

# 2022 Storymakers & Indie Author Hub Writers Conference First Chapter Contest Rules

**\*\*Please READ and follow all rules.\*\***

**\*\*Failure to follow the rules will cause your entry to be disqualified.\*\***

Entry deadline: Aug 27, 2022 11:59 pm EDT

Entries must be emailed to:

1stchapter.midwest.storymakers@gmail.com (All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. EDT.)

1. You must be a registered attendee of the 2022 Storymakers & Indie Author Hub Writers Conference to enter this contest.
2. All entries must be the original work of the author.
3. Submissions should be double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font with one inch margins.
4. Please submit only a first chapter (not a prologue or preface) of up to 3000 words.
5. Pages must be numbered in consecutive order.
6. Please submit with a cover page. Do NOT put your name on the cover page or any other page of the manuscript. Your cover page should include only: the manuscript title, category name, subcategory name and approximate word count.
7. Remember, the author's name should not appear anywhere in your entry. (We'll get all your personal information when you register and pay). PLEASE double check this before submitting. This includes your headers and footers.
8. Judging will be based on the merits that should be found in a first chapter, including a good opening hook, strong characterizations, compelling voice, conflict, dialogue, and few or no grammatical/mechanical errors. Judges will also be looking at your presentation. Did you follow the rules, submit in the correct format, and were you in the correct category, with the manuscript at the appropriate length?  
  
Historically, the grand prize winner has been an entry with a fresh idea, presented with clarity, structure, and elements of exceptional writing.
9. Please be professional and ensure that your submission aligns with the nature of the

SMIAH Writers Conference. Entries should not contain graphic language, extreme violence, or sex scenes.

10. Polish your work before submitting. Show us your best!

11. You may submit multiple entries.

12. If you are unsure what subcategory your manuscript would fit in, you alone must decide. For instance, if your manuscript is set in the early 1800s and could be both mystery and historical, only you, the author, can make the decision as to which category it best fits. Please be aware that the judges who read and judge your entry will be judging for that particular category (i.e. fantasy or mystery), so enter with that in mind.

13. If you do not follow all rules, your entry will be disqualified. Please READ and FOLLOW all rules.

#### ENTRY & CATEGORIES:

1. Entries receive a critique from each judge who reads your first chapter.

2. The published category includes traditional, hybrid, and indie published authors.

\*Published refers to the author, not the work. All first chapters submitted to the contest must be unpublished.\*

CATEGORY 1 – Published Adult

CATEGORY 2 – Published Young Adult/Middle Grade

CATEGORY 3 – Unpublished Adult

CATEGORY 4 – Unpublished Young Adult/Middle Grade.

#### Sub-categories:

General Fiction/Nonfiction

Mystery/Suspense

Romance

SciFi/Fantasy/Speculative

YA Contemporary

YA SciFi/Fantasy/Speculative

Middle Grade Contemporary

Middle Grade SciFi/Fantasy/Speculative

\*If a sub-category receives 10 entries, that sub-category will receive a First, Second & Third place. All others will be judged within the main category.

#### SUBMISSION:

1. All entries must be received by Aug 27, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. EST to qualify.

2. Email the chapters to [1stchapter.midwest.storymakers@gmail.com](mailto:1stchapter.midwest.storymakers@gmail.com) following the submission guidelines. Make sure you include your name, registration order number, category, subcategory, and chapter title in the BODY of the EMAIL (not the manuscript).

Example: Smith, Jane, Order #1234, Published Adult, Romance, Love the Write Man

3. You will be sent an email confirmation once your first entry has been received. We will send an additional confirmation for subsequent entries.

4. SMIAH is not responsible for entries that are disqualified due to rule violations or for entries that are emailed to the wrong address.

#### REPEAT

—Please follow all rules. We do not want your entry to be disqualified.

#### JUDGING AND AWARDS:

1. All contestants will receive feedback from three judges who have specialized in their category.

2. Top winners in each category will receive awards. Each category will have awards based on the number of entries. For example, each category (published adult, published YA/MG, unpublished adult, and unpublished YA/MG) will receive first, second, and third place. If a subcategory (for example published adult mystery/suspense) receives 10 or more entries, then that subcategory will receive its own first, second and third place awards.

3. The grand prize will be determined from the top selections in each category. An entry cannot win both the grand prize and first-place in its category. The grand prize winner will be pulled out of its respective category and stand above all the rest, basking in well-deserved glory.

4. Awards will be presented during the SMIAH conference. If you have any questions, please contact First Chapter Contest at [1stchapter.midwest.storymakers@gmail.com](mailto:1stchapter.midwest.storymakers@gmail.com)

Thank you!