



BURBANK SCHOOL DISTRICT 111'S YOUNG AUTHORS CONTEST



OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS OF BURBANK SCHOOL DISTRICT 111
KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 8th GRADE.
CONTEST CONCLUDES FRIDAY JANUARY 18th.

Burbank School District 111's Young Authors' Contest is back! A contest to promote writing by children creating their own book. The following guidelines will hopefully help answer questions and improve the quality of the children's stories. Each young author student should incorporate some, or all, of the following elements of story writing. However, his/her imagination and enthusiasm for writing are what is most important. **The purpose of this contest is to give encouragement and recognition to student achievement in creative writing.**

STORY WRITING ELEMENTS

FICTION: This Young Authors' book is to be a creative short story. It may be based on facts but must include imaginative elements.

AUDIENCE: The story should be appropriate for the author's age/grade level.

SETTING: The time (when) and place (where) in which the story takes place. Is the setting important to the story?

PURPOSE: The story should be written to entertain, to express your feelings about something, or to describe a personal experience.

CHARACTERIZATION: Who are the main characters? What do they look like? How do they act and talk? Do they have any special traits or habits? Describe their temperaments (determined, angry, sad, happy, clever, mean, curious, etc.).

CLIMAX: Has the story's events built up to a high point?

PLOT: What are the conflicts in the story? How are the conflicts resolved and who solves the conflicts? Each detail or action must contribute to the outcome of the story.

BOOK WRITING PROCEDURES

1. Parents should read Entry Rules with your child before starting the book.
2. Students should think of and write their own story in any style or format they feel comfortable with.
3. Go over the elements of story writing described above to see if most questions have been answered and if there is anything they want to add.
4. The student should try to add illustrations on all or some of the pages. Not every page needs an illustration, but, if using illustrations or graphics, it should be the student's original work. Original art can include drawings, collages, 3-D, and photos taken by the author.
5. Text must be printed/written legibly or typed. Children may dictate their story to be printed or typed as long as the author's recorded words are unaltered.
6. A completed Official Entry Form must be attached to the 'Title' page and signed by both the author and parent/guardian.

ENTRY RULES

- This is to be the work of only one student. Co-authors or Author and Illustrator entries will not be allowed.
- This is to be a work of fiction appropriate for the author's age/grade level audience.
- The story must be original and the student's own work. No manuscript that has previously been printed may be submitted.
- No portion may be copied from any existing story or stories.
- The language and theme should be appropriate for a school project.
- 4 page minimum and 20 page maximum
- Invented spelling is accepted in the lower grades.
- Story text may be on pages with illustrations or on separate pages
- Non-English text must also be translated into English text.
- The book format should be no smaller than 5" x 8" (one half standard paper size), no larger than 11" x 17"
- Staple, stitch, bind, clip, glue or insert into a folder. Use your imagination to create your book!
- Include title page with Book Title and Author's Name but NOT Grade and School.

If you have questions about contest rules, please contact either Young Authors Coordinator. Mr. Tom Martin, Byrd School Principal (708) 499-3049, or Mrs. Kristin Welsh, Tobin School Principal (708) 599-6655. (tbyrd@bsd111.org / kwelsh@bsd111.org) **The deadline for submitting an entry to your child's teacher is Friday January 18th.**

AWARDS

- Each student who enters the contest will receive recognition for their participation.
- There will be one book selected from grades Kindergarten through 6th from each elementary school to compete at the District level. Seven 7th and seven 8th grade books will be selected to advance to the District level competition.
- Each school's grade level winners will be invited to and recognized at the Young Authors' Celebration to be held in their honor on Wednesday, February 20th at Tobin School. Each school's grade level winner will receive a certificate for their accomplishment.
- There will be one district award presented to each grade level winner Kindergarten through 8th.

JUDGING CRITERIA

A specific rubric will be used to judge each entry at the district level.

DISTRICT JUDGING

- A panel of community leaders will serve as judges to score each district level entry.
- All decisions by the judges are final.

Thank you for encouraging your son or daughter to participate in this contest. We hope your child's storybook will become a forever memory.