

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL EVENTS

(Event specific information begins on page 9)

Failure to follow stated guidelines may result in disqualification of students competing.

For a complete list you can view the [TAFE Policies and Procedures](#).

All students wishing to compete in TAFE or Educators Rising events must complete the following:

- Be an active paid member of Educators Rising for the current school year. **TAFE State dues must be paid in full by November 1st.** View the [EdRising Membership Page](#) for more information.
- Register to attend your TAFE Area Conference or the TAFE Teach Tomorrow Summit. **Registration for the conference does not register your students for competitive events.**
- Sign up to compete in competitive events and submit all required materials by the stated deadline on the TAFE Guidelines & Rubrics page located on the [TAFE Website](#).

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

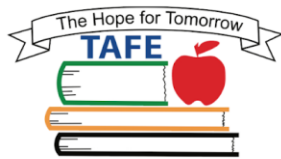
NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all competitive events and are in addition to each event's specific guidelines.

Eligibility

- Competitors must be a paid, active-level student member of Educators Rising prior to competing at an Area or State Conference.
- Competitors can only compete in 3 events of which no more than 2 can be national events.
 - ELF Test, Student of the Year, and Breakout Session do not count as part of the 3 events.
- Competitive Event entries will not be accepted after the area conference registration closes.
- For Educators Rising National Events:
 - For Competitions at the Area Level: students must have earned 70% of available points first, then the top 5 advance to the Teach Tomorrow Summit
 - For Contests at the Area Level: students must earn 90% of the overall possible points to advance to the Teach Tomorrow Summit.
 - For Competitions at the State Level: students must have earned 80% of available points first, then the top 10 advance to the Educators Rising Conference.
 - For Contests at the State Level: students must earn 97% of the overall possible points to advance to the Educators Rising National Conference.
 - ***Students may only compete in one event max, at the Educators Rising Conference.***

Competitive Event Entries

- All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2025-2026 school year. Materials that may have been created or submitted in previous years are **ineligible**. All competitors must complete a [Statement of Originality](#) form for each event they are participating in.
- Each competitive event guideline will identify what materials are required for submission prior to the conference. Failure to submit required materials by the deadline will result in point deductions. Files should be uploaded using the competitor's **FORM ID found on the TTS Database**.
- All video files that are submitted in advance must be uploaded to [YouTube](#).



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

Levels of Competition

- The breakdown of grades noted below is used to designate levels for competitive event entries. Not all competitive events are open to all divisions. Please refer to the event guidelines to check the divisions eligible to compete in that event. Teams consisting of students from varying grade levels should be registered in the level of the most senior member. **Students who do not compete in their correct division will be disqualified.**
 - **Middle School** - Grades 7 & 8
 - **Junior Varsity** - Grades 9 & 10
 - **Varsity** - Grades 11 & 12
 - **Collegiate** - Undergraduate Students, not dual credit high school students
 - **Special Edition** - This is for students who have an IEP. It is specifically designed to accommodate special needs students who require accommodation(s) to compete.

Substitutions

- Substitutions for individual events are not accepted, once registration has closed.
- Substitutions are allowed into team or dual events only, after registration has closed.
 - Events with more than one competitor can be substituted if at least one of the competitors was in the original group. A substitute must complete the [Competitive Event Change Form](#).
 - Substitutions into team or dual events must keep the entry in the same division, if not, this will result in a disqualification of the team or dual event.
- The number of competitors that compete in each level of competition is what is allowed to advance to the next level of competition.
- Failure to notify the competitive events team of a substitution may result in disqualification of the team or dual event.

Technology

- Students are required to bring their own device to Area and State conferences for competitive events. The devices must be checked prior to leaving home to make certain they can access wi-fi outside the district.
- All devices should be adequately charged before arriving at their competition room.
- No phones will be allowed in planning rooms.
- Wi-Fi is not always available at each conference location. Competitors need to have all videos, and presentations downloaded, so they are accessible without the internet.
- Screens/projectors are only guaranteed to be provided at the State conference.
 - Competitors will need to provide their own connectors/dongles to connect their computers to projectors.
- All presentations, presentation resources or videos should be available for offline use. Internet access may not be available at all locations.

