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February 2025

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FEBRUARY 11, 2025



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FEBRUARY 15, 2025



**MIMI O'BONSAWIN**  
MARCH 6, 2025

**BRAMPTON  
ON  
STAGE**



# creative kids

## RIPPLE FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL **KIDS WRITE 4 KIDS CONTEST** NOW OPEN TO ASPIRING YOUNG WRITERS

WORDS BY **LORRAINE PELLEY**

The Ripple Foundation, a literacy-based charity based in Toronto, Ontario, focuses on teaching kids how to grow and express themselves through creative literacy programs. The foundation's free programs and services are available virtually to students across Canada in grades 4 to 12.

Ripple Foundation is once again hosting its annual Kids Write 4 Kids (KW4K) writing challenge. The contest is now open to all aspiring writers in grades 4 to 8. To enter, students must submit an original story.

All entries will be judged by a panel of literary experts, reading enthusiasts, and previous year's contest winners. The winning stories will be professionally published in paperback and eBook formats and sold on platforms such as Amazon, iBookstore, Apple, Google Play, and OverDrive. All proceeds from the book sales will go to the winner's charity of choice. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2025.

The 2024 winners are Alina Xiao from Oakville, Ontario, and Myah Rathi Littelljohn from East York, Ontario. Xiao's book, *A Piece of Me*, is a poetry collection reflecting her personal experiences as a student with cancer. Littelljohn's book, *Path of Thorns*, is a fantasy story about family and friendship. The 2023 winners are New Brunswick's Taym Saffar and Yukon's Roy Osborne. Sales from all 2023 published stories raised \$750.98 for the Canadian Cancer Society. All books by current and past winners are available on the Ripple Foundation website.



Ripple Foundation's programs are designed to promote and develop students' literacy skills. In addition to the writing contest, the charitable organization also hosts free weekly Write It Workshops. These virtual sessions, held Saturdays from 1 to 2 p.m. for students in grades 4 to 8, aim to help students improve their writing skills, express themselves creatively, and format engaging story ideas. Each series consists of five workshops, run by volunteers who are committed to helping students reach their potential.

Wave Blog is a positive, safe, and bully-free space where students in grades 8 to 12 can share their views and interests, express themselves, and connect with peers. To be published in the weekly Wave

Blog, students must complete the online application found on the Ripple Foundation website, upload an original content piece, and undergo an interview process. Past submissions have included movie and book reviews, hobbies, immigrating to Canada, diet and nutrition, and gender identity.

The foundation's Express, Inspire, Connect Youth Conference is a half-day virtual event held annually. Coordinated and led by high school students, the conference offers participants the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge, engage in meaningful discussions, connect with peers, brainstorm ideas, and network with industry experts.

Ripple Foundation has also recently introduced youth

volunteer opportunities for high school students. This exclusively virtual opportunity allows students to improve their writing and leadership skills while earning volunteer hours.

Additionally, Ripple Foundation operates the Ripple Shop, where people can purchase merchandise. All proceeds from the sale of merchandise support the foundation's programs.

Ivy Wong founded the organization in 2012 to teach children how to grow personally and develop essential leadership, confidence, and social skills through creative literacy.

To add a school or child care centre to the mailing list or learn more about the Ripple Foundation, visit [ripplefoundation.ca](http://ripplefoundation.ca)