

Writing Competition (Winter 2025/26)

Under the **Rise of Sam Programme**, organized by author and teacher **Ivo Consi Chládek**

1. Introduction

Rise of Sam, the Online Writing School, has created a “Writing Competition” to launch its new venture and to **award bold writers with financial prizes**.

This is not a competition against others — it is a competition with yourself. The goal is self-discovery through writing. By joining, you commit to exploring your own creativity, depth, and truth.

- **Entry Fee:** €400
- Main theme of your story must be **Redemption**
- Writers may use AI tools to support their process, but creativity, depth, and originality are what matter most.

2. Refunds and Prizes

There will be exactly **10 participants** in this competition.

Winners will be chosen based on points awarded by the teacher, Ivo.

Refund Guarantee

- Every participant who submits their Final Draft by the deadline (31st of March 2026) will receive a **full refund of their entry fee (€400)**.
- This refund is **not taxable** — it is simply the return of what you originally paid.
- This guarantee means that **nobody loses any money**: as long as you finish the competition, you get your money back.

Prizes (Extra Rewards)

- In addition to the refund, the **top 5 participants** will receive an extra prizes:
 - **1st–2nd place:** €400
 - **3rd–5th place:** €200
- Refund of the entry fee is not a prize, but a guaranteed return of payment for participation. Refunds are not subject to taxation. However, prizes are **monetary prizes** under Czech law.
- By law, the organizer (**Ivo Consi Chládek, acting as OSVČ**) must deduct **15% tax** from the prizes portion and pay it to the Czech financial authority.
- This means:
 - **1st–2nd place:** Refund €400 (tax-free) + prizes €400 (taxed → €340 net) → **Total payout = €740.**
 - **3rd–5th place:** Refund €400 (tax-free) + prizes €200 (taxed → €170 net) → **Total payout = €570.**
 - **6th–10th place:** Refund €400 only (no tax).

Why This Matters

- The refund ensures your participation is risk-free. Everyone will get their money back if they finish the Writing Competition.
- Financial prizes are only a fun motivation. The real reward is the journey of self-discovery.

3. Duration

- **Start of the competition:** 1st December 2025
- **End date:** 31st March 2026
- All final submissions of the “final draft” must be sent by email no later than 31st March 2026.

 Email for submissions and communication: consi.production@gmail.com

4. Rules of Final Draft

1. Each participant must submit **one completed story** (ideally minimum 5,000 words), also called **Final Draft**.
2. Final Draft must be written in **English or Czech**.
3. The story must reflect the **main theme of Redemption**.
4. AI tools may be used freely, but the author must ensure the story feels **authentic, personal, and meaningful**.
5. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden.

5. Evaluation Criteria & Points

There will be three drafts: First, Second and Final Draft.

Each draft of your story will be judged on a **100-point scale**:

- **Going Deep (30 points)**: Explore the core of the character, show authentic vulnerability and truth.
- **Transformation (20 points)**: Show clear change — internal or external.
- **Bold Choices (10 points)**: Creative risks in style, form, or narrative. Break your comfort zones.
- **Clarity & Craft (10 points)**: Flow and readability.
- **Theme Integration (10 points)**: Redemption is not just mentioned, but truly embodied in the story.
- **Symbolism/Metaphor (10 points)** — images that carry deeper meaning.
- **Emotional Resonance (10 points)** — the ability to move the reader, not just entertain.

Total 100 points possible for each draft submitted.

There will be 3 drafts so you can receive a maximum of 300 points over the course of the Writing Competition.

You will NOT know how many points you receive for each draft. The total amount of points will be revealed only after the end of the competition.

6. Teacher's Role & Personalized Impact

- **Personalized Approach:** At the start, we will set up your ChatGPT to fit your writing voice.
- **Individual Guidance:** I (Ivo) will work with you as an individual, not just as one of many.
- **Deep Unlocking:** The aim is to uncover your unique voice and help you dig into your own soul through writing.
- **Mentorship Style:** I am not a typical “school teacher.” I hold up the mirror, speak the truth, and push you deeper.
- **Format:** Each month, you will have one 45-minute personal call with me, plus I will respond to one weekly voice message you send.
- **Progression of themes:**
 1. Month 1 — Redemption (foundation theme)
 2. Month 2 — Bringing God into the work + making the story even more personal to you
 3. Month 3 — Discovery of hidden desires and truths in the character and in you

Teacher Ivo will also make **extensive use of ChatGPT** when reading and analysing submitted drafts. This allows for deeper feedback, faster processing, and a demonstration of how AI can enhance the creative process.

The combination of **human mentorship** and **AI assistance** is a key part of the Rise of Sam philosophy: using every available tool to dig deeper into truth and creativity.

This is an **AI-friendly competition**. Participants are encouraged to use the newest technology, including ChatGPT and other AI tools, to support their creative process.

7. Deadlines & Draft Submissions

- **Official start date:** 1st December 2025
- Before we begin, each participant will have an **individual video call in November 2025** to:
 - Set up ChatGPT to match their voice
 - Brainstorm ideas
 - Outline a starting point - Main protagonist, genre, themes

Submission deadlines:

- 30th of January 2026 → First draft (can be just an outline + rough version)
- 28th of February 2026 → Second draft
- 31st of March 2026 → Final draft (as much polished version possible)

 Note: “Final” does not mean perfect. You may continue polishing your work for years if you wish. The purpose of this program is to get you started and carry you through the first major stages of writing.

