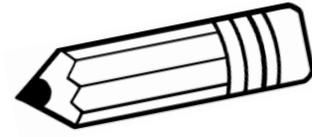


Young Authors Fall 2017



Sharpen your pencils, for it is time to start preparing for the Fall Young Authors' program! The fall turn-in day will be Monday, October 2nd (this will also be a jeans day for every student turning in a manuscript). For judging purposes, please do not write your name on your story, but do include a title. We ask that you attach your name either by a Post-It note or on a separate piece of paper (attached by paper clip or stapled). The chairpersons will record the titles and names, and then remove the names from the stories before giving them to the judges. Your story will be identified solely by its title. Give your submission to your teacher (5th-8th grade students please give your manuscript to your English teacher). Winning stories from k-4th will be presented at the Young Authors' assembly, at school, on Wednesday, October 25th. The following information may answer any questions you have. If you have other questions, please email Gina Thompson or Robin Nadziejko at icsyoungauthors@gmail.com. Thank you!

How should my work be packaged?

Your submission should include the following:

- Your name attached only by paper clip or post-it note (names are removed for judging)
- A title
- Pages securely fastened by staple or other means
- A front cover (it can be as simple as a title page)

What should I write, and how will it be judged?

The emphasis of the Young Authors program is on creativity! A parent volunteer will judge your work based on its originality, its organization (does your story have a beginning, middle, and ending?), and on its use of clear, descriptive words. Stories are evaluated based 75% on creativity and 25% on grammar and punctuation.

You may also enter a poem. It will be judged based on its creativity, how well it flows, and on the strength and clarity of its message. For upper grade students, a poem or collection of poems should have at least 20 lines total.

Students in grades 5 through 8 may also enter non-fiction essays including classroom assignments. Judges will be looking for clear, descriptive sentences and well-organized paragraphs. Any submission may be written at home or as part of a classroom assignment. Please do not submit work that has been entered in Young Authors competition in a previous year.

Can my parents help me?

Young Authors is designed to encourage you to write, and so the work must be your own. You can try out your ideas on your parents if you like, and they can help you with proofreading grammar, punctuation and spelling. Very young authors may tell their story to a parent while the parent writes it down. The child may then write out the story, or the parent may write it or type it. It is important that the story be "in the child's own words," which is the state rule for the Young Authors program. Parents should encourage their children to work on their submissions as independently as possible.

What if I win?

Congratulations! You may win a Young Authors' trophy once each school year. If you win a trophy, be sure to keep entering! Your future submissions are still eligible to win runner-up awards.

By entering repeatedly, you are also eligible to receive special awards at the end of the year. Students in grade k-4 receive their Young Authors awards at presentations following each judging. Older students receive theirs at the Awards Night in May. Enter twice, and you receive a Young Authors' pin at the end of the year.

All winners from fall and spring are entered into a drawing, and one randomly selected student from each grade will be invited to attend the regional Young Authors' Conference.

What are the details on the Young Authors' Conference?

Winning in either the fall or the spring makes students eligible for the honor of representing their grade and ICS at the Regional and State Young Authors' Conference. Attendees will be randomly selected – one student per grade.