

2016 EDITH WHARTON WRITING COMPETITION OFFICIAL ENTRY GUIDELINES

The Edith Wharton Writing Competition is back with new categories for 2016! Students in grades 9-12 are welcome to submit their original fiction and poetry, or try their hand at re-mixing Edith Wharton's own works. Cash awards are available for all categories, as well as a special award for the school with the highest number of entries.

There are two divisions for submissions. When submitting your entry, please choose the division you will be in for the 2016/2017 school year:

Division I - (Grades 9 & 10)

Division II – (Grades 11 & 12 and members of the class of 2016)

Works are evaluated by a committee of judges. Winners will be notified via email. Awards will be given to the first place and second place winners in each category by Division. The award ceremony will take place on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at The Mount in Lenox, MA.

2016 CATEGORIES

We have revamped the competition and now have four categories for submissions:

1. **Original Fiction:** an original story on a subject of your choice (1,500 and 2,000 words)
2. **Original Poetry:** a collection of three original poems.
3. **Wharton Fiction Rewrite:** choose one of three pre-selected Edith Wharton short stories, and rewrite it as you see fit. We encourage you to change the ending, recast characters, place the story in modern times, or change the setting to their own high school! The possibilities are endless. The Wharton story should be a jumping off point; an inspiration for your own original work.

The three preselected stories are:

["Xingu"](#)

["The Choice"](#)

["Pomegranate Seed"](#)

4. **Wharton Emulation Poem:** choose one of three pre-selected Edith Wharton poems, and analyze the poem's style, tone, rhythm, meter, and content. Then, try your hand at emulating the poem, mirroring Wharton's style, tone, rhythm, meter, and/or content. The emulation poem should be in similar length to Wharton's original work. Please also submit a short statement (200 words or less) explaining the ways in which the poem emulates Wharton's poem.

The three pre-selected poems are: (Appendix B)

"From Some Woman to Some Man"

"The Sonnet"

"The Great Blue Tent"

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all high school students in Berkshire County, and surrounding regions.* Students in public, private, vocational, non-traditional, and home school programs are all encouraged to apply.

*Includes New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

SUBMISSIONS AND COVERSHEET

Please email each entry with a completed coversheet (Appendix A) and completed entry/photo release (Appendix C) as a Microsoft Word or PDF document to awilson@edithwharton.org. The first page of each story and all poems entered must include the work's title, but **omit the author's name**.

ENTRIES MUST BE EMAILED BY OCTOBER 15TH, 2016.

RULES

No work entered in The Mount's 2016 Edith Wharton Writing Competition may have been submitted previously to any other competition. Each student may submit only one entry per category, but may enter more than one category.

2016 TIMELINE

May 22 – Call for Applications

October 15 – Applications Closed

November 18 – Winners announced

December 4 – Awards Ceremony at The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home in Lenox, MA

PRIZES

DIVISION I (Grades 9 & 10):

Cash prizes awarded for first and second place in each category

DIVISION II (Grades 11 & 12, Class of 2016):

Cash prizes awarded for first and second place in each category

A special prize will be awarded for the school with the highest number of total entries submitted.

**The 2016 Edith Wharton Writing Competition Coversheet
Appendix A**

SUBMISSIONS AND COVERSHEET

Please email each entry as a Microsoft Word or PDF document with a completed coversheet to Abby Wilson at awilson@edithwharton.org.

The first page of each submission after the cover sheet must include the work's title, but omit the author's name. This is to ensure fairness in judging.

Please check one:

DIVISION I Grades 9 & 10:

- Fiction
- Poetry
- Edith Wharton Rewrite (Fiction)
- Edith Wharton Emulation Poem

DIVISION II Grades 11 & 12, Members of Class of 2016:

- Fiction
- Poetry
- Edith Wharton Rewrite (Fiction)
- Edith Wharton Emulation Poem

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE: _____

ENGLISH TEACHER: _____

How did you hear about the competition?

