**Teen Writer! Video: “The Power of Verbs”**

Exciting fiction is all about *action*, and award-winning writer Gina Catanzarite reveals exercises to help teens build a strong “verb vocabulary.” Use just the right verb to describe everything from exciting action sequences to dramatic heartfelt moments in your plot, and your fiction will come alive in the readers’ imagination!

**LEARN MORE ABOUT FILLING YOUR FICTION WITH DYNAMIC VERBS!**

**Live Write Thrive – 3 Keys to Writing Effective Action Scenes**
Adventurous stories build to an exciting climax, and when your readers reach that part of the story, they expect thrilling descriptions of the action!

**ThoughtCo – Powerful Verbs for Your Writing**
Awesome action and powerful verbs to rev up your writing!

**Writer’s Digest – The Action Verb and Beautiful Accidents**
A published poet explains how the perfect and unexpected word can strengthen the impact of creative writing.

**Writer’s Digest – Blow by blow: Writing Action and Fight Scenes – 5 Tips**
Try these techniques to build tension and spotlight the conflict in your fiction.

**Cliffs Notes – Action Verbs and Linking Verbs**
Enjoy this brief and easy-to-understand explanation of the difference between Action verbs and Linking verbs.

**Writer’s Digest – Don’t use Adverbs and Adjectives to Prettify Your Prose**
Edit out those redundant adverbs and adjectives and make your writing stand out with the *perfect* verb!
**Enhanced Marketing – 351 Strong Verbs to Make your Content Pop, Fizz, and Sparkle**

Explore plenty of examples of how strong verbs transform creative writing, business writing, advertising, academic papers, and everyday language!

**Writer’s Digest – Write Better Fiction**

Explore advice from experts and published authors about improving writing in a variety of fiction genres.

**TeensLoveToKnow.com – Creative Writing Online Resources for Teens**

Explore links to free online resources to inspire and refine your creative writing.

**ReedsyBlog – 50 Best Writing Website of 2020**

From refining your fiction to learning about the publishing industry, explore these 50 recommended websites especially for writers!

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**Sources for Reputable Teen Writing Competitions**

- **ALWAYS** review contest guidelines and promised prizes very carefully. Have a parent, guardian, or school guidance counselor review the competition rules with you if you are unsure if the contest is reputable.
- **A few** reputable writing competitions charge small entry fees. **NEVER** enter competitions that charge substantial fees.
- Beware of “anthology schemes.” In short, these schemes ask you to submit your work for a “competition” and “winners” will be “published” in an anthology. Sometimes they charge entry fees for each piece of writing you submit. If your work is “chosen,” it will be “published” -- and then, of course, you can buy a copy of the anthology. **This is a money-making scheme.** Everyone who submits writing gets “chosen” to be in the anthology, and they make their money from the submission fees and sale of anthologies. These schemes are very common, and no industry professional sees them as credible samples of “published” work. Do not waste your money or your time on these anthology schemes.

**SCHOLASTIC, INC. ALLIANCE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS AND WRITERS AWARD**

This is the SuperBowl of student writing competitions – and you can choose your preferred format, from poetry to fiction to short story. It also has categories for visual arts awards. This is an excellent and respected competition to enter.

- **SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST**
- **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRESS WOMEN** – High School Communications Contest
- **NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION**
National Pacemaker Awards are awards for excellence in American student journalism, given annually since 1927. The awards are generally considered to be the highest national honors in their field, and are unofficially known as the “Pulitzer Prizes” of student journalism.

- **Poetry Out Loud competition** – National student recitation competition
- **Journalism Education Association** – Aspiring Young Journalist Award
- **Voice of Democracy essay contest** – Veterans of Foreign Wars

From Harry Potter’s exhilarating game of Quidditch to the Cornucopia scene in *The Hunger Games*, our favorite fiction novels are *filled* with epic action! Tell us about your favorite action scene in fiction!

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You can email your story to us at luminari@luminari.org

**Learn more about attending Luminari’s in-person camp Teen Writer! and explore scholarship opportunities: Teen Writer!**