

# NEW VOICES

WRITING CONTEST  
FOR PICTURE BOOKS

BY AUTHORS OF COLOR  
AND NATIVE NATIONS

The **WINNER** of the award receives a cash prize of \$2,000 AND a Lee & Low Books publishing contract!

An **HONOR** Award winner will receive a cash prize of \$1,000!

## PAST WINNERS



# NEW VISIONS

WRITING CONTEST  
FOR YA/MIDDLE GRADE  
NOVELS & GRAPHIC NOVELS

BY AUTHORS OF COLOR  
AND NATIVE NATIONS

The **WINNER** of the award receives a cash prize of \$2,000 AND a Tu Books publishing contract!

An **HONOR** Award winner will receive a cash prize of \$1,000!

## PAST WINNERS



Lee & Low Books, the nation's largest publisher of multicultural titles for children and young adults, welcomes submissions to our two annual writing contests.



## NEW VOICES WRITING CONTEST FOR PICTURE BOOKS



## NEW VISIONS

WRITING CONTEST  
FOR YA/MIDDLE GRADE NOVELS & GRAPHIC NOVELS



### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Manuscripts may be FICTION, NONFICTION, or POETRY for children ages 5–12. Folktales or stories with anthropomorphic animal characters will not be considered.
2. Manuscripts should address the needs of children of color or Native children by providing stories they can identify with and which promote greater understanding of one another. Themes relating to non-traditional family structures, gender identity, or disabilities are also of interest.
3. Manuscripts should be no more than 1500 words in length, typed, and accompanied by a cover letter that includes the author's name, address, phone number, email address, brief biographical note, relevant cultural and ethnic information, how the author heard about the award, and publication history (if any).
4. Participants may submit up to two manuscripts. Each manuscript should be mailed separately to:  
  
**LEE & LOW BOOKS**  
95 Madison Ave, Suite 1205  
New York, NY 10016  
ATTN: NEW VOICES AWARD
5. Manuscripts may not be submitted to other publishers, agents, mentorship contests, writing contests, or to Lee & Low's general submissions while under consideration for this award.
6. **All submissions must be postmarked between April 1, 2019, and August 31, 2019.** If you want to know whether your manuscript has arrived safely, use an express shipping service or USPS Delivery Confirmation. A self-addressed, stamped envelope with sufficient postage must be included if you wish to have the manuscript returned.

**DEADLINE: Must be postmarked by August 31, 2019**

The winners will be notified no later than **December 31, 2019.**  
We will announce the winners on **January 21, 2020.**

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Manuscripts may be fiction or narrative nonfiction for children ages 8 to 12 or young adults ages 12 to 18. Graphic novels and novels in verse are welcome. Picture books and short stories will not be accepted.
2. Manuscripts should address the needs of children and teens of color or of native nations by providing stories with which they can identify and relate, and which promote a greater understanding of one another. Themes relating to LGBTQ+ topics or disabilities may also be included.
3. Submissions should be **full, unagented manuscripts or graphic novel scripts.** Manuscripts/scripts should be composed in a clear 12-point font, double-spaced, saved as a Word document, and accompanied by a cover letter that includes the author's name, address, phone number, email address, brief biographical note, relevant cultural and ethnic information, how the author heard about the award, and publication history, if any.
  - a. **Middle-grade novels** are not to exceed 75,000 words in length; young-adult novels are not to exceed 95,000 words in length.
  - b. **Graphic novels** should not exceed 150 scripted pages. Include 6-10 pages of final art samples and optional character sketches in PDF format only if you are an author/illustrator.
  - c. **Nonfiction** may be either in prose manuscript or graphic-novel form, following the word/page guidelines above. We seek narrative nonfiction projects with strong educational appeal, centered around a person or people from marginalized groups. Instructional or reference nonfiction (e.g. cookbooks, encyclopedias, etc.) will not be considered. Please include a preliminary bibliography and an explanation of how you came to write the book with your manuscript.
4. Submissions should be submitted online at [tubooks.submittable.com/submit](http://tubooks.submittable.com/submit) in the **New Visions Award** category. You will receive a confirmation email stating your submission was received.
5. Manuscripts may not be submitted to other publishers, agents, mentorship contests, writing contests, or to Lee & Low's general submissions while under consideration for this award.
6. **All submissions must be submitted electronically between April 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019. Allow plenty of time before the deadline to account for technical difficulties.**

**DEADLINE: Must be submitted by August 31, 2019**

The winners will be notified no later than **March 2, 2020.**  
We will announce the winners on **April 1, 2020.**

#### ELIGIBILITY

**Contestants must meet all of the following criteria to be considered:**

1. Self-identify as a person of color or a Native/indigenous person.
2. Be at least 18 years old at the time of entry.
3. Be a resident of the United States.
4. Be a debut author in the category in which you're applying. This means you cannot have had a picture book traditionally published if you're applying for the New Voices Award,

or a middle-grade or YA novel traditionally published for the New Visions Award. Writers who have had work published in other age categories are eligible (e.g., a YA or adult author may apply for the New Voices Award). Authors with self-published books are also eligible, but you should submit a new manuscript, not a project that has been previously self-published.

For more information and FAQ, please visit [leeandlow.com/writing-contests](http://leeandlow.com/writing-contests)