



# ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS/TEACHERS/PARENTS 2020-2021

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

Students in **Grades 1 through 12** are eligible to enter a previously unsubmitted short story and/or poem written within the previous or current school year. Each entry may have only one author and only one entry per author may be submitted for each category.

## **CONTEST GUIDELINES:**

### **✎ ENTRIES MUST BE THE STUDENT'S ORIGINAL WORK.**

Peers or adults may provide editing assistance (spelling, punctuation, etc.), but revisions should be student-generated and the final product must be the student's own work.

- ✎ All entries must be submitted in a **Microsoft Word file** with no less than **12 point Times New Roman** font.
- ✎ Each short story entry must range between **100-400 words** for grades 1-2; **300-800 words** for grades 3-5; **600-1,600 words** for grades 6-8; and **800-2,000 words** for grades 9-12 submissions.
- ✎ Each poem entry will consist of a single poem which may be any style and must range **from 25-150 words** for elementary submissions and **25-300 words** for middle and high school submissions.
- ✎ All entries must include a **completed cover sheet** signed by the **parent**. This should be submitted as a separate PDF file. Parental verification may also be confirmed via a digital signature.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

1. Entry meets all of the above guidelines and is submitted by the due date.
2. Story reflects creative content and interesting use of language and short story structure.
3. Poem reflects creative content and application of poetic techniques.
4. Entry avoids bias against any group of people. Entry avoids extreme acts of sex and violence.

*Any violation(s) of these guidelines or criteria will disqualify the entry.  
The decisions of the state judge panel are final.*

## **DEADLINE:**

Send all electronic entries to your **LOCAL** literacy chapter's  
Young Authors' contest chairperson by \_\_\_\_\_.

Local Chairs:

(1) Complete the above statement and (2) insert your name and email address here and on the flyer(s)!

## **WINNERS:**

Each local literacy chapter will select **1 short story** and **1 poem per grade level** to submit to SoMLA's contest. The state Young Authors judges will then select a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner per category at each grade level. A **DIGITAL** anthology of the winning entries will be made available on the SoMLA website, and a virtual celebration is anticipated for the spring of 2021.