



## 2026 ARIA ANTHOLOGY

Theme is "Freedom"

### GENERAL RULES:

- Submission period runs from March 1, 2026, until midnight on March 31, 2026. I will not accept entries prior to March 1 nor later than March 31.
- You may submit ONE short story or essay OR up to three (3) poems. Not both.
- Prose/essay is limited to 5,000 words maximum.
- For poems, you may submit up to three (3) poems, but only one can be chosen.
- This year's theme is very broad, and it is up to you to interpret it as you choose. However, **please do not use "Freedom" as your title**. Come up with something more creative!
- All submissions must be as a *Microsoft Word* document. No paper submissions. Do not mail paper submissions to the ARIA PO Box. Paper submissions will be returned to the sender.
- Your Word document should be in **Times New Roman, 12-point font**. Double-spaced is preferred but not required. This is a simple request and thank you in advance.
- **DO NOT** put your name, or any other identifying information in the document. If you're identified within the story, I'll change the information for judging purposes only. (If your story or poem is accepted, the original will be used.)
- Please don't include headers, footers, or page numbers.
- Send your story or poem(s) as a **WORD** document **attached** to an email. Include your name on the email (if your email address is something like ChowderLover499 I'll have no idea who you are). Send it to me at [MarthaCFE@gmail.com](mailto:MarthaCFE@gmail.com). **DO NOT** send it to Mike Squatrito, Guy Natelli, Rob Bentley, or Steve Porter. I will send you a reply by email that lets you know I received it. *This is important – make sure I've sent you a confirmation email!* I should reply to you within a few days.
- **Check your spam folder** if you haven't heard from me – this does happen.
- Submissions must be previously **UNPUBLISHED**. Nothing that has appeared in print or online (this means blog posts, Facebook posts, etc.). I will ask you to confirm this.
- All writing should be your own, not generated by any artificial means. I will ask you to confirm this as well. You're a writer - use your talent!
- In order to submit and be considered, your ARIA membership dues **MUST BE PAID CURRENT!** Dues renewal began in January – be sure your dues are paid current before you submit anything. Yes, I'll check.
- Your submission will be judged blind - you don't know who the judges are, and they do not know who writes what. They will judge how well written your story or poem is, and whether it adheres to the theme. **Please edit and proof your work.**



- The judges use all of March and as much of April as needed to read and review. I contact each person separately by email to let them know whether their work was accepted or not. You will hear from me *either way*, usually by mid-April.
- Any questions can be addressed to me at the email listed above.