



Creative Writing and Illustration Competition

Overview

The Creative Writing and Illustration competition aims to celebrate originality in writing and illustration, underscoring the importance of clear and engaging informative writing to enhance the reader's understanding of a specific topic.

Individual participants will craft an informational book tailored for young learners in grades K-5 (ages 5-11), focusing on either a science or social studies topic of their choice.

Some suggested topics for informational books:

Science

1. Plants and Plant Growth
2. Animals and their needs
3. The Human Body
4. Seasons and Weather
5. Taking care of the Earth
6. Earth
7. Living Things & their Environment
8. Habitats
9. Oceans and Underwater Life
10. Environmental Change & Habitat Destruction
11. Matter
12. Electricity
13. Life Cycles
14. Water Cycle
15. Insects
16. Magnetism

Social Studies

1. Geography of Asia
2. Geography of Africa
3. Geography of North America
4. Geography of Europe
5. Geography of Antarctica
6. Geography of Australia
7. Geography of South America
8. Geography of Continental United States
9. Geography of Alaska
10. Geography of Hawaii
11. Native Americans, Past and Present
12. Early Exploration
13. Symbols and Figures of Democracy

Participants will showcase their books on the day of the FEA Regional Conference, accompanied by detailed illustrations. Authors are required to stand beside their creations and will have the opportunity to engage with on-site judges, discussing their creative process and answering questions.

Participation Details

- This is an individual competition. Only one competitor can author the book.
- Up to two (2) entries per chapter will be accepted. Each chapter must select one or two students to represent them.
- A maximum of twenty-four (24) entries in total will be accepted, on a first-come, first-served basis.



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Competition Guidelines

- A. This is an individual competition. Books can be authored **by only one competitor**.
- B. This book should be written for a K-5 grade audience (ages 5-11).
- C. The written part of each page should be a paragraph.
- D. Provide illustrations for each page (there should be a minimum of 12 illustrations in the book); they must clearly match the written content of the page.
- E. Illustrations may be created by hand or traced. Digital illustrations are permitted when created by the student using design or illustration software (e.g., Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Fresco, Procreate, Canva, Krita, or similar programs). **AI-generated images or illustrations are not permitted.** Photographs may also be included.
- F. All illustrations have labels and/or captions.
- G. The book must include the following parts and in this order:
 - 1. A front cover page containing the title, author, and illustrator,
 - 2. A dedication page,
 - 3. Content and illustrations (12 pages, or 6 pages front and back)
 - 4. A glossary page.
- 5. A reference list (on a separate page) of the books/websites you used to create your book (a minimum of four references are required),
- 6. A paragraph about yourself ("Author Bio") on a separate page,
- 7. A back cover page.
- H. The book must include 12 pages of content and illustrations front only or six pages front/back (excluding the pages mentioned above in bullets 1-7).
- I. Proofread all work before final publication. Check sentence structure, correct grammar, and spelling.
- J. Use the checklist to help you to be sure you have included all the parts, and the book is in the correct order.
- K. The checklist must be completed and signed by the student and the sponsoring teacher and included with the final book submission.
- L. Entries must be the student's original work and not copied from any books or the Internet. **AI-generated written content is not permitted.** Only one entry per student is allowed.
- M. All books must reflect original work from the **2026-2027** school year. Books that may have been created or submitted in previous years are ineligible.

Judging and Scoring

- A. Competitors must be present at the scheduled time; otherwise, they will be disqualified.
- B. The judges' decision is final.
- C. Competitors agree to be bound by the FEA General Competition Rules.
- D. The entry will be scored using the Creative Writing and Illustration competition rubric.

How to Enter

- A. Up to two (2) entries per chapter will be accepted. Each chapter must select one or two students to represent them.
- B. All entries for individual and/or chapter competitions must be submitted by the chapter's sponsoring teacher via the Online Competition Entry Form **by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 30, 2026.**
- C. Entries submitted by email will not be accepted.



