HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORIES

PROSE

Children’s Book to be Read by an Adult to a Child

Definition
An original story written and designed to be read by an adult to children below kindergarten age; it should be in a book format. The story may reflect a literary work or be the development of an original adventure. A nonfiction book is also appropriate. (Well known books for Pre-readers include the following: My Friend Bear, Today I Feel Silly, Sheila Rae, the Brave; Frog and Toad (series), There’s a Nightmare in My Closet, If You Take a Mouse to School, and Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.) Each book must display the ages for which it is appropriate. Illustrations must be the original design of the creator; they can be drawn by hand or on a computer. Authors should not use patented characters (i.e., Donald Duck) or computer generated pictures (i.e., clip art).

Specifications
Written and illustrated by one student
Maximum length 16 pages
Attach or bind the book securely for judging and display; allow enough white space so that binding does not hide text or pictures.

Children’s Book to be Read by an Emergent Readers

Definition
A original story written in a book format and designed to be read by children who are starting to become independent readers, usually ages 5 - 7. The story may reflect a literary work or be the development of an original adventure. A nonfiction book is also appropriate. Books in this category often use simple rhyming. (Well known books for Emergent Readers include Cat in a Hat, Foot Book, Fox in Socks; One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish.) Each book must display the ages for which it is appropriate. Illustrations must be the original design of the creator; they can be drawn by hand or on a computer.
Authors should not use patented characters (i.e. Donald Duck) or computer generated pictures (i.e. clip art).

Specifications
- Written and illustrated by one student
- Maximum length 16 pages
- Attach or bind the book securely for judging and display; allow enough white space so that binding does not hide text or pictures.

Fable

Definition
A short story, such as one of Aesop’s Fables, intended to reveal some useful truth or precept, especially a story in which animals or inanimate objects speak and act like human beings.

Specifications
- Maximum length - 500 words
- Fable written by one student
- Typing required, minimum size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

Formal Essay

Definition
A piece of prose writing that expresses a particular point of view on a subject. It should either communicate information or share a personal thought in a formal style and be characterized by a seriousness of purpose, dignity, and logical organization.

Specifications
- Minimum length - 500 words
- Maximum length - 1000 words
- Typing required, minimum size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper
**Informal Essay**

**Definition**
A piece of prose writing that expresses a personal point of view in a conversational style, written mostly for enjoyment. It may contain elements of self-revelation, humor and an unconventional theme.

**Specifications**
(See Formal Essay.)

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**Literary Comic Strip**

**Definition**
A three-to-four panel comic strip with illustrations and dialogue. The comic strip must be based on a literary work. The strip may be hand-drawn or created digitally. Illustrations must be the original design of the creator. Do not use patented characters (i.e., Donald Duck) or pre-made computer-generated pictures (i.e., clip art). Hand-drawn comic strips must be outlined in black ink. All stray marks must be erased.

**Specifications**
Cartoon must be on 8 1/2 x 11” paper
Cartoon drawn by one student

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**Manga (adaptation)**

**Definition**
A print comic book adapted from the Japanese art form with an emphasis on a complex story line and simple, artistic lines. The Manga must be adapted from a work of literature that could be taught in the classroom, such as works of Edgar Allan Poe, Ray Bradbury, Alice Walker, Kurt Vonnegut, Maya Angelou, Stephen Vincent Benét, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and William Shakespeare among many others. Because the dialogue should be in English, the creator may choose to have the book read left to right and front to back or “unflipped,” that is, the panels move right to left and top to bottom, beginning at what is traditionally the last page of a book. After
choosing key scenes to depict the story, the creator should illustrate with pen and ink or a computer drawing program. The panels can have speech/thought bubbles that are representative of the plot, even if the original story uses narration. The drawings should be in typical manga style, with highly stylized eyes, mouth, eyebrows, and nose drawn in a very exaggerated manner to add characterization (no patented characters or clip art). Many online sources have directions on how to draw in this manner as well as shortcuts to show emotions (sweat drops to show bewilderment, nervousness or mental weariness).