Conference Registration, Attendance, & Participation in Events

- Teacher leaders must log in to the TAFE website and register for the conference they are attending. **Registration for the conference does not register your students for competitive events.** Please follow the instructions provided on the [TAFE Website](#) to register for competitive events.
- Students whose teacher leader fail to register for the conference or competitive events before the deadline will not be allowed to attend or compete.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS COMPETITIVE EVENTS

- Competitors should observe professional dress as defined by the [Dress Code Compliance Form](#). Students will not be allowed to compete if they are not compliant with the dress code. By attending any TAFE sponsored event or conference, you agree to be compliant with the dress code.
- Judges scores are final** - TAFE does not have an inquiry period for scores, all scores are final. **Teacher Leaders, Chaperones, and Parents are prohibited from approaching judges or competitive events headquarters to discuss scoring or feedback.** If a school/district is found in violation of this, they will lose IN GOOD STANDING status with the TAFE association. All questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of the officers and/or TAFE Staff putting on the event.
- The schedule of competitors will be followed as closely as possible. Please understand events can run behind and/or ahead of schedule throughout the day. Please be sure and follow all forms of TAFE communication so you do not miss the opportunity to compete.

Designation of Awards

- Students will receive awards based on the number of points scored on the event rubric. All State Qualifiers will be recognized on screen during the Closing General Session at Area Conferences and National Qualifiers, State Only Contests receiving Gold Certificates, and State Only Competitions Top 5 at the Teach Tomorrow Summit Closing General Session. The following awards will be given at Area & State Conferences:
 - National Qualifier** (Varying criteria - State Conference Only)
 - State Qualifier** (Area conference Only)
 - Gold Certificate** (90% to 100% of total points awarded only at State)
 - Silver Certificate** (80% to 89% of total points awarded only at State)
 - Bronze Certificate** (70% to 79% of total points awarded only at State)
 - Did Not Place** (0% to 69% of total points awarded only at State)

Area TAFE Conference To-Do List

- Register for your area conference (October 1- 15, 2025)
- Register for competitive events (October 1 - 15, 2025)
- For Bulletin Board and Project Visualize, submit a photo and summary sheet for an Originality Pre-Submission no later than the day before your area conference.

State TAFE Conference To-Do List

- Register to attend the TAFE State Conference (December 10, 2025 - January 30, 2026)
- Submit Prescored materials by January 30, 2026 @ 5:00pm
- Register for a time to compete at the TAFE State Conference (January 26-30, 2026)

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE PRE-K COMPETITION

\$100 Scholarship to Highest Scorer

National Qualifying Competition

Competitors may only compete in one event at the national level.

Entries Per Chapter	2 entry per Middle School Chapter
Type of Event	Individual or Dual (Author and/or Illustrator)
State Competition	Yes
National Competition	Yes
Prescored Event	Yes, State and National

NATIONAL GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all national competitive events and are in addition to each event's specific guidelines. Guidelines are subject to change. Please refer to the EdRising Membership Portal for the latest version.

Failure to follow the stated guidelines will result in disqualification of student competing.

All students wishing to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference must complete 3 required steps:

1. **Be an Active level paid national member** of Educators Rising for the current school year. State-level membership must be paid, if applicable. [Click here to join.](#)
2. **Complete the online application** and upload all required materials in their final form by the stated deadline on the [National Competition page](#) located in the Student Resources section in the EdRising Membership Portal. **This is NOT done automatically if you competed at a state or regional conference.**
3. [Register to attend](#) the Educators Rising National Conference.

