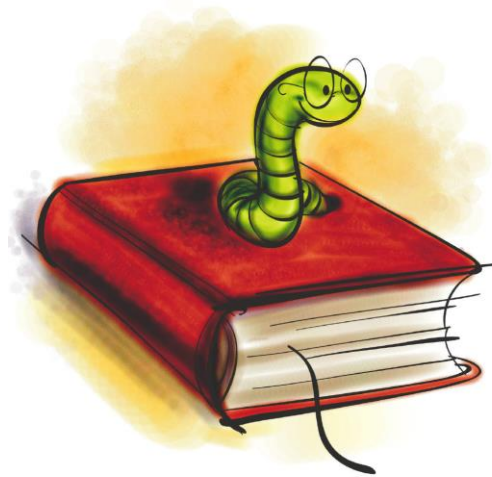


YOUNG AUTHOR TIPS AND GUIDELINES



Young Authors

The purpose of the McLean County Unit District No. 5 Young Authors Program is to encourage and recognize student authorship. The district program is part of the statewide effort supported and endorsed by the Illinois Reading Council.



work.

The authorship process begins in the classroom. Many teachers begin the writing process with their students early in the year. Students are involved in brainstorming and information gathering followed by a rough draft version of their manuscript. After revision and editing, a final manuscript is published. Students write fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. In addition to their original writing, they illustrate their text designing a book cover to enhance their

Each elementary and middle school in the district is allowed to submit two to five books for district level judging. The number of books submitted from each building is determined by the total enrollment in the school. Sixty to sixty five books are submitted to the district where several authors are selected to represent McLean County Unit District No. 5 at the state Young Author Conference. The authors of the books submitted to the district are invited to a Writer's Workshop in April sponsored jointly with the Normal Public Library. At this event a children's author talks to the participants about writing and the publishing process.

Our 2014 Ambassadors

Layla Winn
Jenna Swingler
Kendall Macmillan
Katrina Phillips
Brady Veal
Kylie Allen
Madison Allen
Grace Witzig
Mary Manuel
Cassandra Parent
Mason Caraway
Mackenzie Piazza
Bryce Heiniger
Natalie Curtis
Snigdha Garud
Will Ballad
Sam Clement
Avery Melrose
Sarah Schiebel
Sandra Le
Bella Manzo
Austin Meissner
Arya Gandhi
Alex Kowalczyk
Miranda Hamilton
Ariana

Each book is read and reviewed by judges. The criterion includes originality, creativity, grammar, interest to children, illustrations, and total composition. This review process is coordinated by Bruce Weldy, Director of Elementary Education in Unit 5. At the end of the day, books are selected to represent the district at the Illinois Statewide Young Authors Conference held in May at Illinois State University. This conference emphasizes language as a vehicle for communication with others. The participants are recognized as ambassadors of writing. Their books are read, discussed, and affixed with the official seal of the Young Authors Conference.

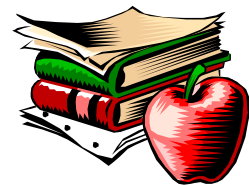
The Young Author program, from the classroom to the state conference, provides a plethora of opportunities to encourage and support authorship, a love of books, and skills that will benefit our students for a lifetime.

Each elementary and middle school has a Young Author sponsor who coordinates activities at the building level. Young Author sponsors are:

Benjamin	Annie Lee
Cedar Ridge:	Jenny Roop
Carlock:	Michele Hanley
Fairview:	Becca Blackshire and Britt Davison
Fox Creek:	Moe Backe, Kelly Reardon, and Alisha Sudkamp
Glenn:	Teresa Uhlman and Jamie Haseman
Grove:	Cindy Nourie and Connie Stanczak
Hoose:	Kathie Brown
Hudson:	Sharon Abner
Northpoint:	Andrea Norton
Oakdale:	Mary Sue Groff
Parkside:	Connie Horvath and Dawn Ludwig
Pepper Ridge:	Jennifer Corbly
Prairieland:	Britta Armstrong and Amy Lucas
Sugar Creek:	Karen Showalter
Towanda:	Judy Lancaster and Stacie Finlen
CJHS:	Denise Goben
PJHS:	Julie Nourie
KJHS:	Gina Tenuta
EJHS	Michele Southard

If you have questions contact Bruce Weldy 557-4028 or weldyba@unit5.org.

10 Tips for Young Authors



1. Books should have a sturdy cover with the title, author, and an illustration.
2. Books may include any genre.
3. Books may be any length. Our books have ranged from 8 to 100 pages.
4. Books should include illustrations throughout.
5. Computer illustrations, photographs ... may be used.
6. Two students may co-author/illustrate a book.
7. Creativity is highly prized by our judges.
8. Judges look for descriptive language.

9. Books should be free of grammar, spelling, and typographical errors.
10. Neatness counts. Your book should look visually appealing.

Guidelines for Young Author Stories

- Double space and use 1 ½ inch margins.
- Number pages.
- Typed text at the bottom works best as it compliments child's illustrations.
- Type title page on separate sheet. (Do not include child's name as this will be done on a separate form when child returns his/her book to school).
- Type dedication on a separate sheet.
- Illustrations can be done with markers, chalk, crayons, colored pencils, or may be computer generated.
- Lamination of covers and book bindings will be done at school once the child returns his/her manuscript.

Suggestions from past judges

Use descriptive words

Have a catchy title

Make sure the book has proper grammar

For illustrations use other materials in addition to pens/pencils/crayons, etc.

Make the pictures tell the story as well as the writing

Read your rough draft to the class and ask for advice

If it's a longer book, break it up into parts of chapters

Be creative! Don't give us a story that's noticeably similar to others published.

Include what age it's intended for

Make the title relate to the story

Make sure you haven't copied anyone's idea

Edit more than two times

Be sure to keep us interested in your book

Don't get tired of writing and suddenly end it

You need pictures unless you are very descriptive.

Choose font that matches your story

Make your book neat and clean

Draw pictures or add pictures

Take time on pictures – make them colorful



Young Authors



- NON-FICTION
- FAIRY TALES
- MYSTERY
- POETRY
- PLAY

- BIOGRAPHY
- AUTOBIOGRAPHY
- SCIENCE FICTION
- ANIMAL
- COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

Tips for Authors

- ORGANIZE YOUR IDEAS BEFORE YOU BEGIN TO WRITE
- ILLUSTRATIONS ARE OPTIONAL – BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- A STRONG, STURDY BINDING IS NECESSARY
- FINAL BOOKS SHOULD BE TYPED
- THE WORK MUST BE YOUR ORIGINAL
- CO-AUTHOR BOOKS ARE ACCEPTABLE
- TRY TO MAKE YOUR BOOK UNIQUE
- USE YOUR OWN IDEAS
- INVOLVE ALL OF YOUR SENSES IN YOUR WRITING
- WRITE ABOUT SOMETHING THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT OR IS IMPORTANT TO YOU!



What Books Will be Judged On

- INTEREST AND APPEAL TO CHILDREN
- ORIGINALITY
- CREATIVITY
- VISUAL QUALITY OF THE BOOK
- CONTENT

Parent's Role

- ENCOURAGER
- PRE-WRITING ORGANIZATION
- TYPIST

- **TYPING AND BINDING HELP ARE AVAILABLE**

☺ *Have a great time being creative!* ☺