

The Piedmont Area Reading Council
Invites you to Participate
in the 2020-2021

YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST



Piedmont Area
READING COUNCIL



BUILDING READERS IN THE
PARC AND BEYOND



Piedmont Area READING COUNCIL



BUILDING READERS IN THE PARC AND BEYOND

Piedmont Area Reading Council (PARC) Young Writers Contest (YWC) 2018-2019

Coordinator: Meg Racanelli mracanelli@amherst.k12.va.us 434-946-9704

CONTEST TIMELINE

- October 12, 2020** All documents shared with Piedmont Area Reading Council school systems; Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Brunswick, Campbell, Charlotte, Danville City, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Lynchburg City, Martinsville City, Mecklenburg, Nelson, Nottaway, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward including public and private schools as well as homeschooling students who request to participate
- Week of February 15, 2021** **District level judging** and deadline for each participating district/private school to email PARC the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of two judges willing to travel to Lynchburg to judge books in early March (location TBD). Seven recertification points will be given to all judges.
(vsrapiedmont@gmail.com)
- March 1, 2021** All books submitted for judging must be received by this date in order to be considered. Entries will be submitted electronically to youngwritersVA2021@gmail.com
Electronic submission instructions will be explained in the following pages.
- Early March 2020** PARC Regional-level judging takes place in Lynchburg, VA
- Late March 2020** Invitations will go out to notify all PARC Regional-level winners and to invite them to attend the awards ceremony held April 24th (location TBD). An invitation is also mailed to each finalist's principal as well as the district coordinator. We request that a representative from each district who is attending the awards ceremony collect unclaimed books/certificates in order to get awards and books back to the authors in a timely fashion. This year, we will also send out a list of all finalists to each participating school/district. ***Please note that our awards ceremony could change if COVID-19 regulations are still in place.**

ENTRY GUIDELINES

All entries must be original writings composed by the student as part of a CLASSROOM WRITING PROJECT. **Students should not receive any help from teachers, other than clarification of directions.**

For dictated short fiction and dictated poetry in grades K-1, all entries must be written in the classroom and the final draft must be typed.

For grades 4-12, we recognize that time constraints may prevent completion of the writing in class. Therefore, a structured form of the honor system may be used. Only final drafts may be completed at home if circumstances prevent classroom completion.

In such cases, a letter should be signed by the parent/guardian verifying that ABSOLUTELY NO HELP was given to the student. The supervising teacher should also sign the letter noting the circumstances that required the completion of the book at home (see form letter enclosed on page 9).

Students may choose to enter in **ONE** of the following categories:

- Short fiction (K-12)
- Dictated short fiction (K-1)
- Poetry (K-12)
- Dictated poetry (K-1)
- Essay (Grades 4-12)

Only one entry per student is allowed.

SHORT FICTION AND POETRY (Grades K-12)

Includes dictated fiction and dictated poetry (Grades K-1)

1. All work must be original and handwritten or typed by the student while in the classroom under the supervision of the teacher. Handwritten documents and illustrations may be scanned for electronic submission.
2. Short fiction for the contest must be a minimum of 1 page, and no longer than 5 pages typed and double-spaced. If the writing does not meet the length requirement it will not be judged. Please note that handwritten books shall be no longer than 7 pages of text.
3. In the poetry category, students must submit a minimum of three, but no more than five poems that represent their best work.
4. Illustrations are optional for all grades and must be original. However, illustrations will not impact the judging.
5. Each entry should have a title page.
6. The title and author's name must be on the title page. **For poetry anthologies, please have your student create a title that pulls the poetry examples together.**
7. Each entry must include the bookplate after the title page. The information on the bookplate can be typed or handwritten (please do not use cursive since we will use this information to make out award certificates).
8. The student may print or use cursive writing as long as the result is neat and legible. If the entry is typed, it must be completed by the student.
9. Young students in grades K-1 may choose to dictate their short fiction or poetry to a teacher. If this option is chosen, please submit the writing in the dictated fiction or dictated poetry category.

