

YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST

	Originality 1-4 points	Creative Expression 1-4 points	Composition 1-4 points <i>Criteria marked * apply to 2nd grade and above only</i>	Integration of the Illustrations and Writing 1-4 points
Distinguished (4 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing is based on an original idea or uncommon theme. - Writing includes certain elements of originality. For example, in a unique voice or with an unexpected outcome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing is expressive, including figurative language and detailed descriptions that engage the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The writing is well organized and unified from start to finish, with effective transitions. - The writing style and content generally meet the needs of the audience. - The tone is appropriate and enhances the writing. - Sentences are carefully crafted to create fluidity, interest and variety.* - The writing demonstrates understanding of grammatical conventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The illustrations have been created with great care and are on unlined paper or in a section of the paper that does not have lines. - The illustrations are appropriate to the content and mood of the writing. - The illustrations are very engaging to the viewer and enhance the writing.
Proficient (3 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing is based on an original idea OR includes certain elements of originality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing is expressive, including some figurative language and/or detailed description. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The piece is generally organized and unified. - The writing demonstrates some awareness of the audience's needs. - Effective transitions are used, but there are lapses.* - Sentences are effective with some variety.* - There are one or two distracting grammatical or word choice errors.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The illustrations have been created with some care and are on unlined paper or in a section of the paper that does not have lines. - The illustrations are generally appropriate to the content and mood of the writing. - The illustrations enhance the writing.
Apprentice (2 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some evidence of original thought is present, but the writing is based on a common theme and does not include elements of originality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing includes some descriptive words and includes efforts at figurative language, but needs improvement in order to engage the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The piece, while coherent, does not demonstrate an understanding of the audience's need for logic and order. - Some transitions are awkward.* - Sentences structure is generally simple, with little attempt to provide variety and fluidity.* - There are several distracting grammatical and word choice errors.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The illustrations are on unlined paper or in a section of the paper that does not have lines. - The illustrations loosely fit the writing. - The illustrations have been created with some care, but also show some evidence of being hurried or disinterested.
Novice (1 point)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The writing feels like a retelling and has a common theme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing is very simple and lacks the creative enhancements needed to engage the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The piece is not organized and is therefore hard for the reader to understand. - Sentences are simple or fragmented.* - Due to numerous grammatical and word choice errors, the writing is very difficult to understand.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The illustrations appear to be an afterthought as they lack detail and craft AND/OR - The illustrations do not fit the writing. AND/OR - Illustrations appear to be copied or traced.

Highest possible score = 16 points