

# Bess Streeter Aldrich Short Story Contest, 2021

## Seeking Original Short Stories



To honor Nebraska author Bess Streeter Aldrich and recognize outstanding writing, the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation announces its 2021 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 family life, economy, history, cultural diversity, and/or geography (past, present, and/or future). Writers are encouraged to focus on historical and/or realistic topics. This year the Aldrich Foundation is paying tribute to Mrs. Aldrich's book *The Cutters* and believe it would be an excellent resource that reflects Mrs. Aldrich's passion for small-town dynamics and family antics.

**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; Spring Came on Forever; A Lantern in Her Hand; 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

\*Schools are limited to 15 submissions per teacher. Family members of the 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](http://bessstreeteraldrich.org)). The judges' critiques are available if they are requested via separate email to [aldrichfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:aldrichfoundation@gmail.com) by the submission date. Winners grant the BSA Foundation the right to reprint the stories.

**Submission Process:** Stories should be [submitted here](#) by midnight February 17, 2021. A submission link is also found at [bessstreeteraldrich.org/contest.html](http://bessstreeteraldrich.org/contest.html). Questions about the contest or an alternative paper submission can be directed to Kurk Shrader, Executive Director (email [aldrichfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:aldrichfoundation@gmail.com) or call 402-867-4233).