

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 2-8 2016-2017 YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST GUIDELINES



ELIGIBILITY:

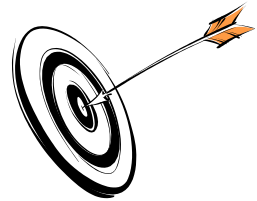
Students in **Grades 2 through 8** are eligible to enter a previously unsubmitted short story and/or poem written within the 2016 school year. Each entry may have only one author and only one entry per author may be submitted for each category.

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 typed in a **word document file** with no less than **12 point** font using either **Times New Roman or Comic Sans** font.
- + Each short story entry may range from 300 to 800 words for elementary submissions and 600 to 1,600 words for middle school submissions.
- + Each poem entry will consist of a single poem, which may be any style a range from 225 to 150 words for elementary submissions and 25 – 300 words for middle school submission.
- + All entries must include a **completed "Cover Sheet"** signed by the student author and sponsoring teacher.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. Entry meets all of the above guidelines.
2. Story reflects creativity and appropriate use of language and short story structure.
3. Poem reflects creative and appropriate use of language and imagery.
4. Entries of a violent nature will be deemed inappropriate.
5. Any violation(s) of these guidelines or criteria will disqualify the entry. The decisions of the state judge panel are final.



DEADLINE:

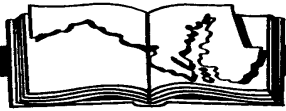
Entries should be sent to **Amy Olson at Lisbon Elementary by Friday, December 16, 2016.**

HOWARD COUNTY CONTEST:

At each school, judges will select a first and second place winner per category at each grade level. School and county winners will need to provide an electronic copy of their pieces. First place winners at the school level will be sent to the county to be judged. All winning county entries will be published in an anthology and each student author will receive a copy. First and second place county winners, their parents, families, and teachers will be invited to a reception, featuring a well-known published author. County winners will also be invited to read their poems or short stories at a special Reading Day event at Barnes and Noble.

STATE OF MARYLAND CONTEST:

Each local State of Maryland International Reading Association Council will select **one short story and one poem per grade level** to submit to the state contest. The State Young Authors Program Committee will then select a first and second place winner per category at each grade level. All winning entries will be published in an anthology and each student author and his/her teacher will receive a copy. A reception honoring all Young Authors first and second place state winners, their parents, families, teachers, chairpersons and judges will be held at the SoMIRAC Conference, March 29, 2017 at the Hunt Valley Marriott in Hunt Valley, MD.



State Of Maryland International
Reading Association Council