

Rules: Margaret Sutton Writing Contest 2022

Introduction: Margaret Sutton was born and raised in Potter County, Pennsylvania. She was the author of more than 50 books for children and teens including the popular Judy Bolton Mystery series. Fans of Margaret Sutton's books gather in Coudersport every October to visit the sites that inspired the series and to honor its author.

Purpose of the contest: Margaret Sutton enjoyed meeting her fans and encouraging their creative pursuits. The purpose of this contest is to encourage young writers to follow their dreams.

Theme for 2022: Wanting Too Much. Each year, Judy Bolton fans feature one of the books in the series. In 2022, the book is *The Black Cat's Clue*, which includes trouble at a family reunion and questions about an inheritance. In this book, Margaret Sutton included song lyrics written by her father, including the following:

*"The house of today must have each latest touch, No peace have the inmates; they're wanting too much.
They're wanting too much that they don't really need. Their wants and their wishes cause trouble to breed.
Says I to myself, there are many of such whose trouble in life is they're wanting too much..."*

By Victor L. Beebe, author of *The History of Potter County*.

Contest Rules:

1. Create an original short story that involves resolving trouble caused by "wanting too much." Do not use the names of actual persons without their permission.
2. All students living and attending school in Potter County, Pennsylvania and enrolled in grades 7 through 9 as of October 1, 2022 are eligible to submit an entry to the contest.
3. Students must submit original work with minimal guidance from others.
4. The text of the story must be 300-500 words.
5. Entries must be typed and double-spaced.
6. Following Margaret Sutton's example, your characters will be realistic and not have supernatural powers.
7. Contestants must submit their story via email to MargaretSuttonBooks@gmail.com as a Word or Word-friendly attachment.
8. Submissions will be accepted beginning June 1, 2022. Submission deadline is midnight eastern time on September 22, 2022.
9. The First Place award winner will receive \$100 and publication of their story at www.MargaretSuttonBooks.com. The second place will receive \$50 and a certificate. The third place winner will receive \$25 and a certificate.
10. Winners will be notified via email and phone. The Margaret Sutton Essay Contest Committee will have the right to edit and publish submitted stories on the Margaret Sutton Books website without payment to the authors. After publication of the winning essays, all rights will revert to their authors.
11. Winners must agree to share a personal photo and to participate in an interview. This will allow the contest committee to create a bio of the winners for use on our websites and with the media.
12. Winners will be invited to a dinner and awards ceremony in Potter County during the next Judy Bolton weekend. The top three finalists will be invited to read their essays to the audience. Dinner will be provided at no cost to the winners and up to two (2) parents or guardians.
13. Contestants may submit only one entry during any given contest year.
14. Each entry must include the following biographical information on a separate cover page: name, age, grade, school, home address, email, phone number and the title of the story.
15. Each story must include a title, to be printed at the top of each page. Do not include your name and biographical information on the story pages, only on the cover page.
16. Any quotations or copyrighted material must be identified properly. Stories must be written in English.
17. All submitted stories compliant with these rules will be reviewed by a group of volunteer judges selected from published authors who have participated in previous Judy Bolton activities

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