

January 15, 2010

Dear McCarty Families:

The 2010 Young Authors Program at McCarty School is officially underway!

McCarty's program is part of the Illinois Young Authors program, which is now in its 36th year and culminates with a statewide conference in May at Illinois State University. Our school will choose one representative to send on behalf of McCarty School to the one day conference at Illinois State University in May, 2010.



This program is intended to generate appreciation and recognition of children's writing. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are encouraged to participate in the Young Authors Program by writing and submitting an original story, essay, or collection of poems. As part of McCarty's emphasis on the 6 traits of good writing, all students taking part in the program are encouraged to remember these traits as they create their own stories. No school time will be allotted for production of these manuscripts so it is a voluntary at-home activity.

All entries must be turned in to McCarty School no later than Tuesday, February 16th.

It is our goal at McCarty School to recognize all Young Authors. Every child who creates a book becomes a District #204 Young Author and will receive a participation acknowledgement. All participants will have the opportunity to read their manuscript aloud to their class and their manuscript will be displayed in the LMC. In addition, authors will receive special recognition on the morning announcements.

Attached to this are all the details you need to participate in the Young Author's program. Please follow the guidelines carefully. Entries that do not follow the established guidelines are subject to disqualification from the judging process.

We're proud of the creative minds we have at McCarty and look forward to reading all of the good writing!

If you have any questions, please contact the LMC at michelle_johnson@ipsd.org OR 630-375-3407.

Young Author Timeline

- January 15th: Young Author's Entry Packets posted on listserv and website
- January 15th- February 15th: Students work on writing at home
- Entries are due to classroom teacher by February 16th.
- February 17th judging begins
- Winner is announced and awards are presented in late February.
- May 15th: McCarty's Young Author representative attends the state's Young Author's conference at Illinois State University in Normal, IL.

Guidelines for Manuscript Development

- ❑ All manuscripts will be done voluntarily outside of school time, and will be done with minimal parent assistance. This is not a graded assignment. Adults may point out mechanical errors or areas of concern without specifically telling students what to write.
- ❑ The work must be original; the child must conceive the entire story. Adults may offer encouragement and criticism but may not act as “ghost writers.”
- ❑ Acceptable styles of writing are story, essay or poetry. Try expository, narrative or persuasive writing! Let your imagination run wild and be creative.
- ❑ The author determines length and format. There is no size requirement for the book in terms of length, height, width, or shape. The only requirement is that the manuscript be securely bound. We cannot be responsible for loose pages that fall out of manuscripts.
- ❑ Dictated books may be typed or handwritten by an adult but must be in the student’s own “voice”.
- ❑ ****IMPORTANT!**** Manuscripts must be in book form with a substantial cover and pages securely attached. A title page **MUST** accompany the manuscript (example below). Covers may be as fancy or as simple as the author desires, as long as they are well bound. **EXAMPLES** of well bound manuscripts are spiral binding, comb binding, tape binding, several staples, reinforced holes, 3 ring binder, a blank book, etc. Report covers that have a sliding side plastic piece and clear front cover have proven not to hold up under so much handling even though they do look sturdy.
- ❑ Student may write about any topic they wish, but if names and/or pictures of McCarty staff or students are used, written permission **MUST** be granted ahead of time and included in the back of the manuscript. (form below) If written permission is not included with your manuscript, the manuscript will not be judged or displayed.



Good luck, Young Authors! Let your creativity shine!

USE THIS Young Author checklist: to help you make sure you've done everything!

- ❑ The cover is secure and well bound. Be sure that the pages won't fall out!
- ❑ There is a title page after the cover page with all the required information.
- ❑ The manuscript has been checked for quality and is an example of my best work.
- ❑ There is a "permission" page at the end of my manuscript if I used people who work or go to school at McCarty. (Form below)

Young Author Title Page

EXAMPLE

The first page you should open to after your cover is your title page.

It must have the following information on the page:

Remember you don't have to include the words title, author, etc. See below

Title (your title)

By (author's name here)

Class (1F for example)

Place of Publication (McCarty School)

City of Publication (Aurora, IL)

Year of Publication (2010)

- You can be creative with how you display this, but all of this information must be clearly identified on this page.

Check the title page of an actual book if you want it to look as authentic as possible!

Holes
Louis Sachar
3G
McCarty School
Aurora, IL
2010

How I will be judged on my Young Author's Manuscript?

When creating your Young Author's entry, consider that the following things will be looked at when it is judged:

- Ideas and Content
 - Is your manuscript focused on one main idea with supporting details?
- Interest to the reader
 - Do the ideas you've written about hold your interest?
- Impact to the senses
 - Does the text leave you with an impression you can see, hear and/or feel?
- Overall quality of the writing
 - Neatness, spelling, punctuation, etc.
- General appearance of the book
 - Is there a secure cover, title page? Is it in book format?
- Illustrations (if any are included)
 - Do the illustrations enhance the text?

- If a story or essay-
 - Follow through to conclusion
 - Does the story have a beginning, middle and end? Is there is logical series of events leading to a conclusion?
- If manuscript is a collection of poems-
 - Imagery (Mental image as created by imagination or memory)
 - Originality and vivid descriptions through the use of figures of speech
 - Continuity (Uninterrupted development of theme)
 - Technical Detail (Craftsmanship) Includes aptness of phrase, assonance, alliteration, freshness of rhyme, balance of lines against one another, rhythmic quality

Permission for Use
Names and pictures of McCarty students or staff

Author name: _____ Class: _____

Title of Manuscript: _____

Names of people being used in the manuscript: (add more lines if you need them)

Are pictures of this person/these people being used?

Yes No

By signing this form, I grant permission for the author of this manuscript to use my name and/or picture in their manuscript for the McCarty Young Author's program. I understand that my name and/or picture may be displayed in public places wherever the manuscript is displayed. (All people who have names or pictures displayed in the manuscript must sign below).

Permission to Display in LMC

Author name: _____ Class: _____

Title of Manuscript: _____

I give Mrs. Johnson permission to display my Young Author's Entry in the LMC. Students will be allowed to look through and read each book in the LMC. Entries will not be available for checkout.

Author's Signature: _____

