

**NASSAU READING COUNCIL  
YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST**

November, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

Nassau Reading Council is pleased to announce its thirty-sixth annual **Young Authors' Contest**. The purposes of this contest are:

- to encourage writing in the classroom
- to honor quality in the classroom
- to provide additional audiences for student authors through publication in the Nassau Reading Council Young Author Contest Book
- to celebrate writing and the writer

Please read the attached "**Procedures and Rules**" and "**Rubrics**" for additional information. Feel free to photocopy it and distribute it to your faculty.

***\*\*This year, the entries will be due February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019\*\****

The winning authors will be honored at an awards ceremony in June. Winning entries will be printed in the 2018-2019 edition of the contest book published and distributed to each school that enters.

Please distribute the guidelines and encourage your students to write. **Procedures and rules must be adhered to in order for the entries to be considered for the competition.**

We encourage you to offer your students this opportunity to write for a wider audience and to enjoy the pride of publication. We are eager to read your students' entries.

Sincerely,

Donna Tassone  
Uniondale SD  
(e-mail:[dt210b@aol.com](mailto:dt210b@aol.com)) RE: Young Authors' Contest

Sarah DiRusso      Jennifer Navarra  
Uniondale SD      Valley Stream SD#13

***For emergencies only: Donna Tassone 516-775-1142***

# NASSAU READING COUNCIL YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST

School Contest Coordinator/Classroom Teacher:

Please judge only Personal Narratives in the form of a story or poem. *Personal narratives recount an experience that actually happened to the writer.* All details work together in an integrated way to create a complete piece of writing with a beginning, middle, and end.

Please review the rubric as you choose your school's entries. They'll be judged in this manner throughout the contest!

<b>Scorer's Initials</b>					
Engages the reader with an attention-getting lead					
Develops a strong voice; the unique way the writer expresses her/himself on the page					
Uses language that enhances the narrative					
Writes in a coherent and organized manner					
Provides a sense of closure					

**2018-2019 NASSAU READING COUNCIL**  
**YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST**  
**PROCEDURES AND RULES**

**ELIGIBILITY**

This contest is open to students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 in Nassau County's public, private, and parochial schools. Finalists will be selected from the following grade level groupings:

Kindergarten	Fifth Grade
First Grade	Sixth Grade
Second Grade	Seventh and Eighth Grades
Third Grade	Ninth and Tenth Grades
Fourth Grade	Eleventh and Twelfth Grades

**FORM**

Students' entry should be a personal narrative in either prose or poetry format. A personal narrative is writing derived from the author's own experience, in which feelings are expressed and events are recreated. So many classes begin the year with personal narratives - please revisit the wonderful writing for submissions. Other genres will be disqualified. **THE STUDENT'S FULL NAME, GRADE, SCHOOL, DISTRICT, AND TEACHER'S NAME MUST APPEAR ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE LAST PAGE.**

**WORD LIMIT**

There is no word limit per entry; it **must** be a **personal narrative**.

**NUMBER OF ENTRIES**

A school may submit only **five entries per grade level grouping**. This means that each school will have to establish criteria for judging entries prior to submitting writings to the contest. Only the first five entries from each grade level grouping will be considered by the committee.

**ENTRY FEE**

There is a fee of **\$30.00** per school to help defray the costs of mailing, printing, and awards. **Fee is payable to Nassau Reading Council. Please include with entries.**

## CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

Entries will be evaluated for content, authenticity, voice, focus, organization and mechanics. A committee of the Nassau Reading Council will judge entries.

### ORIGINALITY

All work must be drafted, revised, edited, and put into final form by the students **during school time**. Approximate spelling and handwriting is acceptable for students in Kindergarten through third grade, & the few upper grades that don't require computer writing! The **5** entries should be typed **on one side of the page** and submitted.

### SCHOOL SUMMARY SHEET

Entries must be accompanied by the enclosed summary sheet. All information should be **carefully/clearly printed** or **typed**. We will not judge material submitted with incomplete summary sheets.

### MAILING ADDRESS

Each school's entries, the School Summary Sheet and the \$30.00 entry fee, payable to "Nassau Reading Council", should be **mailed together** to:

**Donna Tassone  
632 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040**

### DEADLINE

All entries must be **postmarked before *\*\*February 15, 2019\*\**** Entries will not be returned so you are advised to make copies for personal use. Please make sure you write a return address and the words "Young Authors' Contest" on the envelope.

**Do not send by certified/signature required mail.** (We'll e-mail received response if you indicate that you'd like that) **\*Regular mail is fine & cost-effective!**

### AWARDS

Winning entries will be honored at an awards ceremony at Shelter Rock Elementary in early June. A special invitation will be sent to each winner and their teacher in May, as well as coordinators of all participating schools. Each entrant will receive a NRC Certificate of Merit in June, 2019. Participating schools will receive a copy of the 2019 edition of the contest book.

