

## Rules: Margaret Sutton Writing Contest 2021

**Introduction:** Margaret Sutton was born in Odin, in Potter County, Pennsylvania and attended school in nearby Coudersport. She was the author of more than 50 books for children and teens including the popular Judy Bolton Mystery series. Many fictional sites in the Judy Bolton series were based on places in Potter County. 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:** Margaret Sutton enjoyed meeting her fans and encouraging their creative pursuits. She taught creative writing classes and was delighted when her students became published authors. The purpose of this contest is to encourage young writers to follow their dreams.

**Theme for 2021: A Special Friendship.** Each year, Judy Bolton fans feature one of the books in the series. In 2021, the book is *The Spirit of Fog Island*. In this book, Judy makes friends with a Native American girl. She learns about her new friend's traditions and troubles as they solve a mystery together.

### Contest Rules:

1. Create an original story that involves a special friendship between two people who seem quite different from each other. All characters must be fictional, created by you.
2. Entries may be in one of two categories: 1) Junior High: 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades and 2) High school: 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. All students living in Potter County, Pennsylvania and enrolled in school including public, private and home schools are eligible.
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, 2021. Submission deadline is midnight eastern time on September 22, 2021.
9. First Place award winners for both high school and junior high school will receive \$100 and publication of their stories at [www.MargaretSuttonBooks.com](http://www.MargaretSuttonBooks.com). Second place winners in each category will receive \$50 and a certificate. Third place winners in each category 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 on Saturday, October 9 during the annual Judy Bolton weekend. The first place winners in each category 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 at the beginning of the document: name, age, grade, school, home address, email, and phone number.
15. Each entry must include a title. The title and biographical information of the author are not included in the word count.
16. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the story 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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