Eligibility

- Students must be a paid Active-level student member of Educators Rising no later than **February 1st** of the year in which they are competing. **Check or credit card payment must be received in the National Office by February 15th to be considered an Active-level member.**
- **Students may only compete in one competitive event.**
- **For contests:** Teacher leaders may enter up to two entries (individual or dual) per school in each event per division.
 - Dual means two students participating.
 - For dual entries consisting of students of varying grade levels, the entry will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- **For competitions:** Teacher leaders may enter up to two entries per school in each individual event per division and one team for team events per division. Competitions/contests that are marked as individual or dual will be considered individual events for this purpose.
 - All team events must have at least two students (and no more than four) per school to qualify.
 - For teams consisting of students of varying grade levels, the team will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- If a competitor is from a state that holds state competitions/contests, they must first qualify in that given event at their state conference before competing in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference. Contact your state/regional coordinator to see if your state offers competitive events. Visit our [state program page](#) on the Educators Rising national website to contact your state/regional coordinator.
- For states that offer state-level competitive events, the top ten places in each competition for each division offered by the state will be eligible to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference.
- For contests, you must compete in a state level event in order to be eligible to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference. Only entries scoring 97-100 will be eligible to advance to nationals. No other entrants from states that offer the competitive events at the state level will be eligible for those state-level-offered competitive events.
- For nationals, schools are permitted to replace up to fifty percent of the original team members who qualified at the state- level. **Replacements can be made up to 7 days prior to the conference. No replacements can be made after this time or onsite.**
- For states that do not offer state-level competitive events, students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference. This applies to all Educators Rising national competitions. This does not apply to contests since you must qualify at state first before moving to nationals in any competition.
 - For example, if you want to compete in Public

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Speaking but place eleventh or lower in your state-level Public Speaking competition or don't compete in the state-level competitions at all — you cannot compete in Public Speaking at the National Conference this year. If you live in a state that didn't hold a Public Speaking state-level competition, you may register to compete in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference.

Division of Competition

- The breakdown of grades noted below is used to designate levels for competition entries. Not all competitions are open to all divisions.
 - Middle School — Grades 7, 8
 - High School Junior Varsity— Grades 9, 10
 - High School Varsity level — Grades 11, 12
 - Collegiate level – Undergraduates only
- Registering in the incorrect division will result in disqualification.
- Teams consisting of students from varying grade levels will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.

Application and Submission

- All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2025-2026 school year. Material that may have been created or submitted in previous years is ineligible.
- **To be scheduled to compete in a national competition, all competitor applications, national dues, and required materials must be submitted online by the deadline stated on the [National Competitions page](#) in the Student Resources Section of the EdRising Membership Portal. **Deadline extensions will NOT be granted.****
 - **All competitions and contests require an online application submission even if no additional items need to be submitted.** Students who have won state-level competitive events must also submit their entries on the national website by the deadline to compete at the national conference. Your state does not do this for you.
 - **For team competitions only one application can be submitted** which lists all team members in all places indicated on the application form.
 - Each competition guideline will identify what materials are required for submission before the competition. Failure to submit the required materials by the submission deadline will result in disqualification. All submitted materials must be in their final form.

- All video files that are submitted in advance must be uploaded to either YouTube or Vimeo and be linked on the application form. Videos will not be accepted by mail. We recommend that competitors also bring a copy of the video file in MP3 format on a USB drive to the conference. Educators Rising competitions comply with FERPA regarding student privacy and video security. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their competition videos comply with local and state requirements regarding student privacy.

- Except when explicitly specified, the Internet may not be used during a competition presentation at the Educators Rising National Conference. All relevant files and resources should be brought to the competition site on a USB drive. All Prezi files should be downloaded to the USB drive. Internet access may not be available during the competition. Laptops and projectors will be provided. Students should bring their own pointing device if needed.

