



**2026 Suzanne Marie
Margaret Sloat
Youth Literary Competition**

Contest Rules:

1. Must be a 4th -12th grade student (including 2026 graduates) and a Michigan resident.
2. Awards are given in three levels of competition. Students starting these grade level for 2025-26 school year:
Level I: 4th – 6th Grade
Level II: 7th – 9th Grade
Level III: 10th – 12th Grade
3. All entries must be original short stories based on the assigned theme. *“My day with a famous Polish American hero.”* Panelists judge creativity, grammar, and following rules.
4. Entries must be original, not previously published or awarded in any other competition. All entries must be typed, double spaced, 500 - 1000 words. Participants may submit only one entry. Entries may be in English or in Polish. No Artificial Intelligence (AI) is permitted.
5. Send entries to: info@friendsofpolishart.org along with the attached “Entry Form/Permission Slip”.
 - Email subject line: Polish Youth Literary Competition Submission
 - Please put your name only on the “Entry Form/Permission Slip”.
 - Your literary submission should be a Word or PDF attachment.
6. **Deadline for entries is Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2026.** Award recipients will be notified by October 15, 2026, and announced at the October FPA General Membership Meeting.
7. Prizes:
Level I: 1st Place \$100; 2nd Place \$75; 3rd Place \$50
Level II: 1st Place \$125, 2nd Place \$100; 3rd Place \$75
Level III: 1st Place \$200, 2nd Place \$150; 3rd Place \$100
(1st Place Award for Level III will be matched by FPA donor, for a total of \$400.)
8. Winning stories may be published on the Friends of Polish Arts website and/or in the FPA newsletter. Submission of stories constitutes a copyright license to the Friends of Polish Arts (FPA) to publish and/or reprint the winning stories should FPA choose to do so without royalties or other fees. By submitting the story, the entrants represent that they have the right to grant this license.

Questions: Contact Pamela Saunders via email at pkasaunders1@msn.com with subject line: Polish Literary Competition.

2026 is the U.S. semi quincentennial. To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence, our contest theme showcases Polish American heroes.

This is just a small list. You may choose another person of Polish descent who has made a substantial impact on United States politics, arts, culture, business, etc.

- **Military** – Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Casimir Pulaski
- **Actors** - John Krasinski, Kristen Bell (Detroit), Loretta Swit, Helena Modjeska, Christine Baranski
- **Film** - Joseph Kosinski, Roman Polański, Andrzej Krakowski
- **Sports** - Mike Krzyzewski (Duke basketball "Coach K"), Tara Lipinski (Gold Medal Olympic Figure Skater), Jane "Peaches" Barkowicz (Tennis - Detroit), Tom Paciorek (Baseball - Detroit), other inductees to the Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame.
- **Politics** - Marcy Kaptor (US Congress), Zbigniew Brzezinski (National Security Advisor), Lisa Murkowski (US Senate), Barbara Mikulski
- **Legal** - Richard Walawender (Honorary Consul of Poland - Detroit)
- **Music** - Jack White (White Stripes - Detroit), Ray Manzarek (Doors), Pat Benatar, Bobby Vinton, Marcella Sembrich (soprano), Ignacy Jan Paderewski (Pianist/Composer)
- **Inventors** - Steve Wozniak (Apple Computers), Stephanie Kwolek (invented Kevlar), Henryk Magnuski (walkie-talkie), Jan Czochralski (developed the Czochralski method for growing single crystals, which is essential for manufacturing semiconductor wafers in all modern electronics), Ralph Modjeski (Engineer -bridges)
- **University** - MSU President Kevin M. Guskiewicz
- **Artist/Culture** - Tamara de Lempicka (Painter), Dennis Orlowski (Painter - Detroit), Marcia Lewandowski (Activist - Folk - Detroit), Stephen Paul Mizwa (Kosciuszko Foundation)
- Mary Zuk (in 1935 organized a massive strike against high meat prices during the Great Depression)

Wikipedia List:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Polish_Americans#:~:text=Peter%20Falk%20\(1927%E2%80%932011\),%2C%20actress;%20Polish%20maternal%20grandmother](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Polish_Americans#:~:text=Peter%20Falk%20(1927%E2%80%932011),%2C%20actress;%20Polish%20maternal%20grandmother)