



Young Authors' Contest

Sponsored by Howard County Literacy Association

Guidelines for 2019-2020

Waterloo Elementary School



Who is this contest for?

- Maryland students in grades 1 through 8.
- Authors of short stories or poems.
- Students who want to showcase their writing!



How does the contest work?

- Write an original short story or poem.
- Type it in **Times Roman 12 point** font. Be sure to save it as a WORD file.
- Fill out the cover sheet form.
- Turn it in by December 2.



What can I enter?

- An original short story with 100-400 words (Grades 1-2) and 300-800 words (Grades 3-5)
- A single poem, which may be any style or length, with 25-150 words.
- Both- you can submit one of each.



Who can help me?

- You must be the author!
- You can't re-submit a story from last year.
- Adults may help you edit.
- The ideas must be your own, so students must do their own revising.
- You can't submit an entry with a friend.



Other Rules?

- **No graphics** on your submission.
- Poems or short stories of a **violent nature will be deemed inappropriate** and will not be judged!
- **Don't type your name on your work.** Your name and other information goes on the cover sheet only.



Digital Rules

- Save your entry as a WORD document.
- Winners will be asked to submit the WORD document of the story or poem.
- Please save an electronic copy of your cover sheet.
- Winners need to submit an electronic version of the cover sheet to their teacher.



How will I know if I win?

- Teachers will judge each grade's entries and the school winners will be announced.
- 1 poem and 1 short story will be selected from each grade to compete at the Howard County level competition in December 2019.
- In January, Howard County winners from each grade will be announced by Howard County Literacy Association.



Special Events for Winners

- County-level winners will be invited to read their pieces at Barnes and Noble on Reading Day.
- Winners, their parents, and their teachers will be invited to attend an Awards Celebration in Howard County.



Special Events for State Winners

- First place winners will be submitted to the State of Maryland Young Authors' Contest. Judges will select winners in each grade and in each category.
- State winners will be notified by email.
- State winners will be invited to attend the Young Authors' Reception at SoMLA Conference in Hunt Valley in April.



Has anyone from Howard
County ever won?

- YES!
- Each year we have had state winners from Howard County!
- **You** can be the next!



How can I win?

- Write a story that reflects your creativity and uses appropriate language and story structure OR...
- Write a poem that is compact, creative, and has appropriate use of language and imagery.
- YES, you can submit a story AND a poem.



What will I win?

- You will receive a certificate and have your name announced for submitting an entry.
- Winners at the state level receive gift certificates and attend special events.
- You win the respect of your teachers and peers for showcasing your talents!



What are you waiting for?

- Show your parents the Contest Guidelines.
- Write and type up your original poem/or short story.
- Have a peer or an adult edit your work.
- Fill out the cover sheet/entry form.
- TURN IT IN ***NO later*** than
Friday, DECEMBER 6 at Noon



Best of Luck to all!

Happy writing! May your pencil unlock your
unique voice for the world to hear!

From your friends at the Howard County
Literacy Association



Being a writer was never a choice, it was an irresistible compulsion.

~ Walter John Williams

Thank you!!!!