Interim Draft Deadlines

Participants are expected to submit drafts by the interim deadlines (First Draft – 30 January 2026, Second Draft – 28 February 2026).

Failure to submit an interim draft will not disqualify the participant, but:

- no points will be awarded for that round, and
- the participant will not receive feedback on the missing draft.

Final Draft Deadline

The Final Draft must be submitted no later than **31 March 2026 at 23:59 Central European Time**. Late submissions will not be accepted under any conditions.

8. Winners Announcements and Payment Deadlines

Prizes will be awarded based on each student’s final ranking in the competition. **All participants must submit their Final Draft by 31 March 2026.**

Teacher Ivo will send each student an email with their evaluation and final position on **30 April 2026**.

Prizes will be distributed no later than **15 May 2026**.

Taxation of Prizes

All prize amounts stated are **gross amounts before tax**. The organizer, **Ivo Consi Chládek (acting as OSVČ)**, will deduct and pay all applicable taxes on monetary prizes in accordance with the laws of the Czech Republic.

9. Intellectual Property Disclaimer

All submitted work remains the **sole intellectual property** of the student who created it.

The Rise of Sam School and teacher Ivo Consi Chládek **do not claim or retain any rights** to the stories, manuscripts, or creative material submitted. Your writing is fully protected under intellectual property law, and you are free to use, publish, or develop it in any way you choose after the competition.

Teacher Ivo reserves the right to **read and copy excerpts or the full text into ChatGPT** or other analysis tools exclusively for the purpose of feedback, teaching, and evaluation. This is strictly for the student's benefit and will **never be redistributed, shared, or published**.

Each student will be assigned a **private Google Drive folder** where all drafts will be stored during the competition. This ensures that:

- Ivo can access and analyse the work at any time,
- discussions between student and teacher remain organised and private,
- only the individual student and teacher have access to the folder.

After the competition ends, all Google Drive folders will be **permanently deleted**. Students are solely responsible for keeping backups of their work on their own computer or personal storage.

Liability Disclaimer

The organizer is not liable for any accidental loss, corruption, or unauthorized access to student work that may occur through third-party platforms or services (including but not limited to Google Drive, ChatGPT, or other AI tools).

10. Eligibility & Disqualification Rules

- To be eligible for any prize, you must submit your **Final Draft no later than 31st March 2026**.
- Failing to submit the Final Draft before the deadline is the **only reason for disqualification** from the competition.
- Disqualification means you will not be considered for prizes, regardless of previous drafts or participation.
- You may miss video calls, workshops, or other sessions if necessary — but there will be **no replacements or make-up calls**.
- Please respect the teacher's time: be punctual for calls and deadlines.

 **Note:** The program is about discipline as much as creativity. Respecting deadlines and commitments is part of the growth journey.

11. Refund Policy

- All fees are **refundable**, but refunds are issued **only after the end of the competition** and **only if the participant submits a Final Draft**.
- The Final Draft may be minimal (even a single page), but it must be submitted by the deadline to qualify for a refund.

The points above apply in all circumstances, including:

- Voluntary withdrawal from the programme
- Failure to attend scheduled calls or workshops
- Failure to submit drafts during the competition
- Disqualification due to rule violation

Participation spots are **non-transferable**.

By enrolling, each participant accepts personal responsibility for their level of engagement. Please consider your decision carefully before joining, as **no refunds or transfers will be issued under any conditions unless a Final Draft is submitted by the deadline of 31 March 2026**.

All refunds will be processed and paid out **no later than 30 May 2026**.

12. Legal and Administrative Provisions

Right of Admission

The Organizer reserves the right to reject or cancel any application without providing a reason, especially in cases where participation may disrupt the integrity, fairness, or safety of the competition.

Refund Method

All refunds will be issued only to the original account from which the entry fee was paid. Refunds cannot be redirected to third-party accounts under any circumstances.

Payment Method

Entry fees must be paid by bank transfer. Refunds will always be returned to the same account from which the payment was made. Refunds cannot be redirected to other accounts or third parties.

Privacy & Data Protection

All personal data and submitted work will be handled confidentially and in full compliance with GDPR. Data will be used only for the purpose of administering this competition and will not be shared with third parties outside the competition process.

Organizer's Flexibility

The Organizer (Ivo Consi Chládek) reserves the right to adjust deadlines, schedules, or rules if necessary, provided that all participants are informed in advance. Any such changes will always respect the fairness of the competition.

Governing Law & Jurisdiction

This competition is governed by the laws of the Czech Republic. Any disputes, claims, or legal proceedings related to the competition shall fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of Czech courts.

Final Provisions

These Rules apply to the **Rise of Sam – Writing Competition (Winter 2025/2026)**

If any questions, disputes, or issues arise, please contact the teacher and organizer **Ivo Consi Chládek**.

By entering the competition, participants confirm they have read and agree to these Rules.

Organizer: **Ivo Consi Chládek (OSVČ) - under the brand Rise of Sam**

Email: **consi.production@gmail.com** Phone: **+420 775 329 192**

Document created and sealed on: 1st of October 2025