**2023-2024**

**Wyoming State Literacy Association**

**YOUNG AUTHORS GUIDELINES**

* Entries will be accepted from grades Kindergarten through 12th grade in the categories of **fiction, non-fiction,  poetry, and graphic novels.**

* Kindergarten entries may be recorded dictation, developmental spelling with standard overlays done by an adult, or just developmental spelling where the intent of the word is quite clear.
* Entries from all other grade levels may be properly edited but without changing the writer’s content.
* Homeschool, private school, or parochial school entries go through their local districts and local reading councils and are judged in the grade level and genre of the entry. In small districts, the entry would go to the one and only elementary/middle/high school. In larger districts, the entry would go to the student’s neighborhood school for judging.
  + (Contact local coordinators or councils for clarification.)

* Entries will be judged first at the school building level. Building winners advance to the district level. District winners advance to the state level.
  + Winners may revise between levels, but still must meet standing deadlines.

* Books should be categorized correctly - Fiction or Non-Fiction - so they can be judged in the correct category.
  + Include vacation, true stories, or other real-experience narratives in the non-fiction category rather than the fiction category.

* Works may not exceed 4,000 words.
  + For entries over 3,000 words, indicate a word count on the entry form.

* Fonts should be readable.

* A book of poetry may consist of a collection of poems or one long epic poem .
  + A collection of poems must have exactly and only five (5) poems and must include a table of contents.
    - Exception: Kindergarten Poetry submissions may have only three (3) poems rather than five. However, there must still be a table of contents.
  + Please do not entitle a poetry submission with a generic title such as My Book of Poems, My Poem Book, My Poetry Book, etc. Unique titles (e.g., Serendipity, Autumn Poems, Teddy Bear Poetry, etc.) aid in the judging process.
  + Do not include the author’s name in their collection of poetry, if possible.

* Illustrations are part of the judging. They should add to the story or poetry.
  + Photos, clip-art, or computer graphics could be used, but must correlate with the theme of the writing.
  + Graphics from the internet must be cited at the end of the book in a bibliography or on a Works Cited page.

* Plagiarism
  + Any work to be determined by judges to include any form of plagiarism,

whether words OR images, shall be disqualified.

* Artificial Intelligence (AI) assistance
  + Any work to be determined by judges to include the assistance of AI generation shall be disqualified.

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Building Coordinators may run suspicious entries through Turnitin.com

or some similar application to ensure academic integrity.

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* Work may be done according to the author’s discretion:
  + School work, personal work, inside of class, outside of class - whatever the student is interested in developing for submission.

* Each book may have only one author.
  + A book may, however, have a separate illustrator.
    - However, if the book is chosen as a district winner, only the author receives the award.

* Judges shall choose amongst all submissions the best illustration, to serve as the featured image for the following year’s promotions.
  + The illustrator shall receive recognition

* Students may enter works in multiple categories, but only one work per category.

* The author’s name should not appear anywhere on the book.
  + For fair judging, works must appear as anonymous.

* We have transitioned toward a digital submission process.

Author Directions for digital submissions are outlined below.

(If submitting digitally is a hardship, please contact the State Coordinator to arrange for the possibility of physical submission.)

* **Directions  for Digital Submission**:

* Books may be an original digital document, saved as a .**pdf**.

* Books may also be a scanned version of a physical copy, saved as a .**pdf**.

* **The Submission’s File Name must use this format**:

**grade\_category\_title**

* examples:

2\_poetry\_Puppies,\_Popsicles,\_and\_Playgrounds

or

10\_non-fiction\_Impact\_Of\_Social\_Media

AGAIN: File Name -  **grade\_category\_title**

* Each submission must include a copy of the current [**Young Authors Entry Form**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11qCeMmL2xCPO2_nwL1M4ZBVtYRyYkc8Y/view?usp=drive_link)**,** which includes a mandatory **Verification of Authenticity** and **Media Release,** filled out entirely and scanned separately from the book being submitted.

* **The Entry Form’s File Name must use this format:**

**grade\_name**

* example:

2\_first\_name\_last\_name

* Because submissions must be anonymous for judging, the author’s name should not appear on the cover or title page nor in the file name – **only on the accompanying entry form**.

* District Coordinators will send properly formatted submissions to the State

via  [digital form](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1x8-N3gVZ8TYZ_fRkLxJfQcm9Q7YL9Ic-hCosM95sKXM/copy).