

Iowa Reading Association - Creative Writing Contest Guidelines for 2020-2021

Kindergarten - First Grade: Students may dictate a story if the student's writing skills are still being developed.

Second - Twelfth Grades: These students must write their own stories.

PLEASE NOTE: Entries that do not follow the requirements, as outlined below, can be disqualified!

Short Story Guidelines

THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MUST BE FOLLOWED FOR THE ENTRY TO BE CONSIDERED

*Stories must be **double spaced** and **typed**. No illustrations.

*Manuscripts must be written in prose (story format). Please follow the following length requirements:

Kindergarten – Grade Three: 500 words *or less*

Grade Four – Grade Eight: 800 words *or less*

Grade Nine – Grade Twelve: 1,200 words *or less*

*Short story entries are judged according to **continuity, creativity/originality, clearly defined and developed story elements, organization and technical mechanics.**

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Poetry Guidelines

THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MUST BE FOLLOWED FOR THE ENTRY TO BE CONSIDERED

*Poems must be **double spaced** and **typed** *NO ILLUSTRATIONS!*

*Poems will be judged according to: **interest stimulated, response evoked, creativity and originality, conciseness of vocabulary creating an image, rhythm, spelling – unless for effect and appearance.**

“Plagiarism is copying another person's ideas, words or writing and pretending that they are one's own work. It can involve violating copyright laws. ... Writers who plagiarize commit serious legal and ethical violations.” -Wikipedia

Any instance of plagiarism means your entry will be disqualified in the local Creative Writing contest. If it is **NOT YOUR ORIGINAL** work, you have prevented another young author from having a first place winner go on to the state level! The contest guidelines for both poetry and short story are judged on many factors, including **ORIGINALITY.**

Entry information will be coming soon! Online entries will be submitted, then sent to local councils for judging, then back to the chairs for state-level judging. We'll work on the details and let you know by fall!