Conference Registration, Attendance, and Participation in Events

- **All competitors must attend the Educators Rising National Conference and plan to arrive no later than 11 am on the first day of the conference and stay through the awards ceremony on the final day.** Conference dates and locations will be posted on the Educators Rising website and Membership Portal.
- Competitors must report to their assigned areas on time. Failure to report at their scheduled time can result in disqualification. ***Competition schedules will be posted in the [Educators Rising Membership Portal](#) one month before the conference.*** Be sure to check these schedules before planning your travel.
- Competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire. (See the section Competition Dress Code for details on what is acceptable.) Points may be deducted from the entrant's score for failing to follow the dress code.
- Spectators are only permitted in the competitions marked "Open to Spectators." This includes parents, chaperones, teacher leaders, and other attendees. Spectators may not coach or offer any verbal or nonverbal assistance to a contestant during that contestant's assigned time slot with the judges. A breach of this guideline may result in the disqualification of the contestant.
- Teacher Leaders, Chaperones, and Parents are prohibited from approaching judges to discuss scoring or feedback. All questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of a national office staff member.

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Judging and Scoring

- Scoring is based on the posted individual competition rubric.
- Final scores will be based on a scaled score. Scaled scores are calculated through a number of methods including judges tie breakers and room normalizations.
- Judges will break ties in all competitive events.
- To accommodate a large number of competitors, we use multiple rooms each with its own set of judges. To ensure fairness across these rooms, we employ a well-established mathematical method to normalize scores. This method helps balance judge subjectivity and ensures all competitors have a fair shot, regardless of their assigned room.
- In each competitive event, each competitor gets an average score from the judges. That score is averaged with the partner judge. If there is a deviation of more than one standard deviation between rooms, the two rooms are normed against one another to that deviation. Final scores used for ranking are the normalized (also known as scaled scores).
- When normalizing scoring, perfect scores will be excluded from the normalization process. If more than one student in the same division in the same competition receives a perfect score, a second set of judges will review the recorded presentations for those students to make a final decision.

Awards

- For Competitions: Medals and certificates will be presented to the top three entries in each division for individual competitions. Trophies and certificates will be presented to the top three entries in each division for team competitions. All places will receive electronic certificates after the conference.
- For Contests: Ribbons will be awarded to students in each category in each division with scores as follows:
 - Blue-Scores 98-100
 - Red-Scores 94-97
 - White-Scores 90-93

Inquiry Process

- Following the conference, the student scores will be released directly to the participating student(s). The scores will provide individual judges' scores, the average score for the two judges, and the normalized score (if necessary.)
- Students will have 3 business days to file an inquiry regarding the validity of their score. Students will be required to complete the online inquiry request form and submit all required documentation for consideration. **No appeal will be accepted after the 3-day period.**
- Staff will review the scoring and respond to the inquiry within 30 days. **All decisions are final.**

Competition Dress Code

All competitors are expected to dress in business casual attire when competing. Refer to the guidelines below for a detailed explanation of what is and is not permissible as business casual.

- **Slacks, Pants, and Suit Pants**
Slacks that are similar to Dockers and other makers of cotton or synthetic material pants, wool pants, flannel pants, dressy capris, nice-looking dress synthetic pants and jeans without holes are acceptable. Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans with holes, sweatpants, exercise pants, Bermuda shorts, short shorts, shorts, bib overalls, leggings, and any spandex or other form-fitting pants that people wear for biking.
- **Skirts, Dresses, and Skirted Suits**
Casual dresses and skirts, and skirts that are split at or below the knee are acceptable. Dress and skirt length should be at a length at which you can sit comfortably in public. Mini skirts, skorts, sun dresses, and spaghetti-strap dresses are inappropriate.
- **Shirts, Tops, Blouses, and Jackets**
Casual shirts, dress shirts, sweaters, tops, and polo shirts are acceptable. Educators Rising polo shirts are encouraged. Inappropriate attire includes tank tops; midriff tops; shirts with political messaging and/or potentially offensive, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans; halter tops; tops with bare shoulders; sweatshirts, and t-shirts unless worn under another blouse, shirt, jacket, or dress.
- **Shoes and Footwear**
Conservative athletic or walking shoes, loafers, clogs, sneakers, boots, flats, dress heels, and leather deck-type shoes are acceptable. Flashy athletic shoes, thongs, flip-flops, and slippers are not acceptable.
- **Hats and Head Covering**
Hats are not appropriate inside the building. Head covers that are required for religious purposes or to honor cultural traditions are allowed.

