

Find your voice,
tell your story...



LISTEN/TM Dear Cancer: 2021 Teen Essay Contest

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Gilda's Club Twin Cities is looking for honest, personal reflections and original insights by writers 13-18 years old who demonstrate an authentic ability to move readers by sharing their cancer experience. **To enter, write a creative essay about how cancer has touched your life – whether you have it, had it, or know someone who has.**

Are you a teen living with cancer or a cancer survivor?
Has someone you love experienced cancer?
How has cancer shaped the life of someone you know?

ELIGIBILITY

Open to teens in middle and high school ages 13-18.
Must be a Minnesota resident. Not open to previous LISTEN/Dear Cancer contest award winners.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Middle school and high school teens impacted by cancer in the following ways:

- Teens living with cancer or survivors
- Teens who have/had a family member or friend living with cancer or who has died

For full entry rules, go to:

GildasClubTwinCities.org/blog/listen-project/DearCancer2021

AWARDS

Grand prize

Laptop valued at \$1,500

*A single grand prize will be awarded, judged among all submissions

1st place iPad valued at \$750

2nd place Gift certificate \$250

*1st & 2nd place prizes awarded in both middle school & high school categories

**Contest Deadline:
December 31, 2020**

2021 CELEBRITY JUDGES



Shannon Gibney

Award-winning author of books of all kinds — from novels to anthologies to essays to picture books.



Kao Kalia Yang

A Hmong-American writer, teacher and public speaker. Her work is critically acclaimed and spans many genres. 2019 Sally Award for Social Impact recipient.



John Coy

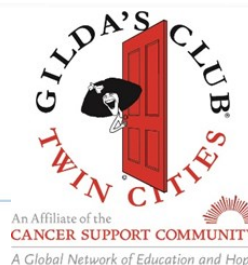
Author of picture books, the 4 for 4 series, and YA novels such as Crackback and Gap Life.



Grace Wethor

Actress, TED Speaker, author, brain stem glioma survivor & advocate, and past LISTEN/Dear Cancer Essay Contest Winner.

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ETHICS STATEMENT & ENTRY DETAILS

No purchase or obligation necessary. Essay submissions will be evaluated in a fair and unbiased multi-round judging process. Teens of a judge or Gilda's Club staff are ineligible.

HOW WILL MY ESSAY BE JUDGED?

Personal Voice: Judges will look for an interesting, engaging essay told in your own words. The essay should describe your experience and an overall message about how cancer impacted your life.

Clarity and Style: Judges will look for a clear and consistent focus in your writing and a logical progression of ideas. Good grammar, accurate word choices, correct punctuation and sentence structure is required.

To enter go to: GildasClubTwinCities.org/blog/listen-project/DearCancer2021

DATES & TIMES:

November 11 from 6:30-8pm
December 9 from 6:30-8pm

COST: FREE!

SIGN UP:

GildasClubTwinCities.org/blog/listen-project/DearCancer2021,
My GCTC app,
or 612.227.2147

LOCATION:

Gilda's Club Twin Cities
10560 Wayzata Blvd

FREE

TEEN WRITING WORKSHOPS



Need inspiration or
motivation to get your
story flowing?

Dear Cancer: LISTEN UP!

Interested in submitting to our essay contest but needing some inspiration or help to get started? Check out a free workshop led by writers who will help kick start your process. No judgement, no pressure, no previous writing experience necessary. All are welcome, even if this is your first time to Gilda's Club. Simply sign up! Come to one or all sessions.

Thank you to our
generous funders:



Thank you to our local schools for helping your
students tell their stories!