

**NAMI Merced County and the Phoenix Creative Collective LLC
proudly present**

“Rising Storytellers” Short Story Contest

Open to any and all students in Grades 6-8 in Merced County

Deadline for submission: **October 20th, 2018**

Write a short story (500-1,500 words) based on the following prompt:

**“How do people in your age group see and/or cope with life struggles?”
(ex: bullying, depression, anxiety, family issues, suicide, PTSD)**

Stories may be written in the first or third person. Stories may be typed or hand-written.

Stories may be submitted online by emailing PhoenixCCMerced@gmail.com with the words “Rising Storytellers Submission” in the subject, the writer’s name, grade, and story title in the body of the email, and the story attached.

Stories may be submitted in person or via USPS by being turned in/sent in to the **Multicultural Arts Center at 645 W. Main Street in Merced, CA 95340, c/o Phoenix Creative Collective, LLC**

Once the deadline has passed, 4-6 stories will be chosen to be translated into short plays.

Free Performances: November 10th, 2018 at the MAC in Merced

All writers who submit a piece will receive a booklet curated of snippets from submitted materials.

We are looking for:

- Compelling Characters
- Understandable Narrative Structure
- Original Point of View
- Relatable Themes
- Strong Voice

Email NAMIMerced2@gmail.com with questions or for simple writing feedback. Get more information about “Rising Storytellers” at www.PhoenixtheRise.com.

