



ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 2-8 2009-2010 YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY:

Students in **Grades 2 through 8** are eligible to enter a previously unsubmitted short story/essay or poem written within the 2009-10 school year. Each entry may have only one author and only one entry per author may be submitted for each category.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

1. 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.
2. Entries must meet the following requirements:
 - Each short story/essay entry may range from a minimum of two (2) paragraphs to no more than three (3) typed pages.
 - Each poem entry will consist of a single poem, which may be any style or length.
3. Entries must **not** include graphics.
4. 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 Judges' panel are final.

DEADLINE:

Entries with completed submission forms must be returned to Mrs. Bette Hobner by **Wednesday, January 6, 2010.**

WINNERS:

Each person that submits an entry will be treated to a pizza party by Mrs. Hobner. Baltimore County winners will be honored at a Young Author's Reception in May. All County First Place Winners will be submitted to the State Council. 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, on **Wednesday, April 14, 2010** at the Hunt Valley Marriott in Hunt Valley, MD.