Specifications
Book should be on 8 ½ x 11” paper
Comic panels drawn by one student
Black and white pen and ink drawing or computer drawing program; cover should contain the name of the work of literature and its author (not the student).

Myth

Definition
A purely fictitious narrative usually involving supernatural persons, actions, or events and often embodying some popular explanation or conception of natural or historical phenomena.

Specifications
Maximum length - 1000 words
Myth written by one student
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

Parody

Definition
A composition imitating with ludicrous exactness, but ordinarily on a ridiculous subject, the style and mannerisms of some serious composition.
Specifications
Parody written by one student
Maximum length - 1000 words
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

Personal Narrative
Definition
A true account of an experience or event that is personally significant to the writer. The first person account may include elements of suspense and action, vivid description and dialogue. It should express feelings of how the experience affected the writer or taught the writer something of importance.

Specifications
Minimum length - 500 words
Maximum length - 1000 words
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

Satiric Cartoon
Definition
A one panel cartoon with the punch line or dialogue written at the bottom. The cartoon must be based on a literary work or a current or historical event.

Specifications
Cartoon must be on 8 1/2 x 11” paper
Cartoon drawn by one student

Short Story
Definition
A brief prose narrative that usually can be read in one sitting. A short story contains the following major elements: plot, characterization, setting, point of view, theme and style.
Specifications
Minimum length - 500 words Maximum length - 2500 words
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

POETRY

ABCDarian Poem
Definition
A twenty-six line poem that follows the alphabet from A to Z. The first line begins with A and the last line with Z. It may be rhymed or free verse, constructed of words, phrases, or one or more sentences. Each letter must be used as an integral part of the content of the poem.

Specifications
Poem written by one student
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

Bilingual Poem
Definition
A poem written first in English and then translated into another language. The poem may be rhymed or free verse. The poem may alternate stanzas, one in English followed by the same stanza in translation or the student may place the entire English poem first followed by the entire poem in translation or the poems could be placed side by side.

Specifications
Poem written by one student
It should be a minimum of 20 lines and may go beyond one page.
Two or more pages should be stapled at the upper left.
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 ½ x 11” paper
Cinquain Poem

Definition
A poem of five lines with the following syllables:

   Line 1 - two syllables
   Line 2 - four syllables
   Line 3 - six syllables
   Line 4 - eight syllables
   Line 5 - two syllables

   End rhyme occurs seldom, but internal rhyme, assonance and consonance appear frequently.

Specifications
Poem written by one student
Typing required, **minimum** size 12 font; **font should be large enough so that white space does not dwarf the poem**; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

Concrete Poem

Definition
Poetry that can be seen as well as read. The meaning comes through the words and through the appearance.

Specifications
Poem written/drawn by one student on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

Ekphrastic Poem

Definition
Poetry that is inspired by art. For the 2013 Literary Fair students are to use a **M. C. Escher** sketch, lithograph, or woodcut to inspire a poem. A good collection of Escher’s work can be found at [http://www.mcescher.com](http://www.mcescher.com). Teachers may go to the National Council of Teachers of English ReadWriteThink lesson plan on
“Ekphrasis: Using Art to Inspire Poetry” for a complete lesson plan on Van Gogh’s *Starry Night* as an inspiration to Don McLean’s song “Vincent” for teaching ideas, handouts, and hyperlinks.


**Specifications**

Poem written by one student. The poem may be rhymed verse or free verse. It should be a minimum of 20 lines and may go beyond one page. Two or more pages should be stapled at the upper left. Typing required, minimum size 12 font.

The selected artwork must be downloaded to a document. The student should then go to the Format menu and size the picture to **no more than 3 inches in height**. The picture should be centered at the top of the page; the name of the poem, artist and source from which it is downloaded should be immediately below it. (See the example below)

![M. C. Escher, Ascending and Descending](http://www.mcescher.com)

**Free Verse**

**Definition**

Poetry having no regular meter or rhyme; usually contains a natural or conversational rhythm of speech.

