

General Guidelines for Young Authors Fair Books

- Books submitted must follow the accepted format of published books. Make sure to include:
 - Bound cover* with title and author name clearly visible
 - Title page
 - Copyright information (look in a published book for formatting example)
 - Dedication / acknowledgements page
 - Page numbers (optional: table of contents)
 - ORIGINAL illustrations (all art must be your own creation - no pictures from the internet)
 - All characters and plot details must be ORIGINAL - no fanfiction or additions to existing series

* **ALL BOOKS MUST BE BOUND.** You can use plastic spirals, book combs, ribbons, pre-made books, etc. Examples of books not bound are stapled essays or pages in plastic report covers. Unbound books will be disqualified. If an adult assists with binding, there must be a clear statement on the entry as to the type of assistance given (this may be included in an acknowledgements section at the end of your book).

Genre Descriptions

FICTION

Any type of fictional short story or collection of short stories in any genre (mystery, science fiction, adventure, realistic fiction, etc.) authored by an individual may be submitted; the book may be written in collaboration with up to two other students.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL WRITING / FAMILY BIOGRAPHY

Any story of an autobiographical nature authored by an individual may be submitted; biographical writing about a relative or friend is also included in this category.

POETRY

Any poetry collection written by one (or up to three) authors.

BOOKS WITH A RELIGIOUS THEME

Any book with a religious theme written by an individual may be submitted; the book may, as noted above, be written in collaboration with up to two other students.

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK / EASY READING BOOK

Any book written by a fifth to eighth grader for enjoyment by a younger student may be submitted; this book may, as noted above, be written in collaboration with up to two other students.

SPECIAL GENRE BOOKS

Non-fiction books written in a content area—Spanish, history, science, and the like—may be submitted; these books may be authored by one to three students. Examples of previously submitted books in this category include a very detailed ABC book about Thailand, an archaeology magazine, and a book of European restaurant reviews. Please note: Straight research reports do NOT qualify as special genre books. Biographies and autobiographies do not qualify in this category. **All ABC books must include a paragraph of text per page.**

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Graphic novels are books written and illustrated in the style of a comic book. The illustrations which, when viewed in order, tell a story. The term graphic novel is now generally used to describe any book in a comic format that resembles a novel in length and narrative development.