



Bess Streeter Aldrich Short Story Contest

Seeking Original Short Stories Honoring Nebraska's Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary)

To commemorate Nebraska's 150th anniversary, honor Nebraska author Bess Streeter Aldrich, and recognize outstanding writing, the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation announces its 2017 Short Story Contest.

Objective/Theme: To generate a fictional short story that is written in the wholesome spirit displayed by Bess Streeter Aldrich in her works while incorporating a theme that focuses on Nebraska's economy, history, cultural diversity, and/or geography (past, present, and/or future). An exceptional resource would be Mrs. Aldrich's book *A Lantern in Her Hand* as it is a Nebraska 150 Book* and the 2009 One Book One Nebraska selection. No essays, please.

*The Nebraska Literary Heritage Association created the Nebraska 150 Book List in partnership with the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Library Commission to ignite a desire to learn more about the history and culture of Nebraska. Nebraska 150 books initiate opportunities for citizens statewide to learn together about the history and culture of Nebraska.

Resources: Other books by the author that writers can read to generate ideas about content and style are: Short Works 1907-1919; Short Works 1920-1954; Mother Mason; The Rim of the Prairie; The Cutters; Spring Came on Forever; A White Bird Flying; Miss Bishop; Song of Years; The Lieutenant's Lady; Journey into Christmas; The Drum Goes Dead; and The Man Who Caught the Weather.

Eligibility (Four divisions):

Adult: 1st Prize \$100; 2nd Prize \$50; 3rd Prize \$25

High School (Grades 9-12): 1st Prize \$50; 2nd Prize \$25; 3rd Prize \$15

Middle School (Grades 6-8): 1st Prize \$50; 2nd Prize \$25; 3rd Prize \$15

Intermediate School (Grades 3-5): 1st Prize \$25; 2nd Prize \$15; 3rd Prize \$10

*Family members of Aldrich Foundation Board are not eligible.

Length: 1,000 to 2,000 words (there is no minimum word requirement for the Intermediate Category)

Scoring: Stories will be based upon the writer's effective use of theme and the use of the six-traits of writing.

Results: Winners will be notified in late March and invited to the Aldrich Foundation's spring banquet in April. A winners' list will be posted on the Bess Streeter Aldrich website (bessstreeteraldrich.org) by April 1.

Submission Process: Stories must be [submitted here](#) Mrs. Aldrich's Birthday, by midnight, February 17, 2017. A submission link is also found at bessstreeteraldrich.org. Questions about the contest or an alternative paper submission can be directed to Kurk Shrader, Executive Director (email aldrichfoundation@gmail.com or call 402-994-3855.