FREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
2023-2024 YOUNG AUTHORS
SITE CONTEST RULES

Dear Students, Parents, and Teachers:

The FUSD 2023-2024 Young Authors Site Contest is here! The following guidelines will help answer questions and improve the quality of your student's story. Have your student incorporate some, or all, of the following elements of story writing; however, his/her imagination and enthusiasm for writing are most important. The purpose of this contest is to give encouragement and recognition to student achievement in creative writing.

STORY WRITING ELEMENTS

FICTION: This Young Authors book is to be a creative short story. It may be based on facts but must include imaginative elements.

AUDIENCE: The story should be appropriate for **Transitional Kindergarten (TK) -5th grade audiences**.

SETTING: The time (when) and place (where) in which the story takes place.

PURPOSE: The story should be written to entertain, to express your feelings about something, or to describe a personal experience.

CHARACTERIZATION: Who are the main characters? What do they look like? How do they act and talk? Do they have any special traits or habits? Describe their temperaments (determined, angry, sad, happy, clever, mean, curious, etc.).

CLIMAX: Have the story events build up to a climax.

PLOT: What are the conflicts in the story? How are the conflicts resolved and who solves the conflicts? Each detail or action must contribute to the outcome of the story.

BOOK WRITING PROCEDURES

1. Parents should read Entry Rules with their child before starting the book.
2. Students should write their own story in any style or format with which they feel most comfortable.
3. Go over the elements of story writing described above to see if most questions have been answered and if there is anything they want to add.
4. The student should try to illustrate by hand on all or some of the pages. Not every page needs an illustration, but, if using illustrations or graphics, it should be the student's original work– **no clip art.** Drawings should be bold.
5. The story writing options include:
   - **TK, K, and 1ˢᵗ grade stories <u>must be written in the student's best printing, using black ink.</u>**
   - **Grades 2ⁿᵈ - 5ᵗʰ stories may be typed, word processed or printed neatly in black ink.**
6. **A completed Official Entry Form** must accompany every book. Books submitted without an Official Entry Form will be disqualified.

THE YOUNG AUTHORS' SITE CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS OF THE FREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 5

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- This is to be a work of **fiction** appropriate for Grades TK-5th audiences.
- The story must be original and the <u>student's own work.</u> No manuscript that has previously been printed may be submitted.
- No portion may be copied from any existing story or stories. Plagiarism is a serious offense.
- 1500 words maximum. Books must be written in English unless otherwise indicated for Spanish and Mandarin versions.
- Only one entry per student. Each book must be the work of one student.
- All artwork used to enhance the story must be the student's original work. Clip-art or other commercial images are **not** allowed. Other student-generated computer drawings may be used.
- All book pages, including covers, must be written on 8-1/2" x 11" <u>white</u> paper, portrait layout, no card stock.
- Books should be prepared and submitted as follows:

  ❖ The **Front Cover** should contain the title of the book and should illustrate something substantial and attractive**. Do not put the author's name on the Front Cover.**

  ❖ The **Official Entry Form** should follow the **Front Cover**. The **Official Entry Form** must be signed by the author and the parent/guardian.

  ❖ The **Title Page** should follow the **Official Entry Form**. The **Title Page** should include the title of the book, name of the author, school, grade, teacher's name, and date (for grades TK-5th writes the <u>classroom teacher's</u> name.

  ❖ The **Author's Biography** is the last page of the book and should include a photo or drawing of the author and a mini biography telling about the author's interests, family, or future goals.

  ❖ The **Back Cover** of the book should be blank.

  ❖ Staple the completed book in the upper left corner. Plastic combs or other binding material are not permitted.

- **Books that do not meet the above criteria will be disqualified and will not be eligible for judging.**

If you have questions about contest rules, please contact Betty Chou by phone at: (510) 659-2596 or by email at <u>bchou@fusdk12.net.</u>

DEADLINE: Check with your school office to fill in your school's preliminary judging deadline.

MY SCHOOL'S DEADLINE IS __CONTACT YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER__ . BRING TO ROOM:

JUDGING CRITERIA

- **Official Entry Form:** Must contain the following information - author, title, phone, school, grade level, brief biography, short summary, and signatures of both author and parent or legal guardian.
- **Organization:** Clear sequence of detail: good beginning, middle and ending.
- **Language:** Vocabulary, word choice, descriptive language, and proper grammar.
- **Originality/Creativity:** Fresh, memorable, or unusual storyline. Must be the student's own work.
- **Editing:** Few or no spelling or mechanical errors.
- **Overall Impression:** The following will enhance the story quality: handwritten drawings and Illustrations, neatness, and an attractive cover.

JUDGING

- The Site Principal and teachers will judge all entries.
- All decisions by the judges are final.

AWARDS

- Each student who participates receives a certificate of participation.
- The 1st place winners from each grade level at each school will be recognized by the Board at the February 28, 2024, Board meeting. A video will be made compiling photos from each school. Please submit photos of each 1st place winner and, optionally, a group photo of all your school's 1st place winners by Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Thank you for encouraging your students to participate in this contest.

Sincerely,

Robin Sehrt

Director of Elementary Education Department