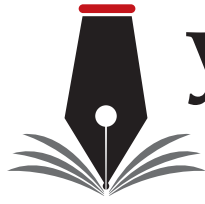




THE SCHOOL POST



Young Author Awards ^{VI} 2024

INTER SCHOOL STORY WRITING COMPETITION

UNLEASH THE AUTHOR IN YOU!

THE ONLY
COMPETITION
OF ITS KIND
IN THE
WORLD



FIRST 10
EARLY BIRD
PRIZES
IN EACH
GROUP

Calling All Young Storytellers From Grades IV-XII!

The VIth Edition of the Young Author Awards is here. Showcase your talent, make your school proud, and see your story published in the celebrated Pens of Fame. Compete for a place in the Hall of Fame, win trophies, and be recognized at a grand event!

Let Your Words Shine. Write Your Way To Glory!

Registrations Open
OCTOBER 14, 2024

Submission Deadline
NOVEMBER 23, 2024

CATEGORIES

JUNIORS
Grade IV to Grade VII

SENIORS
Grade VIII to Grade XII



Books Launched During
Last Five Years

For Details Contact Your School or Call: 9374023377 / 7096962646

Email: theschoolpost@outlook.com



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Suggestions/Tips for Young Authors

(Parents/Teachers are requested to explain the tips given below to the students)

Ideas from Life

- One of the best places to look for short fiction material — believe it or not — is your life.
- What events shaped you as a person? Write an exhaustive list of these events, such as: your earliest memory, your most embarrassing moment, your greatest achievement, your worst loss, your first love, the day you grew up, etc.
- Explore these events on the page, writing down as many minute details as you can possibly remember: colors, smells, textures, feelings, etc.
- *When you are done, go back through everything you've written and find the story that needs to be told.*
- Have fun! Feel free to tell tall tales, spin yarns, and exaggerate what really happened in service of writing a good story. The best writers know when to steal from their own lives and when to use their imaginations.

Ideas from the News

A fantastic place to look for short story ideas every day is the newspaper. Keep a scrapbook of your favorite stories, like so many great writers who came before you!

- Read through a local or national newspaper for stories that spark your imagination.
- Keep a collection of clippings that might make good stories.
- Highlight portions of these stories that strike you as original and inspire you to write.
- Save these news stories in a scrapbook for when you need ideas.
- Take one or more of these news stories and write an original story based on real events.

Make sure that your story — while inspired by real events — stands on its own as an original piece of writing. Be sure to change all names, places, and events.

Truth and Fiction: A Memory Exercise

Where should you look for story ideas? One of the best places for a writer to start is in the vast, uncharted landscape of memory.

- **Step 1:** Write a detailed description of a real memory. Convince your reader that it really happened.
- **Step 2:** Write a detailed description of a constructed (visualized) memory, something that never happened to you. Convince your reader that it really happened.
- **Step 3:** Read your two memories, true and constructed, to a friend. When reading, try not to give away which of the two memories really happened.
- **Step 4:** Ask your friend to identify which of the memories was true or constructed. Before revealing the truth, ask your friend to explain his or her reasoning.
- **Step 5:** With the help of your reader, identify which of your two memories was most compelling? Why?
- **Step 6:** Is there such thing as a “true memory?”
- **Step 7:** Drawing from this exercise, draft a short story in which a true memory blends into a fictional event.

Character Development

Good stories almost always feature strong, complex characters. While it is often tempting for writers to create characters who are either good or bad, the best characters are conflicted. Like most human beings, they are neither good nor bad, but both! The most memorable characters are bundles of contradictions.

Drafting Dialogue

One of the marks of a seasoned fiction writer is believable dialogue. Dialogue happens when two or more characters speak to one another. While some authors are born with an innate talent for imitating speech, the majority of us have to work at it, developing an ear for dialogue over time. We do this by paying close attention to conversations that take place around us in everyday life.

Good dialogue is as much about the words spoken as it is about the natural rhythms of speech. The part of the brain responsible for good dialogue is like a muscle. You have to exercise it regularly in order to keep it in good shape.

Here are some exercises that will help you to write believable dialogue:

- Go out into the world with a pencil and a pad of paper. Find a good place to sit, where you can easily overhear people talking. Without giving yourself away, write down as much of each conversation as you can. Try to get everything down on paper, including: ums, ahs, throat clearings, chuckles, sighs, cut-off words, pauses, and ellipses.
- Sit down in a restaurant by yourself, order a glass of juice, and listen to all of the conversations around you. Don't take notes. When you leave the restaurant, go home and write down as much as you can remember. Using your memory will help you to internalize the cadences and rhythms of natural speech.
- Record a candid conversation between friends. Go home and listen to your recording. Write a word-for-word transcript of the conversation. Make sure to capture everything that was said. Read your transcript out loud, and then compare it to the recording. Go back and make adjustments and corrections to your transcript until you feel you've done justice to your friends' conversation.
- Sit in a room full of people. Listen to the way each person speaks. Take detailed notes on what makes each person's way of speaking unique. Does one person have an accent? A stutter? A lisp? Does one person slur her words? What is the tempo of each person's speech? Does someone in the room over enunciate? Write a descriptive paragraph for each person in the room.
- Listen to a talk radio program. What can you tell about each person by the way he or she is speaking? Is one person highly educated? Which speaker is extremely poor? Who is the most arrogant person on the program? How can you tell? Make a list of speakers and their characteristics.