**Selected Edith Wharton Poems
Appendix B**

“Some Woman to Some Man”

We might have loved each other after all,
Have lived and learned together! Yet I doubt it;
You asked, I think, too great a sacrifice,
Or else, perhaps, I rate myself too dear.
Whichever way the difference lies between us,
Would common cares have helped to lessen it,
A common interest, and a common lot?
Who knows indeed? We choose our paths, and then
Stand looking back and sighing at our choice,
And say: “Perhaps the other road had lead
To fruitful valleys dozing in the sun.”
And eith way there lies a doubt, you know.
We’ve but one life to live, and fifty ways
To live it in, and little time to choose
The one in fifty that will suit us best,
And so the end is, that we part, and say:
“We might have loved each other after all!”

-Edith Wharton, 1878

“The Sonnet”

Pure form, that like some chalice of old time
 Contain’st the liquid of the poet’s thought
 Within thy curving hollow, gem-enwrought
 With interwoven traceries of rhyme,
While o’er thy brim the bubbling fancies climb,
 What thing am I, that undismayed have sought
 To pour my verse with trembling hand untaught
 Into a shape so small yet so sublime?
Because perfection haunts the hearts of men,
 Because thy sacred chalice gathered up
 The wine of Petrarch, Shakespeare, Shelley-then
Receive these tears of failure as they drop
 (Sole vintage of my life), since I am fain
 To pour them in a consecrated cup.

*-Edith Wharton,
from *Uncollected Poems 1879-1938**

“The Great Blue Tent”

COME unto me, said the Flag,
Ye weary and sore opprest;
For I am no shot-riddled rag,
But a great blue tent of rest.

Ye heavy laden, come
On the aching feet of dread,
From ravaged town, from murdered home,
From your tortured and your dead.

All they that beat at my crimson bars
Shall enter without demur.
Though the round earth rock with the
wind of wars,

Not one of my folds shall stir.
See, here is warmth and sleep,
And a table largely spread.
I give garments to them that weep,
And for gravestones I give bread.

But what, through my inmost fold,
Is this cry on the winds of war?
Are you grown so old, are you grown so
cold,
O Flag that was once our star?

Where did you learn that bread is life,
And where that fire is warm—
You, that took the van of a world-wide
strife,
As an eagle takes the storm?

Where did you learn that men are bred
Where hucksters bargain and gorge;
And where that down makes a softer bed
Than the snows of Valley Forge?

Come up, come up to the stormy sky,
Where our fierce folds rattle and hum,
For Lexington taught us how to fly,
And we dance to Concord's drum.

O flags of freedom, said the Flag,
Brothers of wind and sky;

I too was once a tattered rag,
And I wake and shake at your cry.

I tug and tug at the anchoring place,
Where my drowsy folds are caught;
I strain to be off on the old fierce chase
Of the foe we have always fought.

O People I made, said the Flag,
And welded from sea to sea,
I am still the shot-riddled rag,
That shrieks to be free, to be free.

Oh, cut my silken ties
From the roof of the palace of peace;
Give back my stars to the skies,
My stripes to the storm-striped seas!

Or else, if you bid me yield,
Then down with my crimson bars,
And o'er all my azure field
Sow poppies instead of stars.

-Edith Wharton, 1915

**2016 Edith Wharton Writing Competition Entry/Photo Release
Appendix C**

I do hereby authorize The Mount to use _____ written entry for the Edith Wharton Writing Competition and related promotion. Entrants retain all copyrights to their work. The Mount may edit the written entry as desired for promotional purposes only.

Additionally, I hereby authorize The Mount to use _____ likeness, and image for use in the program and related promotion. The Mount may edit such photos as desired. The Mount shall own all rights, title, and interest at any time existing in and to the photos without limitation to be used and disposed of as The Mount shall in its sole discretion determine.

I represent that I have the right to enter into this agreement and that the rights I have granted hereunder will not conflict with or violate any commitment or understanding I have to or with any other person or entity.

I expressly release to The Mount, its licensees and assignees from all claims arising out of the breach of any covenant or warranty I have made herein.

Program: Edith Wharton Writing Competition, 2016

Name: _____

Signature (or signature of guardian): _____

Address : _____

Phone Number : _____

Date : _____