Special Circumstances:

The teacher should include an explanatory note with the entry, if there are special circumstances that necessitate typing by another person or providing extra help to the author.

ESSAY PROMPTS

2020-2021 Theme

"Illuminating the Path to Literacy"

GRADES 4-8

Choose 1 of the prompts below.

1. "Illumination is nothing if you do not share it with anyone. Illumination is about spreading light across entire nations. It's about wearing that crown that shines like the sun on your head and getting other minds to synergize with yours."

Describe an author or publication that has illuminated your own path to literacy. How has this work impacted you most? Explain how it has encouraged your growth in literacy and how you feel it may be beneficial to others.

2. Is there someone in your life who has encouraged or impacted your journey to literacy? Describe this person, your relationship with them, and the ways in which they have impacted you. What learnings would you pass along to others and why do you feel they are important?

GRADES 9-12

Choose 1 of the prompts below.

1. "Illumination is nothing if you do not share it with anyone. Illumination is about spreading light across entire nations. It's about wearing that crown that shines like the sun on your head and getting other minds to synergize with yours."

Using the above quote as inspiration, consider your own philosophy surrounding literacy. What does literacy mean to you? How it has impacted you personally? Explain how you would use your own learnings and philosophy to illuminate the world around you.

2. Research a person you admire who has impacted the world (i.e. inventor, activist, writer, scientist, politician, artist, etc.) Explain their works or philosophies and how you feel they were most impactful and illuminating. How could this person's works or philosophies be applied to literacy today? Consider how their thinking could be utilized educationally or personally to cultivate literacy and continued learning.

ESSAY GUIDELINES

1. Essay must include a title page. The **author's name** and **grade** and the **essay's word length** must be included on the title page.
2. The essay should be approximately 500 words in length, between 350 and 650 words. Word length examples:
 - *Benjamin Franklin* = two words
 - *Salt Lake City* = three words
 - *March 15, 2004* = three words.
3. Essays may not be illustrated.
4. The finished essay must be typed and submitted electronically.
5. Essays must be typed by the student. Use Times New Roman, size 12 point font.
6. A copy of the completed bookplate must be printed or typed and submitted as the last page.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

- You will find examples of the regional judging sheets attached. Please feel free to use these as guidelines for school and/or district judging. Entries must be judged at the school district level prior to being submitted at the regional level.
- Private schools will judge at the school level and submit their winning entries to the Piedmont Area Reading Council in order to be judged with the public-school entries at the regional level.
- Homeschooled students may submit entries directly to the public school that the student would attend or to a homeschooling group in his/her city/county for judging. Homeschooled students' entries must be received in time for the school judging unless other arrangements are made with the Young Writers Chairperson. Homeschooled students may also submit their entry to a county or city wide homeschooling group and the group may submit their top three entries per grade in each category directly to the Young Writers Contest Chairperson by the regional judging deadline. If a group wishes to use this option, they may contact the Young Writers Chairperson for more information.
- Only entries selected for each school district, private school division, or homeschooling group will be accepted for PARC judging. The top three entries for essay, short fiction, and poetry for each grade level may be submitted for PARC judging.
- Once entries are prepared for judging, please organize them by grade level and by category. They should be emailed to youngwritersVA2021@gmail.com by March 1, 2021.
- Before sending entries for judging, the district representative will complete a cover sheet electronically at the following link:
<https://www.readingintheperc.org/p/young-writers.html>
- Please be sure all student and school addresses on the bookplates of the entries are filled in COMPLETELY. Be sure to double check the spelling of student and teacher names as the program and certificates will be composed using the spellings entered on the forms. The information provided will be used to invite the student if the student's piece is selected as a regional finalist.
- All entries are due by Monday, March 1, 2021. Entries received after this date will not be judged in the regional PARC YWC competition.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

Short Fiction Grades K-12 <i>Includes dictated short fiction (K-1)</i>	7	Points for Content: consistent point of view, presence of intro, rising action, etc.
	5	Points for Use of Language: expression, descriptive words, etc.
	5	Points for Originality
	3	Points for Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation
Poetry Grades K-12 <i>Includes dictated poetry (K-1)</i>	5	Points for Content: consistent point of view, presence of poetic devices
	5	Points for Use of Language: expression, descriptive words, etc.
	5	Points for Originality
Essays Grades 4-12	10	Points for Composing: consistent point of view, closure, organization, elaboration
	7	Points for Use of Language: expression, descriptive words, quotations etc.
	3	Points for Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation

Entries received that do not adhere to the standards below will not be judged.

