

TEMECULA VALLEY WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS
2025 PROSE ANTHOLOGY CALL

TVWI is pleased to announce a call for SHORT STORIES. Our upcoming anthology will reimagine classic tales through a modern lens.

Each story must be a fresh **retelling** of one tale from the four works below (please note specific exceptions!) with the setting firmly placed in **contemporary times**.

Additionally, a successful submission must incorporate a **twist ending**. The surprise may be dark, humorous, ironic, or thought-provoking, but it should transform the reader's understanding of the story.

Authors are encouraged to explore present-day themes and conflicts (technological, environmental, cultural, and economic) while staying rooted in the timeless spirit of the chosen tale.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

THEME – Retelling of a story from the curated list * below.

Collection	Author	Accessible at
<i>Stories from Pentamerone</i>	Giambattista Basile	https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2198
<i>Household Tales</i> *	Brothers Grimm	https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/5314
<i>The Arabian Nights' Entertainments</i> *	Anonymous	https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/62687
<i>Japanese Fairy Tales</i>	Collected by Yei Theodora Ozaki	https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4018

*** Do not select any of the following stories for a retelling:**

Cinderella ; Snow White / Rose Red ; Rapunzel ; Hansel and Gretel ; Thumbling / Thumbelina ; Rumpelstiltskin ; The Golden Goose ; Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves ; Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp ; Sinbad / all Voyages ; Story of the Barber / Barber's Brothers

Please note that some of these tales contain violence, misogyny, or racist terms. Inclusion of these stories should not be construed as to indicate approval by TVWI. Dealing with these events may provide fodder for the twist ending. *Please see Disclaimer.*

PROMPT – Stories must 1) occur in a contemporary period (defined as between the years 2000 and 2030) and 2) have a surprise or twist conclusion.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE is **December 7, 2025**

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Additional Information:

Word count is 5,000 maximum. All fiction genres welcome. Rhymed prose will be considered. Must be a TVWI member at any level (Basic, Associate, Professional). Anticipated timeline includes story selection by February 2026 and publication in July 2026.

SUBMISSIONS

All submissions are considered final. No editing or revision is allowed after work is submitted. Submissions will be judged by a jury for inclusion in the anthology. Not all submissions may be published. Final proofreading/copy editing will be done by TVWI before publication

Please submit only original, previously unpublished work as .doc/docx/rtf by December 7, 2025.

One submission per writer. No simultaneous submissions. No AI generated work.

Preferred formatting 12pt. Times New Roman, double spaced, with numbered pages.

Submit via email to Submissions@TemeculaValleyWI.com with subject line “TVWI Anthology” + Story Title + Author Name.

Body of the email should include: the name of the chosen tale you retold; from which collection it was drawn; story word count; your name; pen name (if applicable); and a 150-word max bio.

Must be a member of TVWI to submit (Basic membership is free). Join at

<https://www.temeculavalleywi.com/membership-signup#join>

PAYMENT

Accepted authors, upon publication, will receive \$20 plus an e-copy of the Anthology.

RIGHTS

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