NATIONAL PTA® REFLECTIONS®

Arts Category Guidelines | Literature

LITERATURE is the art of writing. The author (student submitting entry) is a person who expresses their own thoughts and ideas through the use of words. Authors submit a single literary work, handwritten or typed, using grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation and spelling.

To portray your original work of fiction or nonfiction, consider the following literary styles: prose, poetry, drama, reflective essay, narrative, short story. *Collections of literary work are not accepted* (e.g., poems, short stories).

Whether an entry displays formal writing technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses their artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. **Consider plot and characterization, setting and imagery, style, symbolism, etc. to show a clear relation to the theme.**

The following uses of dictation, transcription, illustration and translation are acceptable:

- Illustrated entries, including books, with pictures drawn by the student author are acceptable; however, *only literary content is judged*.
- Entries may be typed by another person if the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- If the student artist is unable, entries may be dictated to another person and printed or typed in exact words as provided by the student.
- Students for whom English is not their first language may submit entries in their own language. *An interpretive translation in English must accompany the entry.*
- Translators/transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.

Submission Requirements

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Entry must not exceed 2,000 words.
- Handwritten and typed entries are accepted on 8.5x11 paper (one sided only). Number each page.
- Accepted file format: PDF.
- Include any student information *on back of entry*.
- Submit artwork and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

All participants must also follow the official rules for participation.

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