Have YOU GOT The "write" STUFF?

39th Annual

2026 Matt Hessel-Mial Creative Writing Contest

ENTRY DEADLINE: MARCH 27, 2026

Be Creative

Your story should be fictional and must be your very own. Don't retell the story in a movie or book. Topics are unlimited, but appropriate content is required. Excessive gore or violence is discouraged.

FOLLOW THE RULES

Maximum story length is 1,000 words. Winning stories will be printed in a spiral-bound book comprised of the authors' original work as submitted. Adults may type the story for a younger student, but story and words must be only that of the student. One student author is allowed per story. Stories will be reviewed with classroom teachers to ensure they are the students' work.

Your contest entry will be submitted digitally using the QR code to the right. The final story must be uploaded as a Google doc using Times New Roman font that is 12-point size and double-spaced.

Awards for each Grade Level

First place winners will receive a copy of Matt Hessel-Mial's published book. First, second and third place winners will receive prize packages, including bookstore gift cards. Other exceptional work will be awarded with Honorable mention.

QR code to submit entry.

ABOUT MATT

In his eight years, Matt Hessel-Mial had the most fun writing stories that he made up. Matt even had some of his stories published in a book, *The Great Planet Swap & Other Stories.* The Matt Hessel-Mial writing contest is also being held in memory of Matt's mother, Susan Hessel. This contest is sponsored by the Hessel-Mial family and the Elementary Library/HPL teachers and is coordinated by the High-Performance Learning Program in the School District of La Crosse.