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Student Checklist for Information Book

Cover

- _____ The cover includes the book title, author, and illustrator.
- _____ The cover is creative, colorful, and vividly depicts the book content.

The Order of the Seven Parts of the Book is Correct

- _____ Front cover (1)
- _____ Dedication – on a separate page (2)
- _____ Content and Illustrations of the Book (12 pages or 6 pages front/back) (3)
- _____ Glossary (4)
- _____ List of References (5)
- _____ Author Blurb (Bio) (6)
- _____ Back cover (7)

Number of Pages

- _____ The book includes 12 pages front only or 6 pages front/back

Book Topic and Content

- _____ Book topic and content match
- _____ The content of the book is accurate and informative

Illustrations

- _____ Creative and original
- _____ Explain and enhance the information on the page
- _____ All have labels and/or captions
- _____ There is a minimum of 12 illustrations in the book

Sentence Structure, Grammar and Spelling

- _____ Sentences are clear and well structured
- _____ There are no grammatical or punctuation errors
- _____ All words are spelled correctly

The Checklist for Information Book must be completed and signed by both the student and a teacher, and submitted with the final book.

Competitor's Name

Sponsoring Teacher's Name

Competitor's Signature

Sponsoring Teacher's Signature

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Points Available	Accomplished 16 – 13	Commendable 12 – 9	Developing 8 – 5	Needs Improvement 4 – 1
Cover	The cover is creative, colorful, and vividly depicts the book's content through quality illustrations. The title, author, and illustrator are all present.	The cover is creative and fairly depicts the book's content. Some illustrations are not related to the book's content. The title, author, and illustrator are all present.	The cover somewhat depicts the book's content. Most illustrations are not related to the book's content. One of the following elements is missing: title, author, or illustrator.	The cover does not depict the book's content and/or uses AI-generated illustrations. Two or more of the following elements are missing: title, author, or illustrator.
Parts	The book includes front and back covers, as well as the following pages: a glossary, a reference list, and an author bio.	One of the following elements/pages is missing: front cover, glossary, reference list, author bio, or back cover.	Two of the following elements/pages are missing: the front cover, glossary, reference list, author bio, or back cover.	Three or more of the following elements/pages are missing: the front cover, glossary, reference list, author bio, or back cover.
Pages	The book includes 12 pages on the front only or 6 pages on the front and back (excluding the pages mentioned above).	The book includes 9-11 pages on the front only or 5 pages on the front and back (excluding the pages mentioned above).	The book includes 7-9 pages on the front only or 4 pages on the front and back (excluding the pages mentioned above).	The book includes fewer than 7 pages front only or 3 pages front and back (excluding the pages mentioned above).
Topic/Content	The book's content is clear, focused, and relevant to the topic. The book reflects evidence of a researched topic, and the content is accurate and informative.	The book's content is explicit and relevant to the topic. The book reflects evidence of a researched topic, and most of the content is accurate and somewhat informative.	The book's content is somewhat clear. The book presents some evidence of the research topic. Some of the content is accurate and informative.	The book's content is not explicit. There is little to no evidence to support the research topic. Most of the content is inaccurate or vague.
Illustrations	The book includes 12 illustrations, all of which have labels and/or captions. All illustrations display creativity and originality, support the text, and enhance and explain the content.	The book features 12 illustrations, most of which have labels and/or captions. Most illustrations display creativity and originality, supporting the text and enhancing and explaining the content.	The book includes 8-10 illustrations, some of which have labels and/or captions. The illustrations are somewhat creative and varied, and they slightly support the text, enhancing and explaining the content.	The book includes fewer than 7 illustrations, lacks variety and creativity, and/or uses AI-generated images. Illustrations provide limited support for the text and content.
Grammar, Spelling, and Sentence Structure	Sentences are clear and well-structured. Writing is free of grammatical errors. All words are spelled correctly.	Sentences are clear and well-structured. Writing has almost no grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.	Most sentences are clear and well-structured. The writing contains a few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.	Sentences are unclear and poorly structured. Writing has many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.