Citations, References, and Copyrighted Material

- All ideas, text, images, and sound from other sources used for the competition must be cited in competition submissions.
- Competitors are strongly discouraged from using copyrighted material in their competition entries. If copyrighted material is used, written permission must be obtained to display and present media-related materials at the Educators Rising National Conference and post-media-related materials on the Educators Rising website. All permissions obtained to use copyrighted material must be included with the entry submission. (Note: This requirement applies to music used in videos, graphics taken from the

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internet, and other media-related materials. It does not apply to artifacts collected for a project.)

- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited in all documents submitted. Judges can disqualify students from competing if it is determined that any part of their documents have been plagiarized.

Use of AI

- Unless specifically stated in the guideline, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) software and programs is strictly prohibited in creating and preparing all materials submitted for Educators Rising competitions. This includes but is not limited to, documents, graphics, speeches, videos, and presentations. All submitted work must be the original and independent creation of the participant. Use of spelling and grammar check is allowed.
- Students competing will attest that they did not use any AI in the development and delivery of their competition. Students who are found in violation will be disqualified from the competition.

Electronic Devices

- Recording devices are not allowed in competitive events.
- All electronic devices—including but not limited to, cell phones, iPads/tablets, electronic readers, smart watches, etc.—must be turned off unless otherwise noted in specific event regulations.
- No electronic communication devices of any kind are permitted during competition.

Student Responsibilities for Competitions

- Students who participate in any Educators Rising competitive event are responsible for knowing all deadlines, updates, changes, and clarifications related to that event. Students and advisors must routinely check the EdRising Membership Portal for updated information.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes on the Educators Rising website, Membership Portal, and social media sites.



DEADLINES AND CHECKLIST

Ready to compete at Nationals?

Here is a checklist to help you get prepared, registered,
and on the official schedule for nationals!

SUBMISSIONS OPEN: **FEBRUARY 1, 2026, 8:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME**

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT COMPETITION APPLICATIONS: **APRIL 6, 2026, 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME**

DEADLINE FOR COMPETITORS TO REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE: **APRIL 6, 2026, 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME**

- ☐ **Review the full national competition guidelines and rubric.** Check the Resources Section in the EdRising Membership Portal. *Some processes may be different from your state/regional conference.*
- ☐ **Update your contact information in the EdRising Membership Portal for the summer.** It is recommended that students use a personal mail address where they can receive Educators Rising email communication. Confirmations and reminder emails will be sent to the email listed on the competition application. Often school emails do not allow for Educators Rising emails to be received.
- ☐ **Step one:** [Go to the National Competition page in the EdRising Membership Portal](#). **Step two:** Click on the title of the competition for which you are signing up to compete. **Step three:** Read the guidelines and rubrics. **Step four:** Click Apply, which will take you to the national competition online application platform. All competitors must submit the online competition application even if no additional documents need to be submitted. Only one application is to be submitted for Dual or Team competitions. *This only registers you for the competitions, you will still need to register for the conference separately.*
- ☐ **Complete the online application, upload any required documents/video links, and submit by the stated deadline.** Depending on your competition, some of these items are judged before the conference so make sure they are in their final form. Recommendation: Have someone proofread your documents before submitting them. Only competitors who register by the deadline will be scheduled to compete.

