CHEAR Short Story Writing Contest

Open to Middle School (6th-8th) and High School (9th-12th)

Prompt: Write a story with the following title:

Middle School: Old Friend

High School: A Dusty, Old Book

Rules:

- Must be typed in MLA format with 12-point font (Arial or Calibri)
- Must be double spaced with 1-inch margins
- Length must be between 2 and 5 pages.
- Put the title at the top of the first page.
- Do not identify yourself on the story in any way.
- You must submit an entry form with your story.
- Entry form should be attached to the story with a paper clip.
- Stories can be turned in near the admin area between 9:00 am-2:00 pm on **October 28**.
- The story must use the assigned title and be representative of it.
- The story can be any genre as long as it reflects the assigned title.
- The content and characters must be original and unpublished.
- The content and language must be appropriate for a Christian to read.

Judging Criteria:

- Format (Proper length, font, etc.)
- Representation of the title (How well does the story reflect the title)
- Creativity (creative details, descriptions)
- Organization (Logical sequence of events)
- Characters (Adequately described, developed)
- Conflict/resolution (Clearly developed conflict with reasonable resolution)
- Setting (Clear & appropriate time & place that is adequately described)
- Plot (introduction, climax, resolution)
- Mechanics (Spelling, grammar, etc.)
- Style (Word choice, language, sentence variety, etc.)

Winners will be announced and prized awarded on November 4.
If you have questions, you can contact Aimee Hoelscher: aeh6000@gmail.com

CHEAR Short Story Contest 2026

Entries are due Wednesday, October 28, by 2:00 pm. Please bring your printed story to the admin area between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Fill out the bottom of this form and attach it to your entry. Stories should not have the writer's name on them anywhere. Do not include a cover page.

There are 2 categories: High School (9^{th}-12^{th} grade) and Middle School (6^{th}-8^{th} grade).

Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 stories in each age group.

Write a story with the following title:

Middle School: Old Friend

High School: A Dusty, Old Book

If you have any questions, please contact Aimee Hoelscher: aeh6000@gmail.com

Fill out the following information and attach this sheet to your story with a paperclip.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Student's Email: _____

Parent's Email: _____