National PTA Reflections Program Literature

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Literature Rules.

Description

A literature entry may be a work of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry, and drama are all accepted. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

Literature entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

Presentation

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- One original and two copies of the entry are to be submitted.
- Entries may be handwritten or typed.
- Illustrated entries, including "books," with pictures drawn by the student are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.
- Collections of poems or short stories are not accepted.
- Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Dictation and Typing

- Students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- Students who are physically challenged or students in pre-school, kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.
- Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

Translation

- Students for who English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own language. **An interpretive translation in English must accompany the entry.**
- Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

Format

- Submit Literature entries on 8 ½ inches by 11 paper.
- Entries should be printed single sided only.
- Number all pages.
- Please do not mount the pages. In Maryland, submitting literature entries in clear plastic sheet protectors, one per page, is encouraged. Please secure the tops of the sheet protectors with a paper clip.
- If more than one page is a part of the entry, please clip the pages together. No staples, report covers or folders, please.
- Label each page of the Literature entry on the bottom right corner in **lower case letters** ***exactly*** as follows:

State abbreviation.arts category.grade level.student last name.student first name

Example (for typed pages): md.literature.mid.smith.mary.doc

Example (for handwritten pages): md.literature.mid.smith.mary.pdf

Grade levels should be indicated only as pri, int, mid, sen

Labeling Your Documents and Files

Submissions that win at local levels will be forwarded to the next level of adjudication. Final judging of winning entries occurs at the national level where all entries are received in an electronic format using the file names outlined below. It is therefore very important to follow these instructions exactly when labeling files and forms.

- Label the bottom of each page submitted in hard copy with the appropriate file name as indicated.
- Place all file names in the **bottom right corner of each page,** so that identifying information can be easily concealed if needed.
- Do not write or type anything on the back of any page of paper.

Student Entry Form

- Please complete all information on the Student Entry Form.
- Label the form in the **bottom right hand corner** as follows:

state abbreviation.arts category.grade level.student last name.student first name.pdf
For example: md.literature.mid.entry.smith.mary.pdf

- The required **Title** and required **Artist Statement** should be included. If the required Artist statement is too long to fit on the form, please write "See Attachment" on the form. Then submit the Artist Statement in its entirety on a separate piece of paper. Label the artist statement as follows:

state abbreviation.arts category.grade level.statement.student last name.student first name.doc
Example: md.literature.mid.statement.smith.mary.doc

Consent Form

Completed and signed Consent Forms must be included for all individuals whose recognizable images or voices appear in a Reflections entry. Individuals over the age of eighteen may sign their own Consent Form. A parent or legal guardian must sign for individuals under the age of eighteen.

- Label each Consent Form in the **bottom right hand corner** as follows:

State abbreviation.arts category.grade level.consent.student last name.student first name.pdf
Example: md.literature.mid.consent.smith.mary.pdf

Packing

- Pack the literature entry, Student Entry Form, Consent Form(s), and Artist Statement in a large manila envelope that opens and closes with a clasp. **Do not glue the envelope shut,** as it needs to be able to be opened and closed through various stages of judging. The envelope should be at least 8.5 x 11 inches, as the forms inside should not be folded.

Label the outside of the clasp side of the envelope as follows:

State abbreviation.arts category.grade level.student last name.student first name

Example: md.literature.mid.smith.mary