For competitions that have multiple students participating only one application should be submitted and all students need to be listed as team members in all places indicated on the application form.
- ☐ **Print and save your confirmation email and application number.** You will need the application number when you register for the conference.
- ☐ **Register as a competitor for the Educators Rising National Conference.** All national conference information, including how to register, can be found on the [Educators Rising National website](#).
- ☐ **Find out when you are scheduled to compete onsite.** [Competition schedules](#) will be posted in the EdRising Membership Portal one month prior to the conference. Go to the Resources section to find the posted schedules. Be sure to check these schedules prior to planning your travel. Competitors should plan to be available for competitions from 1 PM (conference time zone) on opening day through the awards celebration on the afternoon of the last day.
- ☐ **Practice, practice, practice!** The best way to prepare for your on-site competition is to practice in front of your peers. Recommendation: Reread the National Competition Guidelines and Rubric for your competition.
- ☐ **Head to Nationals!** National placers will be announced at the National Conference Awards Celebration on the final day of the conference. Don't miss your chance to be recognized! Be sure that when you plan your transportation for the conference you can attend this final celebration.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE PRE-K COMPETITION

COMPETITION TYPE: Individual (one author/illustrator) or Dual (two co-authors or one author/one illustrator) — Closed to spectators

ELIGIBILITY LEVELS: Middle School, High School Junior Varsity, High School Varsity

EDUCATORS RISING STANDARDS:

- Standard II: Learning About Students
- Standard IV: Engaging in Responsive Planning
- Standard VII: Engaging in Reflective Practice

"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they never fail to imitate them." -- James Baldwin

Contest Purpose

Educators Rising students: this is your opportunity to summon your storytelling powers and create original children's literature. Great literature can be entertaining, educational, inspiring, or illuminating, and while it may be fictional, it speaks to inner truths. Children's book authors — like educators — help young people to understand these inner truths and to make sense of the world. This competition offers Educators Rising students the opportunity to try out that identity as an author and an educator.

General Information

The book may be written and illustrated by one individual (the author/illustrator) or two individuals (an author and an illustrator). The one or two Educators Rising student members participating in this competition must write all words and create all images themselves for their submission. No artist assistance or use of images from the web or any other third party is permissible. The participant will prepare the original short storybook format designed for a pre-kindergarten audience (ages 3-4).

Competition Guidelines

BOOK GUIDELINES

- A. Write a short story in a “book” format in English. The story can be about anything but should reinforce either academic or social/emotional values appropriate for public school.
- B. A signed “Statement of Originality” must be completed and submitted with the book.
- C. This book should be written for a pre-kindergarten audience (ages 3-4). Word count should be between 250-1,000 (The current sweet spot is 500 words or less).
- D. The book includes a front and back cover, a title/credit page, and no more than 24 pages. (24 pages front only or 12 pages front/back excluding title/credit page).
- E. The title page should include the title of the story, appropriate age audience, author, illustrator (if different from the author), teacher leader’s name, school, contact information: email and high school address.
- F. Maximum book size is 14” X 22” and should be bound using a durable user-friendly method of binding. (Commercially produced bound books are allowed for binding purposes only. Use of stock images or templates is prohibited.)
- G. Text or graphics may be either illustrated by hand or computer generated, but the student participants are responsible for composing or creating all text and graphics themselves. No artist assistance or use of images from the web or any other third party is permissible. Illustrations should be colorful, and art should amplify the impact of the reader’s experience with the story. Neatness counts.
- H. A pdf copy of the book and statement of originality will be required to be uploaded during the application process.

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

- A. The author and illustrator will bring a copy of their book and Statement of Originality to the competition to present and read to the judges.
- B. Acceptable presentation length, including the story introduction will be between five and 10 minutes. Presenters exceeding 10 minutes or under five minutes will be deducted one point for going over 10 minutes or under five minutes and one additional point for every additional 30 seconds over or under the time limit.
- C. The author and illustrator will introduce and read the book to the judges. Presentation may be done by either the author or illustrator if only one can attend the conference. It is not required that both be present.
- D. A timekeeper will hold up timecards as a warning at four minutes and again at nine minutes. The presentation will be stopped at 12 minutes.
- E. After the presentation, judges will have time to ask questions and finish scoring sheets. Judges will review the book and score. Once judges have completed scoring, they will return the book to the participant.
- F. Presenters should wear conference-appropriate clothing or dress in character costumes relevant to the book. No additional props can be used during the presentation.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE PRE-K COMPETITION

STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

I attest that my submission for the Educators Rising National Competition for Children's Literature Pre-K reflects solely my original, creative efforts (and those of the other entrant if applicable). No aspect of this submission is plagiarized or infringes on the intellectual property or copyright held by anyone other than the entrant(s). I have not used any web images, AI, or third-party artist assistance to create the illustrations or text for this book.

