

The Eudora Welty Ephemera Prize for High School Creative Writing

Named in honor of Mississippi University for Women alumna Eudora Welty and one of the W's early creative writing journals, the \$200 prize will be awarded to each of the top 5 entries. All prizewinners will be honored at the Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium at Mississippi University for Women, October 22-24, 2026. They will be invited to lunch with symposium authors, receive their award, and give a brief reading. Winning entries and honorable mentions will also be published on our website. School groups are invited to the Symposium, and all sessions will be streamed live.

- One entry per student in one of the following categories: Fiction, Essay, or Poetry.
- Fiction and Essays must be double-spaced, 2,000 words or less
- Poetry must be single-spaced, 1-3 poems, 100 total lines or less
- Longer is not necessarily better!
- Each entry must be the original work of the student who submits it
 - Use of ChatGPT or other generative AI tools is not allowed
- Entries must address this year's Symposium theme:
- "'Like a Visitor from Nowhere': Encounters in the Uncanny South"
 - Or may respond to Eudora Welty's story "Moon Lake"
- Do not include your name on your story, essay, or poems
- Do include a cover page with:
 - Your name, high school, and teacher's name
 - The title of story or essay or titles of poems submitted
 - Your address, phone number, email address, and teacher's email address
- Submission deadline: September 15, 2026
- Submissions should be emailed to ephemera@muw.edu
- Or may be mailed to: Dr. Kendall Dunkelberg
Dept. of Languages, Literature, and Philosophy
1100 College St., MUW-1634
Columbus, MS 39701
- Final judges for the contest will be Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium authors.

Students must be enrolled at a high school or be home schooled in Mississippi in grades 10-12 for the 2026-27 school year. Students from nearby counties in Alabama within approximately 100 miles of Columbus or who are sponsored by a W alum are also eligible. To sponsor a school or student outside Mississippi, the W alum needs only to send a brief letter or email, indicating her/his graduating class or year(s) of attendance at The W.

Children and close relatives of Department of Languages, Literature, and Philosophy faculty or of the judges are ineligible. Students who have graduated high school prior to September 1, 2026, are no longer eligible. More information on the contest and the Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium is available at: <http://www.muw.edu/welty>