

Hello everyone!!

Let me just say thanks for your interest in Gryphcon's writing contests. I'm your judge, jury and executioner, **GhostJ**, but as long as everyone reads the following information hopefully I won't have to clear up much space in the graveyard.

This page will detail the rules and submission procedures for the two contests we will be having, so why don't we just move right along, ok?

Gryphcon will be holding two separate creative writing contests during this upcoming con, March 23-25 2007, the **Short Story Contest** and the **Character Design Contest**. Both of these will be similar as far as submissions go and you will find those rules detailed in the following pages. There will be differences in the rules for the two specific contests though, so please check the rules that pertain to the contest(s) you wish to enter.

Winners will receive *prizes* at the Gryphcon event! Yeah, that got your attention. There will be prizes for best entry in each contest, and also prizes for the winning submissions for the two initial contests. Winning entries will also be posted here on the webpage. All entries that are provided in hard copy will be viewable at the Gryphcon event; if you'd like to see what your competition was like. I will also provide a breakdown of your ranking if you would like that option.

If you have *any* questions or concerns about your entry please send an email to gryphcon.writing@gmail.com with the subject heading **Question about Contest**. I will get back to you ASAP.

Thanks again for your interest in the Gryphcon Writing Competition, I look forward to reading all of your entries!

Submission Procedure

All entries are to be submitted in electronic, and preferably hard copy; a hard copy will ensure you a place in the competition (excluding rule violations) and will eliminate the chances that your submission might get lost in cyberspace.

Electronic submissions are to be sent to gryphcon.writing@gmail.com, with the subject line **SS_[your name here]** for Short Story entries or **CD_[your name here]** for Character descriptions, if you are submitting to both competitions please send a separate email for each.

Please attach your entry as a .zip or .rar file (same names as the subject of your email) containing the **cover letter** (.pdf) and **your entry** as a .doc or .pdf file. You do not need to actually write anything in the email! Promises of cyber cookies or cyber nookie, while commendable attempts at bribery, will **NOT** help your submission.

Hard copy submissions, which once again I vastly prefer, can be delivered to the Games Club office, address below, in person or snail mailed to:

**Games Club c/o
Central Student Association
Room 274, University Centre
University of Guelph
Guelph , Ontario
N1G 2W1**

Submission Rules!!

1. Each contestant is only allowed **one submission per category**; please don't try to submit more than once, it really isn't fair to anyone. Also, since I have my own work to do, rather than read them both and decide which to enter, **I will ignore them both.**
2. Remember to fill out and attach the **cover sheet** provided in the .pdf files below; this is **very** important as I will not accept entries that do not have a cover sheet or have a cover sheet that contains information I have not requested.
3. **All entries are to be double spaced, size 12, Times New Roman font, with 1.25" margins (Word default).** Please understand that I am volunteering to do this and I don't have time to read through 20 pages of your "Ode to Blue". If your entry doesn't fall into this range by under 100 words, I will send you an email and give you a chance to resubmit it; otherwise the entry won't be accepted.
4. All stories must be submitted, or resubmitted, in hard copy or by email by **24:00 on March 05, 2007** to be included in the competition.
5. All stories must not be rated any higher than **R or M!!!** That means no graphic violence and no explicit sexual acts; that said you are free to mention them, heck, even fade to black, but **DO NOT write and/or illustrate them.** Inclusion of such content will get you disqualified and mocked. Do not play free and loose with this rule, as I will delete your entry if I feel you are infringing upon my comfort zone.
 - 5.2 If you are unsure what these ratings entail please visit the guides provided at <http://www.fictionratings.com> or <http://www.filmratings.com/>

6. Your story should use proper grammar and spelling unless it is an important part of your character's personality. Incorrect and inappropriate grammar and spelling will count against your ranking in the contest.
7. We are allowing entries for both contests that are set in pre-existing universes (fanfic), as well as original universes for the short story competition. However, there are two restrictions on unoriginal fiction.
 - 7.2 I will not do research to better understand your characters or story. Your story must therefore be **standalone** or from a universe that I am familiar with. If you want to know whether I know a specific 'verse, ask and ye shall receive feedback, but as long as your story is good and understandable, I wouldn't be too worried.
 - 7.3 Do not write your stories in worlds where the original author has threatened to burn fanfiction writers at the stake. Examples of this are the 'verses of Robin Hobb and Anne McCaffrey. We need to respect their wishes in this matter and if you get caught, you get disqualified. So, if you decide to use this opportunity to try out a new fandom, check the author's opinions first, since I would prefer not to.
8. Winners will be announced and their entries posted on the website some time during the week before the conference. Prizes will be available to be picked up during the Con weekend.
9. Please note that by entering this contest you are giving the University of Guelph Games Club, and Gryphcon *your soul*. Well not really, but you are giving us permission to post the stories you've submitted on the Gryphcon Website and to have them on display at the Convention.

Contest Specific Rules

Short Story

1. **Remember to follow the general rules under Submission Rules**
2. All entries must be **between 750 and 1250 words**, and follow the formatting instructions in the Submission Rules (Rule 3)
3. Your entry must be either **Science Fiction** or **Fantasy**, please feel free to get as creative as possible within that restriction, such as using subgenres.
4. You will be judged upon your interpretation and use of the theme, which is **PIRATES**. Be as creative as you can, I look forward to it.
5. Remember one of your characters must **say** the line below for you to get full ranking in the contest
"I've never seen ships burn like that before"

Character Design

1. **Remember to follow the general rules under Submission Rules**
2. All entries must be **between 500 and 1000 words**, and follow the formatting instructions in the Submission Rules (Rule 3)
3. Remember to write your story based upon one of the two character themes below
 - 3.2 A tough-as-nails female pirate captain, with a strong sense of honour
 - 3.3 A softly spoken man who just happens to carry a large weapon
4. Your entry should include character description and backstory, you will be judged mostly upon originality
5. Feel free to use any system you'd like, but ensure that the story is **standalone**