Entrant(s) signature(s)

Entrant(s) printed name(s)

Printed book title

Date

School name

School city/state



CHILDREN’S LITERATURE PRE-K COMPETITION

LEVEL (MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY, HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY)

DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

Judges should use this rubric as a guide to assigning points on the Feedback & Tally Sheet.

PRE-SCORED COMPONENTS

Literary Content

Points Available	20-16 Accomplished	15-11 Commendable	10-6 Developing	5-1 Needs Improvement
Story	An imaginative narrative for children told clearly and engagingly. Meaningful and original treatment of a theme. Contains a well-earned and satisfying ending. Reflects professional caliber children’s literature.	An appealing narrative for children told fairly well but could have increased clarity and impact with minor tweaks in the storytelling. Generally successful treatment of a theme. Contains a generally successful ending. Reflects commendable student-level work.	The plot may lack focus or development at times. Theme may be unclear or not fully developed. Ending may not fully engage or satisfy the audience. Reflects developing student-level work.	Plot may be confusing or lack clarity. Story may reflect stereotypes or biases not appropriate for mainstream children’s literature.
Illustrations/ Visuals	Vivid images contribute significantly to the meaning of the text. Illustrations reflect professional caliber children’s literature through precision, imagination, and overall quality.	Vivid images contribute commendably to the meaning of the text. Illustrations reflect commendable student-level precision, imagination, and overall quality.	Images contribute inconsistently to the meaning of the text. The illustrations’ connection to the story may be confusing at times or reflect inconsistent quality.	Images offer minimal connection or contribution to the meaning of the story. Images may be distracting, or reflect minimal precision, imagination, or overall quality.

Text Mechanics

Points Available	5	3	1
Text Mechanics	Mechanics — including grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. — are flawlessly appropriate for this work of children’s literature. (well- used colloquialisms are permitted and encouraged where appropriate.)	Mechanics — including grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. — contain one or two errors.	Mechanics — including grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. — contain more than two errors.

Guideline Adherence

Points Available	2	0		
Statement of Originality	Submitted	Not Submitted or incomplete		
Title Page	The title page includes the title of the story, appropriate age audience, author, illustrator (if different from author), teacher leader’s name, school, contact information: email and high school address.	The title page does not include the title of the story, appropriate age audience, author, illustrator (if different from author), teacher leader’s name, school, contact information: email and high school address.		
Book’s Physical Size	Book is bound, and size is less than or equal to 14” x 22”	Book is not bound and/or size is greater than 14” x 22”		
Page Limit	Book is no more than 24 pages front only or 12 pages front/back excluding title/ credit page.	Book exceeds 24 pages front only or 12 pages front/back excluding title/credit page.		
Points Available	10–9 Accomplished	8–6 Commendable	5–3 Developing	2–1 Needs Improvement
Age Appropriate	Story is appropriate for ages 3–4.	Story is mostly appropriate for ages 3–4.	Story is somewhat appropriate for ages 3–4.	Story is not appropriate for ages 3–4.

