

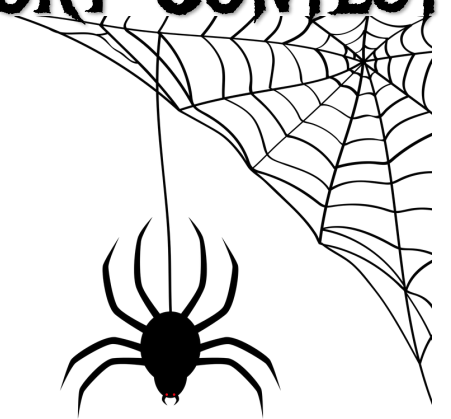


2025 SPOOKY SHORT STORY CONTEST

Contest Details

We want to hear your best spooky story! If you live in Clark County and are a child between the ages of 6 and 18 submit your best, most original scary story. The winner in each age group will receive a trophy and the opportunity to share their story in person. All of those who submit an original story are welcome to attend the program on October 22, 2025.*

** if 18 must still be in high school*



Guidelines – Submissions must be turned in no later than 11:59 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2025

The contest is open to children in Clark County, ages 6-18*. Stories will be judged on originality, creativity and spookiness (not violent content). Original stories only (use of copyrighted material is prohibited). **No AI is to be used.** Stories will become the property of Clark County Public Library and will not be returned. Incomplete submission will not be accepted. *Employees and their families/members of household are not eligible to win.*



- Contest runs September 8 — October 6, 2025.
- Story **MUST** be written by a child/teen.
- Must be an original story & submitted to the email address spookystories@ccploho.org by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2025.

No AI is to be used.

- Story must be sent as a Word document or PDF and include entry form.
- Stories should be approximately 250 to 1,000 words.
- Submissions must include the child's first and last name, age, grade, address, phone number and the parent or guardian name and signature stating they give permission.*

**Entries omitting this information will not be accepted.*

- Limit of one (1) entry per person.
- There will be one (1) winner in each age group:

Ages 6-8

Ages 9-12

Ages 13-18* (*if 18, must still be in high school)

- **Prefer** the winners be able to come to the Main Library to receive their award and read the story or be present while library staff reads their story on October 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gaier Room. Non-winners are encouraged to attend and read their stories as well (as time allows). Light refreshments will be on hand.
- Winners who are unable to attend on October 22, 2025 will need to pick up their awards at the Main Library, located at 201 S. Fountain Ave., Springfield. OH.



Spooky Story Contest Entry Form

(Submission must be returned by Monday, October 6, 2025. Please make sure to email either a scanned PDF or jpg version of this entry form with your submission to spookystories@ccploho.org.) Please fill out the form completely and legibly. This form must accompany your submission. The below information will be used for contest purposes only and will not be shared.



Your Name: _____ Age/Grade: _____/_____

Address (please include ZIP): _____

Phone Number: () _____ Email (optional): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

By signing this form I acknowledge that this story was created by the child listed above and that it is original.

I understand that, once submitted, the story becomes the property of the Clark County Public Library and will not be returned.

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