

# SWEETWATER COUNTY YOUNG AUTHORS 2018-2019 GUIDELINES

1. **Entries will be accepted from grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (fiction, nonfiction, and poetry).** Kindergarten entries may be recorded dictation, developmental spelling with standard overlays done by an adult, or just developmental spelling where the intent of the word is quite clear. **Entries from all other grade levels must be properly edited without changing the writer's content.**
  
2. **Only one book of fiction, one book of poetry, and one book of nonfiction per grade level may be submitted by each school district for judging at the county level.** Your Young Authors District Coordinator will contact you regarding a deadline for your district's judging.
  
3. **A book of fiction or nonfiction may not exceed 4,000 words.** For entries that are over 3,000 words, indicate a word count on the entry form. A book of poetry may consist of one long epic poem (book length, usually) or a collection of poems. **A collection of poems must have exactly and only five (5) poems along with a table of contents (not the 5 minimum, 15 maximum of past years).** There is an exception in the Kindergarten Poetry category in that only three (3) poems are required rather than five. There must still be a table of contents, however. Please do not entitle a collection of poems with a generic title such as My Book of Poems, My Poem Book, My Poetry Book, etc. It is difficult to determine which book is which during judging unless the collection has a unique name (e.g., Serendipity, Autumn Poems, Teddy Bear Poetry, etc.) Do not use the child's name in his/her collection of poetry, if possible. **Carefully decide whether a book is fiction or nonfiction. Include vacation or other true stories or narratives in the nonfiction category rather than the fiction category.**
  
4. **Illustrations are part of the judging in the category of Presentation from 6+1 Traits.** They must add to the story or book of poems. Photos, clip-art, or computer graphics could be used, but must correlate with the theme of the writing. Fonts should be readable. Please refer to rubric for more specifics.
  
5. **Each book may have only one author. Please do not put the author's name anywhere on the book.**
  
6. **All books must be in book form and should be no larger than 9" x 12".** Each book needs a front cover with title, and a back cover, which is not part of the story text. All pages must be firmly attached. Neatness and appearance are important! Please do not use covers that are unnecessarily thick or bulky. This makes them difficult to handle and store. **Do not use metal rings or large, 3-D decorations on the cover.** A cover that is slim, with a simple binding and illustration, is the most desirable.

7. **Each author must use the current Young Authors Entry Form** that includes a mandatory Verification of Authenticity. **This form must be completed, signed, and firmly attached on one edge only, face down to the inside of the back cover.** Other options are to attach a library pocket or an unsealed envelope to the inside of the back cover, fold the entry form, and place it in the pocket or envelope. **Please cut the grade level and category form down to size and attach it to the bottom right corner of the front cover.** These directions must be followed to the letter in order to qualify as a county entry. **ENTRIES THAT DO NOT EXACTLY FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE JUDGED IN THE COUNTY CONTEST.**

8. If the name of the author and/or school appears on the front cover or title page, it needs to be covered. If a biography page is included, it needs to be covered or removed.

9. **Judging at the state level will be based upon the 6+1™ Trait writing model** (for fiction and nonfiction, with a special rubric for poetry). Decisions of the judges, at both the district and county levels, are final.

10. Certificates will be awarded to one First, and two honorable mentions in books per grade, per category.

## JUDGING

Judging for fiction and nonfiction at the district and county level will be based upon the 6+1 Trait rubric with a point range of 1-5 on each trait. Poetry will be based on four categories. Decisions of the judges, at both the district and county levels, are final. We have enclosed a copy of the rubrics, which will be used.

Certificates will be awarded to one First, Second, and Third Place books per grade, per category.

Sincerely,

*Tammy Macy*

Sweetwater County School District #1 Coordinator

*Steve Schwartz*

Sweetwater County School District #2 Coordinator

*Amy Copsey*

Holy Spirit Catholic School Coordinator