



# 8th Annual Erle Stanley Gardner Short Story Mystery Writing Contest

Part of the Murder Mystery Weekend, November 6 & 7, 2009

**Sponsored by the City of Temecula**

## Rules:

1. A cover page must be attached to each story, including the story name, the name and address of the author, telephone number, contest category (middle school, high school, adult), approximate word count and e-mail address if applicable.
2. The author's name should not appear beyond the cover sheet. The story title should appear on all pages of the manuscript. The contest is run on a blind review and judges do not see the entrant's name until winners are chosen.
3. All entries must be typed and double spaced on one side of 8-1/2 x 11 paper. Winning entries must later be submitted in a Word or Word Perfect document format. Entry must be submitted in hard copy and digital format. See #11.
4. Manuscripts will not be returned.
5. Stories that have been published previously are not eligible.
6. Story should not exceed 1,000 words for middle school entries, 1,500 words for high school entries, and 2,500 words for adult entries. No adult themes ---- which includes excessively foul language. Submission should be no more than PG-13 rated and should be suitable for reading by anyone.
7. Only one entry per person will be accepted and it must be the creation of that person in whose name it is submitted.
8. Professional writers (those who make at least half of their income writing fiction) and teachers of creative writing at the college level are not eligible to enter.
9. Stories should be of the mystery genre and include references to historical buildings and/or people, living or dead, of the Temecula Valley.
10. All work must be original work written by the applicant. Should work be discovered as a copy or contain plagiarized material, applicant/writer and his work will be disqualified.
11. **Entries must be received by Oct. 16, 2009. Submit all entries in HARD COPY to the Erle Stanley Gardner Short Story Writing Competition, City of Temecula, and P.O. BOX 9033, TEMECULA, CA 92589-9033 or bring to City Hall, care of the Redevelopment Agency, at 43200 Business Park Drive, Temecula, CA, 92590. A Digital copy must also be submitted on CD with the hard copy or by EMAIL to Melsads@aol.com - subject line: Mystery Contest. The Sponsors are not responsible for late, stolen, incomplete, illegible or misdirected mail or submissions.**
12. Winning entries in the adult category will receive: \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third place. Winning entries in the school categories will receive \$100 gift certificates for first place in both Middle and High School category, \$75 gift certificates for second place and \$50 gift certificates for third place.
13. Only first place entries will be published on the City of Temecula's website, and in an anthology of winning entries. The author will receive no remuneration from that newspaper for publishing those entries.
14. Any entry that does not conform to these rules will not be entered into the contest.
15. Winners will be invited to accept their awards on Friday, November 6, 7 p.m. at the Temecula Valley Museum, 28314 Mercedes Street, Old Town Temecula.
16. All Entries must be submitted with this rule sheet, signed and completely filled out.

The undersigned writer (guardian if under 18) grants a non-exclusive license to the CITY OF TEMECULA to reproduce, in any medium, his/her entry. The undersigned further licenses the CITY OF TEMECULA to re-use, publish and republish photography of the writer, (including minors) in any medium. The undersigned writer further grants the CITY OF TEMECULA use of the writer's name (including minors), biographical description and likeness in any published format or media.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age Group: (Middle, High School, Adult)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Website address \_\_\_\_\_