

Short Story Contest

sponsored by Eastern Iowa Reading Council and
Iowa Reading Association



Kindergarten - 12th Grade Guidelines

- Kindergarten and First Grade: Students may dictate a story to a person if the student's writing skills are still being developed.
- Second - Twelfth Grades: These students must write their own stories.
- There can be co-authors (two students at the same grade level) write a story. This will be judged along with their respective grade level single author entries. (Each student needs their own entry form attached to the story, including co-authors)
- One entry per student; however, **students may submit BOTH an individual story AND a co-author story.**
- Manuscripts must be written in prose. Please follow the following length requirements:
 - Kindergarten - Grade Three: 500 words or less
 - Grade Four - Grade Eight: 1,000 words or less
 - Grade Nine - Grade Twelve: 1,500 words or less
- Manuscripts must be **double spaced** and **typed**. No illustrations.
- Manuscripts will be judged according to continuity, creativity/originality, clearly defined and developed story elements, organization, and technical mechanics.
- Student's name should **NOT** be on the front page of the short story.
- The title of the manuscript and student grade level must be on the front page.
- One typed copy of the manuscript must be mailed to the local council chairperson.
This copy will not be returned.
- Each manuscript submitted must have an entry label stapled to the back page with **all information filled out correctly**. Please include ALL parent names on the form. Please type or print neatly with blue or black ink.
- Students may enter BOTH the short story and the poetry contest.

Short story entries must be received by **Thursday, February 1, 2024.**

Please mail one copy of each correctly labeled story to:

Nancy White
Short Story Contest Chairperson
201 3rd Street SE
Independence, Iowa 50644

First place winners at each grade level will be our guests on Thursday, April 18th. Teachers of the winning students will be notified regarding details. Please encourage your students to enter and encourage other teachers in your district to do the same. Membership in the Eastern Iowa Reading Council is not required to participate in this contest. If you have any questions, contact Nancy White at 319-929-3330 or nwhite@indytel.com.