COMPONENTS SCORED ON-SITE

Live Reading Presentation

Points Available	20-16 Accomplished	15-11 Commendable	10-6 Developing	5-1 Needs Improvement
Vocal Delivery	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are expertly crafted to deliver to the listener maximum impact, given the content of the story.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are strong. The listener is able to understand what the reader is conveying.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are straightforward. The listener is able to understand, but the story's impact would be increased with a more dynamic vocal delivery.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are inconsistent or needing improvement throughout the reading of the story. At times, the vocal delivery distracts from the content of the story and diminishes its potential impact.
Presence	The competitors' sustained eye contact, effective posture, and professional demeanor expertly complement the content of the literature to deliver the maximum possible impact to the listener. All team members, whether speaking or not, reinforce the intended impact of the presentation at all times.	The competitors' mostly sustained eye contact, positive posture, and pleasant demeanor complement the content of the presentation quite well. One or both of the presenters may distractingly appear to slip in and out of professional character at moments during the session.	The competitors' inconsistent eye contact, posture, and demeanor reflect a straightforward recital of the material. The speaker(s) could do more to fully capitalize on the added impact possible with a focused, sustained presence.	The competitors display effort but eye contact, posture, and demeanor from multiple team members could benefit from more practice and coaching so that the speakers' presence consistently complements the content.

Live Reading Presentation Cont.

Points Available	20-16 Accomplished	15-11 Commendable	10-6 Developing	5-1 Needs Improvement
Q&A	The competitors' responses demonstrated consistent thoughtfulness and professional-caliber insight, rooted in reflexivity about the book.	The competitors' responses demonstrated thoughtfulness and reflected successful attempts to address most of the material posed to him/her.	The competitors' responses reflected a broad spectrum of levels of quality from answer to answer.	The competitors' responses may reflect evident effort and passion but are inconsistent in the depth, accuracy, understanding, or insight offered in responses.

Time of Presentation

Points Available	5	4	3	1
Length of live reading presentation	Presentation is between five and 10 minutes.	Presentation is between four and five minutes or 10 and 11 minutes.	Presentation is between three and four minutes or 11 and 12 minutes.	Presentation is shorter than three minutes or had to be stopped at 12 minutes.

Overall Impact

Points Available	20-16 Accomplished	15-11 Commendable	10-6 Developing	5-1 Needs Improvement
Overall Impact	The book captivates and inspires the reader, and is an excellent, professional-caliber representation of children's literature. The concept, execution, and presentation are professional-caliber.	The book is a commendable, student-level representation of children's literature. The concept, execution, and presentation represent commendable, student-level quality though not quite professional-caliber.	The book reflects a developing representation of children's literature. Aspects of the concept, execution, and presentation are acceptable if basic. The guidelines are followed, though multiple aspects of the book's concept, execution, and presentation may distract the audience from the intended impact.	The book reflects emerging skills in crafting and presenting original children's literature. The book may reflect a partial or incomplete understanding of the full task assigned.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE PRE-K COMPETITION

LEVEL (MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY, HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY)

Author(s) Name(s): _____

Illustrator(s) Name(s): _____

Competitors' School, City, State: _____

- Judges will use the Detailed Scoring Rubric as their guide to score students' competition entries.
- Points and feedback will be emailed to the student competitors no later than two weeks after the conference.

PRE-SCORED COMPONENTS

Literary Content

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Story	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	
Illustrations/Visuals	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	

Text Mechanics

	Flawless	One to two errors	More than two errors	Score
Text Mechanics	5	3	1	

Guideline Adherence

	Adheres	Does not adhere	Score
Statement of Originality	2	0	
Title Page	2	0	
Book's Physical Size	2	0	
Page Limit	2	0	

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Age Appropriate	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	

Continued

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE PRE-K COMPETITION

LEVEL (MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY, HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY)

COMPONENTS SCORED ON-SITE

Live Reading Presentation

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Vocal Delivery	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	
Presence	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	
Q&A	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	

Time of Presentation

	5-10 minutes	4-5 minutes or 10-11 minutes	3-4 minutes or 11-12 minutes	Less than 3 minutes or over 12 minutes	Score
Length of live reading presentation	5	4	3	1	

Overall Impact

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Overall Impact	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	

SCORE_____/148

FEEDBACK FOR STUDENTS: Write two or more sentences.