SPOOK SQUAD

INDEPENDENT INFORMATION GUIDE



Inspire your child to write a spooky mini saga (a story told in up to 100 words). It can be scary or funny, creepy or cute – it's up to them! Can they include tension, suspense or atmosphere in their story?

Watch the video here: **https://youtu.be/Lmz0uul960g**



TOP TIPS

- Remember to check the word count – the limit is **100** words
- Use contractions to save words e.g. it is becomes it's
- Avoid a long introduction – jump straight to the action
- What scares you? Use this as inspiration
- Have just 2 or 3 characters – there isn't room for lots of people
- It doesn't have to be scary – it can be funny or surprising instead

IT'S EASY TO TAKE PART

- Print off the graphic organizer or download the Word Doc entry form (so no printer required)
- Write/type your entry and make sure your child's name, age and address is included
- Email it to contests@youngwritersusa.com

OR

Upload typed entries at **www.youngwriterusa.com/contests/enter**

PRIZES

Our 3 favorite writers will each win a creative writing goody bag!

(Winners will be chosen from published entries received Feb-March 2026. Independent entrants are eligible to win.)



(Image for illustration purposes only, contents may differ.)

PLUS every entrant receives a bookmark and all young writers chosen for publication will receive a certificate of merit.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1. Our team of editors will read, type and proofread every entry after the closing date
2. All entries that meet the contest criteria will be accepted for publication
3. A letter, bookmark and certificate are sent out to you
4. You'll need to give your permission for your child's work to be published
5. We'll create a series of books from all the entries
6. When they are all published, our independent judge will pick the winners! We'll email the parent of the winners to let them know the prize is on its way
7. Everyone celebrates being published authors, and keeps writing!

CLOSING DATE: MARCH 27, 2026