

**Who we are:** Ember Publishing House, LLC (EPH) is a small, independent publishing press with the mission of making ideas more accessible through interdisciplinary collaboration. As a team of college students invested in inclusive education, we believe that stories have the capacity to inspire, empower, and educate. At EPH, we harness this power by publishing works that weave together elements of STEM and the humanities. We recognize that learning extends beyond the classroom, and, when nurtured, a single spark of curiosity blossoms into a flame of passion.

**Our target audience:** Adolescent students (middle grade, young adult, possibly new adult)

**EPH’s unique structure:** Unlike other publishing houses, we *do not* currently accept manuscript submissions for print publication. Instead, writers *apply* to become a collaborator on an active EPH project, such as our STEM & Humanities anthology. Upon selection, a writer becomes part of the EPH team for the duration of the project, and they are responsible for completing one story. *Please note* that every writer is paired with a STEM Liaison who specializes in the STEM subject(s) that may appear in the SciFi or Fantasy Story. This is collaboration is a crucial part of the EPH model, and we ask that writers applying are open to our unique process.

Unsolicited short story submissions (not through the application at the bottom of this document) are considered for online/digital publication only.

**Anthology Call for Submissions: *STEM & Humanities Collection***

*“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child’s own natural desire to learn.”*

*–Maria Montessori*

**Concept:** Imagine if *Jurassic Park*used accurate science, weaving Mendelian genetics and realistic DNA sequencing into the story that has inspired 6 blockbuster films. What would happen if theories of mutation and epigenetics—or even physics—were woven into the stories of the *X-Men* or *The Avengers*? What if *Harry Potter* contained real chemistry in its potions?

Many of us fell in love with fictional worlds as children, and in some ways, we connected with those worlds more deeply than our own. Sadly, a disconnect often exists between engaging material and academic material, which can establish negative association to learning environments. When STEM and the humanities are introduced academically, it is often through dense textbooks readings that build to daunting exams. HHHHhumanities and STEM are often framed as opposing fields, both existing in their own academic vacuums.

Many young students lack opportunities to connect with academic concepts in a setting that cultivates a spirit of adventure. EPH books hope to change this. The heart of this anthology is to show the many ways in which STEM and the humanities can—and do—interact. Collaboration is a valuable learning tool, and we hope to harness this idea to create a collection that showcases the beauty of hybridity and interdisciplinary exploration. This is an opportunity to build a new genre that is committed to harnessing the educational potential of fiction.

**The Anthology’s Gold Standard:**

* Theme: fiction that features interdisciplinary collaboration between the humanities and STEM
* Preferred Genres: fantasy, science fiction, realistic fiction, and speculative fiction that integrate realistic STEM phenomenon. Examples may include realistic treatments of the following subjects:
  + Physics in a combat scene
  + Forensics techniques in a detective story
  + Chemical reactions to explain a magical potion
  + Biology to explain a mutation leading to a rise in a new species of humans
  + Biochemical explanations for the atmospheric conditions of an alternate universe
  + Logic/math to solve a puzzle in an underground maze
* An innovative, compelling plot with high stakes and well-crafted characters
* Short stories should be between 1,000 and 7,500 words. Flash fiction is under 1,000 words.
* The setting is completely open: future, past, alternate universe—wherever your story takes us. It should be accessible (and appropriate) for a young adult/adolescent audience. We will also consider middle grade fiction.

**The Commitment:** EPH’s unique structure does not demand the long-term commitment of a club or other organization. We only ask that writers commit to producing one story. Once this is completed (the initial draft and process of revision), nothing more will be expected of the writer unless they decide to become an EPH collaborator on future projects. Writers will be given one month to complete their story, starting from when they receive their STEM Liaison pairing. This allows writers to commit based on their own availability and to have control over their schedules.

[See Application Below]

**Application**

**Instructions:** Please type your answers to the following questions in the document below. Feel free to take the space that you need. Email your completed application as a .doc or .pdf to *ephforeword@gmail.com* and include “LastName, FirstName Application” in the subject line. We look forward to reading your responses.

Name:

Year in School:

Field(s) of Study:

What does writing mean to you? What writer experience do you have (personal or academic)?

What is your favorite book? (Top 3 if you can’t pick)

One of the requirements of being a writer for EPH is collaboration with a STEM Liaison. In what ways do you think this will benefit your writing process?

What piece of writing are you most proud of? OR what is a story you have always wanted to write?

*The following prompts will act as a proposal for the story you would commit to if selected as a collaborator for this anthology. You do not need to have drafted the story. Think of this as a precursor to your first draft.*

Write the “Back of the Book Blurb” for the story you would like to submit. Make us want to pick your story up off the shelf:

Please write a synopsis OR draft an outline for your story below.

Please submit a fiction writing sample of up to 1,000 words. It may be an original flash fiction story or an excerpt of any original work. This is your chance to show us your writing talent, so you may include a brief paragraph contextualizing your story if you feel it would enhance our understanding.

Paste your sample below: