

Creative Writing

Creative writing is designed to promote creativity in an academic format and to encourage writing skills at an early grade level. Through preparation for the contest, students will be able to evaluate their own writing and the writing of others.

Section 1418: CREATIVE WRITING

(a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) **Summary.** This contest is designed to promote creativity in an academic format and to encourage writing skills at an early grade level. Through preparation for the contest, students will be able to evaluate their own writing and the writing of others.
- (2) **Contest Format.** Contestants will be given a prompt with several captioned pictures. From these pictures, the students will create an original story based on their selections. The stories shall contain at least one of the pictured items, but it is not required that all items on the page be included. Thirty minutes will be allotted for writing exclusive of time required for instructions.

(b) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) **Contestants.** Students in the second grade who are eligible under Section 1405 may enter this contest.

- (2) **Divisions.** This contest will consist of only one division.
- (3) **Individual Competition.** Each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.
- (4) **Team Competition.** There is no team competition in creative writing.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

- (1) **Personnel.** The contest director may be the coach of a participating student.
- (2) **Viewing Period.** An optional period not to exceed 15 minutes may be arranged for coaches and contestants to review their own evaluations, stories and verify identification.
- (3) **Official Results.** After the viewing period has ended and all contest papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.
- (4) **Returning Materials.** No materials from the district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

Creative
Writing =
2nd Grade

Contest Administration Rules

- (1) **Number Contestants.** As roll is called, instruct contestants to place their assigned contestant number in the upper right-hand corner of each blank page. Coaches may assist contestants in this process prior to the contest.
- (2) **Clear Room.** Contestants and coaches should be informed of the time and place of a viewing period, if one is scheduled. Spectators and coaches not assigned a specific duty in administering the contest should be dismissed from the contest room before the contest begins.
- (3) **Distribute Prompts.** Place prompt sheets on the desk in front of each contestant. Read aloud the captions under each picture and the instructions for writing a story. Contestants may use the instruction and prompt pages for notes or ideas. Give students the signal to begin.
- (4) **Signal to Stop.** At the end of 25 minutes, give a 5-minute warning. At the end of 30 minutes, give a stop signal and ask contestants to put their pencils down. Collect all prompts and contestant papers.

Judging/Scoring Rules



Creative Writin

- (1) *Briefing Judges.* Prior to the contest the director should discuss thoroughly with judges the criteria for evaluating the stories.
- (2) *Criteria for Judging.*
 - (A) The stories are evaluated as to relative excellence in creativity (60%), organization (30%) and grammatical correctness of style (10%).
 - (B) Interest depends primarily upon substance. It depends next upon clarity and upon including specific details and examples which individualize the story as an outgrowth of the writer's character and experience.
 - (C) A well-organized story will present ideas in a logical and coherent manner.
 - (D) Grammatical correctness of style includes avoiding errors in sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, spelling and word usage.
- (3) *Ranking Stories.* Judges shall read the stories and, without marking on the papers, shall rank them in the order of their excellence: 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. The judges should discuss the stories contending for a rank and may alter their decisions as a result of the discussion. Judges are to reach a consensus on the rankings.
- (4) *Ties.* There can be no ties in this contest.
- (5) *Preparing Evaluation Sheets.* Judges shall prepare comments on the Creative Writing Evaluation Sheets for each entry. Comments should reflect the UIL philosophy of judging. Identify and comment first on the positive aspects of the story, then offer constructive criticism. Comments need not be long, but they should be specific rather than general.
- (6) *Points.* Points are awarded through sixth place. See Section 1408 (i).

FAQs about Rules

What contest personnel are needed?

- *Contest Director.* The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may appoint an assistant director. The contest director may be the coach of a participating student.
- *Judges (Graders).* A single or an odd number of judges should be familiar with the instructions for grading and the contest rules. They should be qualified and impartial. Judge(s) may not be coaches of participating students. The contest director may recruit as many judges as necessary.

What contest materials are necessary?

- *Provided by UIL-* Prompts and evaluation sheets, contest rosters, judges' ballots, instruction sheet for judges
 - These materials will be provided to schools submitting the appropriate requisitions. See Section 1408 (c) and (e) for the dates when invitational materials and district materials will be available.
- *Provided by the Host School-* Blank paper
- *Provided by the School or student-* Pens, pencils and/or erasers
- *Other-* No other materials or notes may be used in the contest

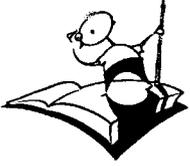
How long does the contest last?

Allow 30 minutes for students to create and write stories.

How many sets of materials are available?

The League will make available one test for invitational meets, one test for fall/winter districts meets and one test for spring district meets.

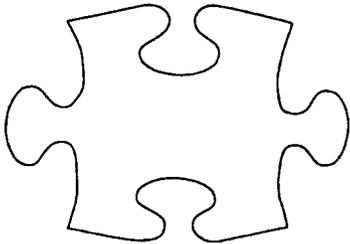
The contest has no minimum word length.



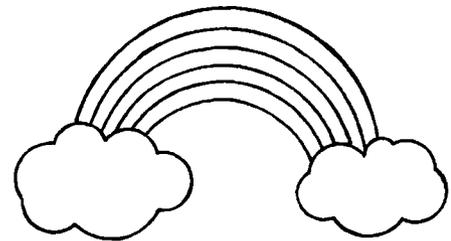
Creative Writing Contest

Write a story on your own paper. You must write about at least one of the things shown on this page. You may use as many of the pictures as you want.

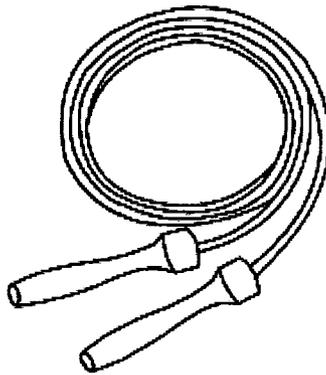
This sample prompt is taken from the 2014-2015 Fall/Winter district test.



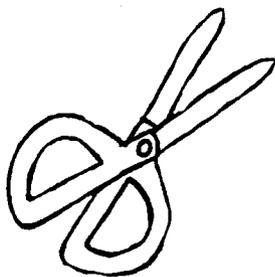
puzzle piece



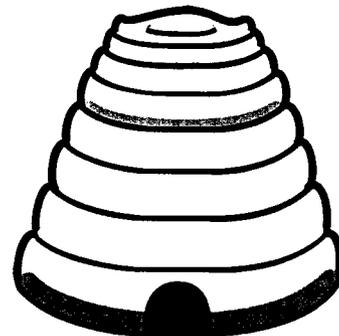
rainbow



jump rope



scissors



bee hive