

## Rules: Margaret Sutton Writing Contest 2023

**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 2023: Innocent!** Each year, Judy Bolton fans feature one of the books in the series. In 2023, the book is *The Forbidden Chest*, in which a young boy and a teenaged girl are falsely accused of stealing valuable antiques.

### Contest Rules:

1. Create an original short story that involves resolving trouble caused by a false accusation. 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, 2023 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. 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.
8. 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.
9. Contestants must submit their story via email to MargaretSuttonBooks@gmail.com as a Word or Word-friendly attachment.
10. Submissions will be accepted beginning September 1, 2023. Submission deadline is midnight eastern time on September 19, 2023.
11. The First Place award winner will receive \$100 and story publication at [www.MargaretSuttonBooks.com](http://www.MargaretSuttonBooks.com). The Second Place winner will receive \$50 and a certificate. The Third Place winner will receive \$25 and a certificate. All three winners will be invited to an awards dinner on Saturday, October 7, 2023 in Coudersport.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Contestants may submit only one entry during any given contest year.
15. Any quotations or copyrighted material must be identified properly. Stories must be written in English.
16. All submitted stories compliant with these rules will be reviewed by a group of volunteer judges selected from authors and teachers who have participated in previous Judy Bolton activities.

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