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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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<sup>1</sup> Brattleboro Miniature Masterpiece Flash Fiction

<sup>2</sup> Competition

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<sup>4</sup> TEXT BODY:

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<sup>5</sup> The Brooks Memorial Library and Oscar Heller  
<sup>6</sup> announce the launch the Brattleboro Miniature Masterpiece Flash  
<sup>7</sup> Fiction Competition, a community-wide celebration of literature,  
<sup>8</sup> human creativity, and storytelling.

<sup>9</sup> "Miniature fiction is approachable and fun," organizers  
<sup>10</sup> wrote in a news release, that stands as "a creative challenge to  
<sup>11</sup> the writer: how can you tell a story in fifty words or fewer? How

12 do you sketch out a character, or evoke an emotion, or create  
13 humor or suspense, with such limited resources?"

14 The competition is open to all, including Brattleboro  
15 residents, nonresidents, and town staff.

16 Each submitted be should conform to these guidelines:

- 17 • Maximum 50 words.
- 18 • Fiction only.
- 19 • Entries must be fully human-created; no AI tools.
- 20 • No explicit or violent content.

21 Entries will be evaluated in three age categories (age as  
22 of Dec 7):

- 23 • Kids: 12 and younger
- 24 • Teens: 13–17
- 25 • Adults: 18 and older

26 The submission deadline is: Midnight, Sunday,  
27 December 7. The top 10 selections in each category will be  
28 announced Monday, December 15. The selections will be  
29 publicly displayed from December 15 through 31, with winners  
30 in each category announced on New Year's Day.

31 A panel of independent judges will evaluate submissions  
32 anonymously, with all identifying information removed to ensure  
33 fair consideration.

34 Winners in each age category will receive a \$50 local  
35 gift certificate and a \$50 cash prize

36 Stories may be submitted in-person to the circulation  
37 desk at the Brooks Memorial Library, or digitally at  
38 [oscarheller.com/miniature-masterpiece](http://oscarheller.com/miniature-masterpiece). For more information,  
39 contact Heller at [oheller@brattleboro.gov](mailto:oheller@brattleboro.gov), or 802-380-6847; or  
40 Starr LaTronica, library director, at [starr@brookslibraryvt.org](mailto:starr@brookslibraryvt.org) or  
41 802-254-5290 ext. 1201.

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