

Young Writers Contest Guidelines
Roanoke Valley Reading Council
2007-2008

1. Each entry must be the original work of an individual student and must be written, illustrated, and bound by the student as part of classroom writing. Stories written with computer programs in which characters, events, setting, etc. are selected from a prepared list are not acceptable.
2. Each entry should have a front and back cover that is sturdy and constructed by the student. Hardcover bindings are no longer required for grades 4-8. A student may submit an entry with a hardcover binding, but it will not be given preferential treatment from the judges.
3. The student may use manuscript or cursive writing, as long as the result is neat and legible. If the book is typed or computer generated, the student must do it. Children in grades K-1, ELL/ELS students, and physically handicapped students not able to write may dictate their stories.
4. The entrant's teacher should include an explanatory note in the student's book if there are special circumstances, which necessitated typing by another person or providing extra help to the author. Any questions should be referred to the Young Writers Chair listed at the end of the guidelines.
5. Books may be either poetry or prose. Prose may be either fiction or nonfiction. Students who submit nonfiction prose must also submit a list of their resources for background material.
6. Each school should conduct its own competition, choosing **two** winners per grade level.
7. A copy of the bookplate must be typed and glued to the inside front cover of each entry. This is a very important step for the judges and must be observed in order to have books returned to the entrant.
8. All contest entrants will be recognized for their participation. Winners will receive special recognition. A Young Writers Celebration will be held in the spring. Contest entrants will receive invitations.
9. All entries for the Young Writers Contest are due on or before February 28, 2008. These entries will be judged by Dr. Leslie Murrill's writing class at Roanoke College. If mailing entries, it is a good idea to contact the Young Writers Chair so she will know they are on the way.

Mail or deliver entries to: Darlene Smoot
RVRC Young Writers Co-Chair
Huff Lane Elementary
4412 Huff Lane NW
Roanoke VA 24012