

Guidelines for the 2024 WILLA Literary Award

Capturing the Diversity of the Women's West

Entries Accepted ONLINE ONLY – \$65 per entry

Entry Period November 1, 2024 – February 1, 2025

The WILLA Literary Award honors the best in literature featuring women's or girls' stories set on the North American continent west of the Mississippi River, including Alaska and Hawaii, Canada west of Ontario and Mexico. The award is named in honor of Pulitzer Prize winner Willa Cather, one of America's foremost novelists. Women Writing the West (WWW), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, underwrites and presents this nationally recognized award at the WWW Annual Fall Conference.

- Entries for The WILLA Literary Award are open to all persons worldwide and are not limited to WWW members or women specifically.
- All authors or publishers of books that feature women's or girls' stories set in the North American West may enter.
- A complete WILLA entry consists of three (3) Amazon gift copies of the book, a completed online application with payment, and three (3) copies sent to the appropriate Category Coordinator.
- Works submitted for this competition must have been **FIRST** published during the 2024 calendar year with the **FIRST** copyright date in 2024.
- No title may be entered in more than one category.
- WWW reserves the right to add or delete categories according to the entries received and to move entries to another category as appropriate.
- Entries with incomplete submission packages or after the February 1 deadline will not be acknowledged, nor will any part of the package, including the entry fee, be returned.

- Final judges are professional librarians not affiliated with WWW. They will select the Winners and Finalists.
- WWW reserves the right to not name a Winner or Finalist in any category, should the final judges determine that no entry merits an award.

The WILLA Literary Award categories are:

Contemporary Fiction

Historical Fiction

Mystery / Thriller

Romance

Poetry

Creative Nonfiction

Scholarly Nonfiction

Children's Picture Books

Middle Grade Fiction and Nonfiction

Young Adult Fiction and Nonfiction

More information about these categories can be found on the [WWW website](#).

Refer any questions to Laura Drake, the WILLA Chair, at WILLA@womenwritingthewest.org