

Creative Writing Competition

(For Online & Offline Events)

1. Introduction and Historical Context

Creative writing has served as a timeless mode of expression across civilizations. From ancient oral storytelling traditions to written tales that shaped cultures, the power of narrative has always played a vital role in reflecting human emotion, imagination, and societal truths.

In the spirit of the Ancient Pythian Games, which celebrated the arts alongside athletics, the Modern Pythian Games elevate creative writing as a competitive cultural art form. By reviving and promoting literary expression, these Games seek to unite people globally through shared stories and cultural creativity.

2. Global Vision of the Modern Pythian Games

The Modern Pythian Games aim to:

- Promote art, culture, and indigenous traditions as global games.
- Provide a competitive yet inclusive platform for writers of all ages and backgrounds.
- Recognize creative writing as a unifying, peace-building force across languages and borders.
- Encourage cultural exchange through original narratives.

Creative writing is practiced under different forms and titles globally:

- Russia and CIS Countries: Художественное письмо (Artistic Writing)
- USA/UK/Canada: Creative Writing / Short Story Writing
- France: Écriture Créative
- Germany: Kreatives Schreiben
- Latin America: Escritura Creativa
- Japan: 創作文 (Sōsaku-bun)
- India: रचनात्मक लेखन (Rachnatmak Lekhan)

Creative writing competitions or formats are practiced in over 90 countries worldwide, across schools, festivals, and cultural institutions.

3. Age Categories

Participants will compete in the following divisions:

- Sub-Junior: 8 to 12 years
- Junior: 13 to 17 years
- Senior: 18 to 25 years
- Open: 26 years and above

Each participant must submit under the correct category according to their age on the date of submission.

4. Eligibility Criteria

This eligibility framework applies to all national and international competitions:

- For National or State Events: Participants must be citizens or residents of the country for at least one year.
- For International Events: Open to global participants without restriction.
- Valid age and identity proof is mandatory for all entrants.
- Minors must submit a parental or guardian consent form.
- Kindly read and follow the eligibility criteria carefully for each competition.

5. Participation Guidelines

- Only individual entries are accepted.
- One entry per person.
- All work must be original, unpublished, and self-written.
- Entries previously submitted to other competitions will not be accepted.
- Entry must follow the category-specific guidelines.

6. Accepted Formats

Participants may submit their writing in any one of the following formats:

- Short Story
- Fictional Letter or Diary Entry
- Reflective or Personal Narrative
- Flash Fiction
- Children's Fiction (for younger participants)

Note: Poetry, formal essays, journalistic pieces, or academic content will not be accepted under this category.

7. Entry Submission Process

Online Mode:

- Register via the official portal or website.
- Upload your submission in PDF or DOC format.
- Submit the following documents:
 - Full Name and Contact Details
 - Age and ID proof (scanned copy)
 - Consent and Declaration Form

Offline Mode:

- Submit a typed or handwritten printout of your work.
- Include your registration form, age proof, and signed declaration.
- Send via post or deliver in person to the designated Pythian Games centre.

8. Writing Guidelines

Word Limit (per category):

- Sub-Junior: 300–400 words
- Junior: 500–700 words
- Senior: 700–900 words
- Open: 900–1200 words

Languages Accepted:

- English
- Hindi
- Other approved regional or international languages

Formatting Instructions:

- Typed entries: Standard font (Arial, Times New Roman), size 12, 1-inch margins.
- Handwritten entries: Must be legible and neatly presented.

9. Judging Panel and Evaluation

Judging Panel:

Each entry will be reviewed by a panel of 3 to 5 qualified judges:

- A lead expert in literature or writing
- A professional editor or creative writing educator
- A guest judge such as an author, journalist, or scholar
- Panels will be language and category specific.
- Judging Criteria (100 marks total):
 - Originality and Imaginative Thought
 - Narrative Structure and Flow
 - Use of Language and Grammar
 - Creativity and Emotional Depth
 - Overall Impact and Engagement

10. Legal Safeguards and Rules

General Rules:

- Only original and unpublished content is accepted.
- AI-generated or plagiarised content is strictly prohibited.
- Content must not include hate speech, obscenity, or sensitive political themes.
- Late entries or incomplete submissions will be disqualified.

Copyright and Usage Rights:

- Authors retain full copyright of their work.
- Organizers are granted non-exclusive rights to:
 - Publish selected entries (with due credit)
 - Use content for cultural promotion, exhibitions, or education

Declaration Format (to be signed):

"I hereby declare that this is my original and unpublished work. I grant the Modern Pythian Games organizing committee non-exclusive rights to use or publish the work for cultural or educational purposes with due credit."

Grounds for Disqualification:

- Plagiarism or AI-generated content
- Misrepresentation of age or identity
- Violation of word count or format guidelines
- Offensive or unethical content

Dispute Resolution:

- All disputes will be resolved by the internal jury of the organizing committee.
- Jurisdiction lies within the city/state of the organizing authority.

11. Awards and Recognition

- Winners will receive:
- Gold Medal + Winner Certificate
- Silver Medal + Runner-Up Certificate
- Bronze Medal + Merit Certificate
- Certificate of Achievement for top finalists
- Certificate of Participation for all valid entries
- Selected works may be featured in:
- The Pythian Literary Anthology
- Cultural exhibitions and forums
- Official Pythian digital platforms