

GREATER CENTRAL VALLEY BOOK FEST

Voices of the Valley

Short

Story

Competition



Share your story, your way. Every voice matters—and yours could inspire others!

Official Rules — Grades 3–8

THIS YEAR'S THEME

"What Matters to You?"

Write a story about something that matters to you. It could be about your family, a pet, a friend, a place you love, or anything else that's important to you. There's no wrong answer — this is your story.



Who Can Enter?

Any student in Grades 3 through 8 can enter.

How Long Should My Story Be?

Grades 3–5:
up to 750 words

Grades 6–8:
up to 1,200 words



Turn in your story by
October 10, 2026.

How Do I Turn In My Story?

Give your finished story to your teacher or bring it to the school library before the deadline. Make sure your name and grade are written at the top!



What Happens Next?

A group of judges will read every story. They'll be looking for stories that feel real, honest, and truly yours.



What Do Winners Get?

Mayor Dan Arriola will present the winners on stage at the Greater Central Valley Book Fest on November 1st! Thanks to **Sutter Health**, winners will also receive **cash prizes and gifts**, plus a certificate and free festival tickets for your family

UPDATE!



Even if you don't win:

with your parent's permission, your story can still be printed in a real book — alongside stories from bestselling authors and writers from our community!

**LET'S HEAR
YOUR VOICE!**

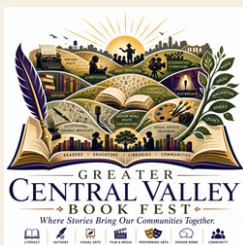
Tips for a Great Story:

Pick something that really matters to you.

Use your own words.

Make sure your story has a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Ask a teacher or grown-up to help you check your spelling before you turn it in.



Special guest — a bestselling young adult author!

We can't wait to read your story!

Questions?

Ask your teacher or school librarian.

greatercentralvalleybookfest.com