Now, take everything you've learned and apply it to your characters!

POINT OF VIEW

One of the best ways to review your story is to scrutinize its point of view, the lens through which the reader views the events that take place on the page. A story's POV is often a subtle negotiation between the writer and the reader. While some stories lack a formal narrator, every good story is told from a particular perspective. The angle and the distance of that perspective are what determine the POV.

There are many ways to approach the question of POV when re-writing a story. The important thing is to find the right voice and perspective to draw your reader in and tell your story. Here's a list of different POV options:

First Person

Told from the perspective of a character in the story, usually a main character, or protagonist. Sometimes, however, the first person narrator is a character who observes from the sidelines of a story.

Second Person

Told in the voice of a narrator who leads the reader to view the story from his/her own perspective.

Third Person

Told from the perspective of a narrator who is not a character in the story. Sometimes the third person narrator has access to the thoughts of one character in the story. However, the third person narrator can also be detached from all of the characters, in which case he/she is called "objective."

Third Person, Omniscient

Told from the perspective of an all-seeing narrator who knows everything about all of the characters, including their thoughts, as well as past, present, and future events. This POV allows the writer to share the most information with his/her reader.

Fine-tune your story by making sure all the nitty-gritty stuff is in order. While the following lessons on grammar and punctuation may seem obvious to some, serious writers take the mechanics of writing seriously! Make sure you've used punctuation consistently and correctly.

Rules and Regulations

Please read the rules and follow them carefully or your story will not be judged.

1. One story per person.
2. Story must be in English Language only.
3. Contest is divided in two categories- **JUNIORS** (Grades IV-VII) & **SENIORS** (Grades VIII-XII)
4. Your story can be about anything you like. Be creative, be bold and have fun. We won't only judge the subject of your story but also how well you write it. Also, remember that it will be judged according to the criteria for a short story.
5. Out of the total entries received, Top Ten in each grade will enter the **“List of Honor”** for which they will be awarded certificates.
6. The top three entries in each grade will be eligible to be a part of “ Hall of Fame” and their stories will be compiled into a book of short stories. (The book will be published subject to the stories passing the stringent test of a desired level).
7. The Young Author Award will be given to the first position holder in the “Hall of Fame” while the other two get First Runner Up and Second Runner Up respectively for each grade. The trophy would go to the winner of the Young Author Award.
8. Entries appearing in the “List of Honor” will be invited with their parents to a special function where the entries made to the “Hall of Fame” will be announced and will be awarded.
9. This is not a contest for scripts, poems, essays or other types of writing. Revise. Edit. No first drafts, please.
10. **Maximum length is 500 words for Juniors and 1000 words for Seniors.** Stories longer than stipulated words will not be judged, no exceptions. Your title and contact information do not count toward the 1,000 words. Edit your story down to 1,000 words. Cut all empty or extra words that do not add to the setting, plot, or characterization.
11. Formatting. No images, illustrations or fancy writing. Keep it easy to read. Neatly typed with the font size of 12 in **“Times New Roman”** fonts.
12. Include the following information at the top of the first page of your story.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • School • Email address • Word Count 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade • Phone number • Title
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13. **Participation fee Rs. 500/-**
14. Each story will be judged on its literary merit as a short story including: story structure (plot, characters, setting, point of view), description, style, grammar, and unity. The judges will look at the title of your short story and how well it fits your theme and tone to get your score.
15. You should not be submitting a first draft. Revise. Proofread. Format properly. Then follow the rules and submit.
16. The story submitted should be your original work and must not borrowed/copied from any print, digital or electronic media. The publisher/organisers shall not be responsible for any copyright infringement in such cases.
17. All the entries/stories received will remain the property of The School Post and shall not be returned.
18. The competition is open to all the English medium schools across the State of Gujarat
19. The stories should be submitted by the date specified below, in A4 size sheet, neatly typed in Times New Roman fonts with a font size 12.
20. **A scanned copy of the form duly authorised and stamped along with the soft copy (word/doc) format to be uploaded through our portal www.theschoolpost.in. THIS IS MANDATORY.**
21. A hard copy of the story has to be mandatorily attached to the registration form.
22. THE CONTEST WILL BE OPEN FROM MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024 AND CLOSES ON **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2024** ie LAST DATE FOR ACCEPTING STORIES FROM THE PARTICIPANTS IS NOVEMBER 23, 2024.
23. SINCE THIS IS AN INTER SCHOOL COMPETITION, ONLY ENTRIES THAT ARE FORWARDED BY THE SCHOOL WITH THE STAMP AND SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORISED PERSON, SHALL BE CONSIDERED. DIRECT ENTRIES FROM PARENTS/ PARTICIPANTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Sample ➔

Name : Rahil Gupta	
School : Abc High School	Grade : VII
Email address : rahilgupta@abc.com	Phone number : XXXXX XXXXX
Word count : 495	Title : “Xxxxx Xxxx Xxxx Xxx”

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