

Presenting  
A  
Celebration  
Of  
Writing

Student Information Booklet  
2017-2018 – Grades K-5  
Alton District Young Authors' Conference

Mr. Mark Cappel, Superintendent

## Criteria Checklist

1. The book must be original and must be the student's own work.
  - Younger students may dictate their story but the story must be in their own words.
  - One author per book
  
2. Books Should contain:
  - A. **Covers on both front and back.** The front cover must include the title and the author's name. An illustration is a nice touch but is optional.
  - B. **Title Page:** Should include title of the book, the author's full name, the teacher's name, the student's grade, and the student's school.
  - C. **Dedication Page:** This is optional but is a nice touch.
  - D. **Table of content:** This is for longer chapter books.
  - E. **Text:** This is the student's story and may or may not include illustrations.
  - F. **About the Author Page:** This is information about the author and may include a picture.
  
3. Book length suggestions:
  - Grades K-2: three or more pages.
  - Grades 3-4: four or more pages.
  - Grades 5-6: five or more pages.
  - Grades 7-8: seven or more pages.
  
4. A fictional story should have these things:
  - A. **Characters:** People, animals, or creatures involved in the story.
  - B. **Plot:** What happens? A situation or a problem to be solved.
  - C. **Setting:** Where and when the action happens.
  - D. **Climax:** The point of highest interest or emotion in the story.
  - E. **Resolution:** The part of the plot-representing the final outcome.
  
5. A non-fiction story should have accurate information relating to the topic.
  
6. Attention to details:
  - A. **Proofing:** Check spelling, punctuation and grammar.
  - B. **Neatness:** Check penmanship and quality of illustrations. (primary students' handwriting is fine).
  
7. Turn in on time. Remember to plan ahead. Books take time and effort, so expect to do some extra work on this project.



### **Suggestions of Topics**

Sometimes getting started writing is the hardest part of the project. Ideas of topic are all around us. Perhaps these few suggestions will spark an idea! Perhaps your class or friends will spend a few minutes brainstorming more ideas.

- A favorite animal
- A problem you solved in a creative, funny, unusual or unforgettable way.
- An exciting adventure
- Art
- Boring activities made exciting
- Current events
- Daydreams
- A dream you had
- Something funny or exciting that happened with your family.
- Feelings
- Stories about the future or the past
- Folklore or a fairy tale
- Gardening or farming
- Ghosts, fairies, elves, trolls, leprechauns
- History
- Hobbies
- Holidays
- Long ago
- Money matters (allowance, winning, losing, lending, borrowing)
- Nature (camping, wildlife)
- Problems
- Sports
- Travel (in time or place)
- Tragedy or comedy.
- The weather (blizzard, tornado, hurricanes, rainstorm, perfect day)
- Your life
- Someone else's life
- An encounter with a famous person
- Your pet, friend, neighbor, brother, sister, relative, teacher, etc...
- A vacation, trip, voyage, journey
- ABC or counting book
- Space

## SUGGESTIONS FOR BOOK ILLUSTRATIONS AND LETTERING

1. Have children draw illustrations on paper cut smaller than the pages. Illustrations may then be done separately, which prevents any possible accidents from ruining the book.
2. Completed illustrations may be “set” in the book by putting a dot of Elmer’s glue on each upper corner and placing the illustrations on the page. This allows the illustrations to “hang flat” on the page and tends to alleviate wrinkling.
3. Children enjoy using different kinds of paper for their illustrations. Try giving them a choice of ditto paper, finger paint paper, rice paper, newspaper (want ad sections), tissue paper, construction paper, stationary, wallpaper, etc.
4. Hair spray is an inexpensive fixative for pastels or charcoal. Several coats will reduce smearing.
5. Some children become more involved if their stories or poems are a part of their illustrations. To achieve this, the illustrations are made directly on the pages and then the printing, typing, or lettering is added.
6. Children might like to experiment with sizes and shapes of some words, eg.

**big**

or

small

7. Printing or lettering which is part of the illustration may follow different forms.
8. Suggestions for media:

torn tissue paper and India ink (use rubber cement or Elmer’s glue to fasten tissue paper; being transparent the paper can be drawn over with ink or magic marker when glued).

India ink; watercolor; tempera; crayons; magic markers; pastels; colored pencils; charcoal; sketch pencil...

prints -- spoon; potato; cardboard; linoleum; block; collages; string painting; colored thread...

“What can I use to do my illustrations????”

- crayons
- markers
- watercolor or tempera paint
- construction paper
- tissue paper
- magazine pictures
- tin foil or any other papers

What “methods” can be used to make illustrations????

- brightly colored pictures
- black and white sketches
- collage method
- simple shapes cut out of construction paper or other papers
- mixed media (such as watercolors and ink, or construction paper and ink, etc)

What “style” should I use for my illustrations????

- fancy, ornate, detailed
- simple sketch or single object or landscape
- fantasy or dreamlike
- realistic
- silhouette style
- simple cut-out shapes

What “subject matter” should I use????

- the main character(s) from the story
- landscape (could be a simple snowflake or more elaborate)
- a detail of the main event or idea on a page
- write or type the story

## BOOK MAKING

- Ring Books                      Punch holes in pages and use notebook rings or shower curtain rings to bind together.
- Simple Books                    Pages and cover are stapled together, then bound for added durability with mystik or masking tape.
- Shape Books                    Make pages in the shape of your book: Tall book, short book, triangles, circles, etc. Bind together.
- Accordion Books              Pages folded accordion style. Stapled or glued covers.
- Balsa Wood Books            Drill a hole in the cover. Use key chain or notebook ring to bind.

Informational websites:

isbn.net - Illinois State Board of Education

[www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org) - events calendar

[www.roe41.org](http://www.roe41.org) Madison County ROE - Regional office of Education

