

Writing Division Guidelines for Children's Literature

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Registrants in the Writing Division may submit entries in the following categories:

- First Person Essay
- Poetry
- Book Chapter (includes Short Story)
- Children's Literature
- Flash Fiction
- Mini Saga

1. All Writing entries must be submitted online prior to the Festival. Information is provided after registration.
2. If the writing entries are not received by the deadline, they will not be judged.
3. Do not bring writing entries to the Festival.
4. All Writing will be evaluated prior to the Festival.

Children's Literature

1. Children's Literature is the art of writing and illustrating an entire children's book with a target audience of a toddler or early reader (first to third grades) with words and illustrations that are age appropriate.
2. The Children's Literature entry may be created by one to ten eligible students.
3. The entire entry must be the original work of the student(s), including illustrations, and may not be adapted from another's concept or previously submitted to this festival.
4. Illustrations may take the form of drawing, painting, or full-color computer-generated graphics produced from illustrator software. Clip art is not acceptable.
5. The entry must read like a book; participants may not submit a manuscript with separate illustrations.
6. The creator(s) is not required to be present at the Festival. However, the registration form must be completed, and the appropriate fees paid.
7. Submissions may not be more than 800 words in length.

8. The children's book must communicate a Christian message.
9. Each entry must include a title page at the beginning of the book with the following information in the order given below:
 - a. Title
 - b. Category
 - c. Author(s)
 - d. Grade(s)
 - e. Illustrator(s)
 - f. School name, city, state
 - g. Explanation of medium (how the illustrations were created)
 - h. Word count

Writing Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the Festival Committee, including the following:

- **Selection**

- o Christian message – presents a clear Christian message
- o Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
- o Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- o Title selection - interesting title
- o Style – keeps within genre

- **Communication**

- o Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.
- o Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery.
- o Development - strong incorporation of key components (plot, character development, and conflict.)
- o Flow of thought – connected ideas and flow

- **Presentation**

- o Structure – proper placement of phrases and words
- o Grammar - correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
- o Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary
- o Mechanics/spelling - correct word spelling
- o Punctuation - correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
- o Transitional elements - consistent flow of topics from paragraph to paragraph
- o Visual elements - coversheet, spacing, margins, and word count

- **Effectiveness**

- o Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- o Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
- o Interpretation – overall ability of the writer to capture interest and impact the reader
- o Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.