- Completed bookplate present
- Title of entry and author's first and last name on title page, if not included will be disqualified
- Any entry that was partially written by the student at home must be accompanied by the form letter that is signed by both the parent/guardian and the supervising teacher

ESSAYS

- Number of words included on the title page
- Essay topic copied at the top of first page of the essay
- Essay is approximately 500 words
- Entries shorter than 350 words, longer than 650 words, or not written on topic will be disqualified

FICTION

- Number of words included on the title page
- Entries that are shorter than 1 page or longer than 5 pages (typed) or 7 pages (handwritten) will be disqualified

POETRY

- Anthologies of fewer than three or more than five poems will be disqualified

PARC YWC 2020-2021 HONOR SYSTEM

For in-classroom learning:

This letter must be used for students to complete FINAL DRAFTS at home. If current circumstances allow for in-classroom learning all composing should be done in the classroom under teacher supervision. Only final drafts may be completed at home or when time constraints prevent completion in the classroom.

For remote learning due to COVID-19 protocols:

Students will be required to communicate with their virtual instructor that they will be completing an entry for Young Writers. Students will complete entries at home and MUST provide this form alongside their entries.

Please submit this form electronically with entry.

This form letter must be completed for any entry that is not completed in the classroom.

Student's Name: _____
School District: _____
School: _____
Grade Level: _____
Supervising Teacher: _____

To be completed and signed by the Supervising Teacher:

Reason for completion of this PARC Young Writers Contest entry at home:

This student's contest entry is the result of a classroom writing assignment. I reviewed the first draft before sending it home with the student. I periodically reviewed the progress of the student's writing. In my opinion, the final draft appears to be the student's own work.

Teacher's Signature: _____
Date: _____

To be completed and signed by the Parent/Guardian:

I certify that to my knowledge my child, _____ has received absolutely no help from any other person with his/her PARC Young Writers Contest 2020-21 entry.

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____
Date: _____

BOOKPLATE TEMPLATE

PARC Young Writers Contest 2020-2021

Please print the following information.

Student's Full Name: _____

Category: ___ Fiction ___ Dictated Fiction ___ Poetry ___ Dictated Poetry ___ Essay

School: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher's Name and Email: _____

Student's Address: _____

City: _____ State: VA Zip Code: _____

School / Division: _____

Principal's Name and Email: _____

PARC Young Writers Contest 2020-2021

Please print the following information.

Student's Full Name: _____

Category: ___ Fiction ___ Dictated Fiction ___ Poetry ___ Dictated Poetry ___ Essay

School: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher's Name and Email: _____

Student's Address: _____

City: _____ State: VA Zip Code: _____

School / Division: _____

Principal's Name and Email: _____

CLASS INVENTORY

School _____ Grade _____
Teacher _____ Number of Participants _____

List must be typed or printed neatly with first and last name spelled correctly and submitted to the coordinator with projects to be judged.

Student Name Title Category: Fiction/Poetry/ Essay/Dictated Fiction /Dictated Poetry

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

Piedmont Area Reading Council (PARC) Young Writers Contest Guidelines

Teacher _____ Grade _____

Student Name Title Category: Fiction/Poetry/ Essay/Dictated Fiction /Dictated Poetry

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

21. _____

22. _____

23. _____

24. _____

25. _____

26. _____

27. _____

28. _____

29. _____

Teacher comments about special accommodations provided for certain entries:
