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**2014-2015 young authors’ contest guidelines**

**Eligibility:**

Students in **Grades 2 through 5** are eligible to enter a previously unsubmitted short story and/or poem written within the 2014-2015 school year. Each entry may have only one author and only one entry per author may be submitted for each category.



**CONTEST GUIDELINES:**

1. Entries must be the student’s **original work**. Peers or adults may provide editing assistance (spelling, punctuation, etc.), but revisions should be student-generated and the final product must be the student’s own work.
	* All entries must be submitted in a **word processing file** with no less than **12 point** font using either **Times New Roman or Comic Sans** font.
	* Each short story entry may range from a minimum of two (2) paragraphs to no more than three (3) typed pages.
	* Each poem entry will consist of a single poem, which may be any style or length.
2. Entries must **not** include graphics.
3. ![C:\Documents and Settings\John R. Kearns\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\NJP7EBAI\MC900312114[1].wmf]()All entries must include a **completed “Cover Sheet”** signed by the student author and sponsoring teacher.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:**

1. Entry meets all of the above guidelines.
2. Story reflects creativity and appropriate use of language and short story structure.
3. Poem reflects creative and appropriate use of language and imagery.
4. Entries of a violent nature will be deemed inappropriate.
5. Any violation(s) of these guidelines or criteria will disqualify the entry. The decisions of the State Judges’ panel are final.

**DEADLINE:**

Entries must be received by **Friday, December 19, 2014. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**ALL PARTICIPANTS:** All participants will receive a prize and a certificate for their efforts.

**SCHOOL WINNERS:** Each winner will receive a gift card to Barnes and Noble in addition to the participant prizes. Your writing will then be submitted to the state contest.

**STATE WINNERS:**

If your child wins at the state level, you will be notified. All winning entries will be published in an anthology and each student author and his/her teacher will receive a copy. A reception honoring all Young Authors first and second place state winners, their parents, families, teachers, chairpersons and judges will be held at the SoMIRAC Conference, on **Wednesday, April 15-17, 2015** at the Hunt Valley Marriott in Hunt Valley, MD.

Please encourage your child to submit an entry for this contest. We would love to have Centennnial Lane represented at the county (and possibly the state) competition. Please contact Amanda Bucchioni at amanda\_bucchioni@hcpss.org or 410-313-2800 if you have any questions.