

# Telling Tales: A Literary Memoir Writing Contest

in conjunction with the  
2012 Arkansas Literary Festival



\$100 for Top 3 Stories

Sponsored by William F. Laman Public Library

## Submission Guidelines

- Writers must currently live in the South (defined as the “Confederate South”: Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida) or be from the South originally.
- Stories must be true and told in the first person—recounting things that happened to you, not someone else, and they must be literary memoirs—not editorials, poems, top-ten lists, essays, or general statements of personal belief. There must be a clear narrative structure (not just chronologies: something must happen). We’re looking for rising action building to a climax/epiphany. Literary memoir, not personal essay, is what we are looking for. See below for contest topic information. We also highly suggest you listen to past shows: [www.talesfromthesouth.com/listen.html](http://www.talesfromthesouth.com/listen.html)
- If accepted, writers must read their own stories and be available to record in front of a live audience at Starving Artist Café in the Argenta Arts District of North Little Rock, Arkansas, on Tuesday, April 17, 2012. Lodging provided for writers outside of the Central Arkansas area.
- Stories must be between 1000-1200 words.
- TOPIC: The topic for this contest is your literary memoir based on this quote:

**“There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in.”**

~ Graham Greene

So, what was this moment for you? Were you a young child, an adolescent, a teenager? Was it a positive or negative experience? What was the exact experience that shows us this moment? Write it out in scenes (not summary), using sensory details to put the listeners there with you. Story structure required: rising action building to a climax/epiphany. Stay away from commentary and just let the story show us this moment. Your true story in short story form.

- Literary devices and techniques highly encouraged.
- Material should be G- or PG-rated. No profanity, explicit sexual content, or scatological references. Material that is overtly critical of a particular race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation will not be accepted. The FCC is very strict, and you should take this into consideration when submitting.
- Tales from the South will acquire the rights for broadcast and simultaneous live audio streaming over the facilities of KUAR and multiple other Public Radio stations nationwide. Archived shows are broadcast on iTunes, the NPR website, the KUAR website, and rebroadcasted on World Radio Network (both satellite and internet radio). We are distributed by Public Radio Exchange, and the Release Form will reflect any changes. You (the writer) retain all publication rights, both hardcopy and electronic.
- Stories will be eligible to be included in yearly collections published by Temenos Publishing, as long as the author owns all copyrights. Anthology stories will be chosen by the Editor and a panel as the "year's best." Authors may choose to not be included in the anthology.
- Winners will be notified via email and will be given editorial suggestions to adhere to the format of the show.
- To submit:
  - 1) In the subject line, put LIT FEST and the name of your story, the word count, and your name: EX: LIT FEST "Mockingbird" 780 words by Paula Morell,
  - 2) Paste your submission into the body of your email (we will not open any attachments),
  - 3) Include a brief bio, and
  - 4) email to: [talesfromthesouth@gmail.com](mailto:talesfromthesouth@gmail.com)(If you do not include "LIT FEST" in your subject line, we will not know that you are entering the contest, and your story will be filed with our regular submissions.) We do not accept mailed submissions. Email submissions only.
- **Submission deadline is 10 p.m. Sunday, March 04, 2012.**