*Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul: 25th Anniversary*

**Callout for writers under age 35**

We are excited to announce the 25th anniversary of the release of the *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* book. What an amazing 25 years it has been! This book title has sold millions of copies and is still relevant today. In honor of the 25th anniversary, we are rereleasing the original *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*, and we are adding 25 new stories!

Chicken Soup for the Soul has always provided support to teenagers from all over the world. We’re collecting up-to-date stories written by teens and men and women under age 35. We want these stories to represent how the world is today for teenagers, and we’re hoping for stories about the pandemic, technology, social media, and other modern-day concerns.

We’re looking for everything, from serious to silly. What was your experience like as a teenager? Did you fit in with the popular crowd, or were you left out? What did you learn about yourself that you can pass on to help another teenager who is growing up today? What kind of humorous or embarrassing things happened to you when you were that age?

Your stories and poems should be written in the first person about something that happened to you or someone close to you. Your stories must be true. Do not change any facts. If you want to change someone’s name or use a pen name, that’s fine, but you need to tell us exactly what you changed. Please try to keep your stories under 1200 words.

Please remember you must be under 35 to have your story considered for this 20th anniversary edition of *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*.

Here are some suggested topics, but we know you can think of many more:

- Dealing with the pandemic - how COVID changed your life

- Zoom schooling or home schooling

- Lack of contact with friends because of COVID

- Dealing with tough stuff – being teased or bullied or confronting the bully

- Acts of kindness

- Teachers, parents, coaches, and friends who gave you guidance

- Embarrassing moments and funny stories

- Changing schools and being the new kid

- Crushes and dating

- How technology influences your life -- texting, FaceTime, social media, and emailing

- Sibling relationships

- Learning to be comfortable in your own skin

- Doing the right thing even though it was the difficult thing

- Divorce and remarriage – blended families and fitting in

- Best friends and changing best friends

- Body image and eating disorders

- Being an immigrant

- Going through puberty

- Sports and teams

- Having a disability or being different

- Drinking and using drugs and the consequences of those actions

- LGBTQ stories and coming out to friends and family

- Learning to drive and driving stories

- Part-time jobs

- Living in a shelter or housing project

- Going through tough times in terms of finances or health

A few guidelines for you and some general information:

All stories and poems need to be true — we do not publish fiction. Stories should be no longer than 1,200 words. Please write in the first person about something that happened to you and your cat or someone close to you and his or her cat. Every part of your story must be true. No "composite characters." But yes, you can use a pen name if necessary to protect yourself or someone else.

If your story was already published in a past Chicken Soup for the Soul book, please do not submit it. We will not publish it again. If you submitted a story to one of our previous Chicken Soup for the Soul book titles and we did not publish it, please submit it to us again if you think it will fit in this title.

Please remember, we no longer publish "as told to" stories. Write your story or poem in the first person. Do not ghostwrite a story for someone else unless you list that person as the author. If a story was previously published, we will probably not use it unless it ran in a small circulation venue. Let us know where the story was previously published and the approximate exposure it received in the "Comments" section of the submission form.

We include stories in our books from as diverse a group of writers as possible, including the LGBTQ community and people of all ethnicities, nationalities, and religions.

If your story is chosen, you will be a published author and your bio will be printed in the book if you so choose. You will also receive a check for $200 and 10 free copies of your book, worth more than $100. You will retain the copyright for your story and you will retain the right to resell it or self-publish it.

**SUBMISSIONS GO TO** [**OUR WEBSITE**](https://click1.news.chickensoup.com/ihddfkdppzvwzpytwbhkgwtzvbwnrfqbkqhbcddvhcmnd_rkccwgnpcglltttjjj.html)**.**

**The deadline for story and poem submissions is JANUARY 15, 2021** but submissions will be reviewed as they come in, so please don’t wait until the deadline.