

# Climate Change Fiction Writing Contest for Kids

*sponsored by Kids Against Climate Change*

[kidsagainstclimatechange.co](http://kidsagainstclimatechange.co)

Just in time for Earth Day 2021! Annual writing contest for kids!

This is an opportunity for you to be transported to another place or time while showing appreciation for Earth's natural systems. Combine your knowledge of science and writing techniques, and use your own experiences of how people are behaving during this Covid pandemic that has so altered people's lives.

Write a realistic fiction story, or a science fiction story, about dealing with a world that is experiencing the severe effects of a changing climate. (A planning page is included in the linked document below to help you get started.) Make the story exciting! Have fun with it! I do hope you survive the climate change disaster, but you're the author. Only you know what will happen... until you put the words on paper.

Eligible: Kids, age 10-18 years

Winning stories will be published on [Kids Against Climate Change](http://Kids Against Climate Change), by May 21, 2021. Thousands of kids around the world will read YOUR story!

One story from each category will be chosen:

- Category One: 10-13-year-olds
- Category Two: 14-18-year-olds

\*\*\*\*\* **Submission deadline: May 15, 2021** \*\*\*\*\*

What are you waiting for?! Get started! Use the guide below to begin building your story.

Story genre: Cli-Fi (climate fiction)

Choose one: realistic fiction      science fiction

Story topic: A fictional story that centers around a child the author's age dealing with a disaster brought about by climate change. Choose one you want to be the focus of your story:

drought                                      dying marine life                                      weird weather

sea level rise                                      severe heat                                      other

rain storms                                      glaciers melting                                      \_\_\_\_\_

fires                                      tornadoes

air pollution                                      hurricanes

The nitty gritty: All entries must follow the specifications below:

Typed	1-inch margins	Written in English
Arial, 12 point font	1.5 line spacing	2-5 pages

- Story can be written by a single author or co-authors (no more than two).
- Include a title and the first name of each author. Use country name as last name. Example: Mary USA and John Australia (Yes, if you have a friend or relative in another country, and s/he is age 10-18 years, you may write the story together.)

**See Planning Page and Entry Form below.**

\*\*\*\*\* **Submission deadline: May 15, 2021** \*\*\*\*\*

## Planning Pages for Cli-Fi Story

Add lots of real science, and realistic details, to your story to make it sound credible. If you need more background information about climate change causes or effects, go to <https://kidsagainstclimatechange.co/start-learning>. Don't worry about filling everything in on this planning page before you start writing. It's just to get you thinking about the different components of your story. Fill in what comes to your mind, and then jump into your writing. You can always return to this page later.

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your First Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Country** \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Character(s)** *One or two main characters. At least one of them must be the same age as the author(s)*

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Physical description \_\_\_\_\_

Personality \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Physical description \_\_\_\_\_

Personality \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Setting** *Make sure you know the real climate-related issues for the setting of your story. For example, the main issue in many parts of Australia is extended drought. On the other hand, the main concern for those living in the southeastern part of the United States is more severe tornadoes. On the island of Vanuatu, sea-level rise is their biggest danger.* Country \_\_\_\_\_ Town (real or imaginary

name) \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Season \_\_\_\_\_

**Point of View:** *Written in first person (Example: I couldn't believe my eyes when....), or third person (Example: She couldn't believe her eyes when....)? \_\_\_\_\_*

**Plot**

**Problem:** *Choose one major disaster brought on by climate change. How will it affect the main character and others? How is this problem causing other problems? How will community members respond to the change in their lifestyle? (Use your knowledge of how people are responding to the Covid global pandemic for ideas.)*

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**Solution:** *Your main characters cannot stop climate change, but they can adapt to the changes, and work to slow down climate change so the problems become less severe. How will the main characters deal with the "new normal" caused by climate change? How will they help others? You may not know the solution at the beginning of your writing. That's okay. Begin writing the story. Research the issue. A realistic response to the problem will come to you.*

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**Conclusion** *Wrap up all the loose ends so the reader feels satisfied. Then the main characters can reflect on all that has happened. What lessons were learned? Regrets? Relief? Pride in actions taken or attitude maintained? Give a hint about the future. What will happen to the main characters and their community? Will other communities learn from their experience? You may not know the answers now, before you begin writing. When you write, and get inside your story, experiencing what your characters experience, a conclusion will come to you when you stop and reflect.*

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**See Entry Form and submission information below.**

# Entry Form for Cli-Fi Story Writing Contest

Complete this form and include with submitted story.

Signatures must be completed in pen, so print out form, sign, get a parent's signature, scan or photograph, attach to email. If there are two authors, each author completes an entry form. Send forms in together with story.

First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Story \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name (The one who introduced this contest to you.)

Where did you hear about this writing contest? \_\_\_\_\_

This original story is all my own work. Although it may be inspired by another's work, I have not copied the plot, or any part from someone else's creation (including, but not limited to, books, short stories, TV, movies, games). This story is not published anywhere else, in print or on the Internet. You have permission to publish it *on Kids Against Climate Change* website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Author's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Email to [kchristieblick@sandiego.edu](mailto:kchristieblick@sandiego.edu) Subject: Cli-Fi contest. Attach story and this completed form. **Deadline May 15, 2021, 12:00am EST.**

*Kottie Christie-Blick, a classroom teacher for over 30 years, is now an instructor at the University of San Diego, in California. She is also a Climate Change Education Consultant, providing professional development to educators on how to teach climate science. Originally created by her students, she continues to update and moderate the Kids Against Climate Change website, <https://kidsagainstclimatechange.co> . For more information, see her website, <https://www.kottiecb.com>.*