIA

CONTENT & CLARITY

40

Does the work reflect Remembrance with a Canadian theme? Does it convey a clear message, or emotion relevant to the theme? Is it cohesive? Does it maintain focus from start to finish?

CREATIVITY & ORIGINALITY

30

Does the work grab and sustain interest? Is it thoughtful, moving, inspiring and/or impactful? Does the content of the work feel fresh & original? Does it reflect an interesting point of view or experience? Does the author successfully employ any literary devices (i.e., analogy, allegory, metaphor etc.) or poetic devices. (i.e. rhythm, form, metaphor, symbolism etc.) Is the work original, unique, and produced by the submitting party, for the intention of the contest?

PRODUCTION & QUALITY

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What is the overall quality of the work and level of polish? Does the work read clearly, thoughtfully, and appropriately paced? Are the necessary rules of syntax & punctuation observed? Is it free of spelling and formatting errors or typos? Does it adhere to the word or line limit?

PRIZES

All prizes will be awarded on the recommendation of the judges, whose decision will be final. On notification of having been selected as a winner at the Legion National Foundation level, the student agrees to the full and exclusive non-profit use of their work for the purpose of promoting this program, the Legion National Foundation and The Royal Canadian Legion for the current contest year and in perpetuity.

SENIOR LEVEL | GRADES 10, 11 AND 12 (QUEBEC: SECONDARY 4 AND 5)

1ST PRIZE \$1000

2ND PRIZE \$500

3RD PRIZE \$250

The Senior First-Place winners in both the Essay & Poem Literary Category are additionally invited to Ottawa on an all-expense paid trip by the Legion National Foundation to represent Canada's youth at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony. The winners must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL | GRADES 7, 8 AND 9 (QUEBEC: SECONDARY 1, 2 AND 3)

1ST PRIZE \$500

2ND PRIZE \$250

3RD PRIZE \$150

JUNIOR LEVEL | GRADES 4, 5 AND 6

1ST PRIZE \$250

2ND PRIZE \$200

3RD PRIZE \$125

All First-Place winners, in both categories, are awarded a cash prize and a personalized plaque. Their educational institution also receives a plaque. Second and Third Place winners, in both categories, are also awarded a cash prize and a certificate.