**Specifications**

Poem written by one student

Typing required, **minimum** size 12 font; font should be large enough
so that white space does not dwarf the poem; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

**Haiku (Modern)**

**Definition**
A Japanese lyric poem of a fixed 17-syllables. The focus of this poem can be anything the poet decides. The haiku has the following lines and syllables:

- Line 1 - five syllables
- Line 2 - seven syllables
- Line 3 - five syllables

**Specifications**
Poem written by one student
Typing required, **minimum** size 12 font; **font should be large enough so that white space does not dwarf the poem**; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

**Haiku (Traditional)**

**Definition**
A Japanese lyric poem of a fixed 17-syllables that often simply points to something in nature that has moved the poet. The haiku has the following lines and syllables:

- Line 1 - five syllables
- Line 2 - seven syllables
- Line 3 - five syllables

**Specifications**
Poem written by one student
Typing required, **minimum** size 12 font; **font should be large enough so that white space does not dwarf the poem**; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper
Parody (Poem)

Definition
A poem imitating with ludicrous exactness, but ordinarily on a ridiculous subject, the style and mannerisms of some serious composition (for example: Hamlet’s “To be or not to be” speech).

Specifications
Poem written by one student
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; font should be large enough so that white space does not dwarf the poem; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper.

Poem for Two Voices

Definition
A poem written by one person to be read by two people, sometimes alternating, sometimes simultaneously. The poem shows different perspectives or viewpoints on the same topic. A good example of a poem for two voices is Langston Hughes’ poem “Mama and the Rent Man” at http://oldpoetry.com/opoem/70753-langston-Hughes-Madam-and-The-Rent-Man. A two-column poem for two voices can be found at http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/99/fear/poem2.htm.

Specifications
Poem written by one student
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; minimum of 20 lines
May be written in a one-column format or a two-column format

Point of View Poem

Definition
A poem, written in first person point of view, in which a fictional, mythic, historic, other type of figure (famous or not), or even an object speaks. When the narrator’s speech creates a dramatic scene, the poem is often called a dramatic monologue. In either case, the poem is presented through the voice of the character or object.
Specifications
Poem written by one student
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; font should be large enough so that white space does not dwarf the poem; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

Rap Poem
Definition
Written form of the oral poetry tradition that uses the vernacular rather than formal English and takes much of its power from heavy rhythm and rhyme. This urban poetic form tends to be an in-your-face, earthy sort of art form, and poets should be attentive to the fact that both language and subject must be school-appropriate. The rap poetry category in the literary fair will be judged on its efficacy on paper.

Specifications
Poem written by one student
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; font should be large enough so that white space does not dwarf the poem; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

Rhymed Verse
Definition
Poetry having a regular correspondence of sounds, especially at the end of lines.

Specifications
Poem written by one student
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; font should be large enough so that white space does not dwarf the poem; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper
Sestina Poem

Definition
French form consisting of six six-line stanzas and a three-line envoy. The form is usually unrhymed. The effect of rhyme comes from a fixed pattern of end-words; the end words in each stanza are the same but arranged in a different sequence in each stanza. In the closing tercet, each of the six words is used, with one in the middle of each line and one at the end. The pattern of word-repetition is as follows where the words that end the lines of the first sestet are represented by the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

1 2 3 4 5 6   End words of lines in first sestet
6 1 5 2 4 3   End words of lines in second sestet
3 6 4 1 2 5   End words of lines in third sestet
5 3 2 6 1 4   End words of lines in fourth sestet
4 5 1 3 6 2   End words of lines in fifth sestet
2 4 6 5 3 1   End words of lines in sixth sestet

(6 2) (1 4) (5 3) Middle and end words of lines in tercet.

Poem written by one student
Typing required, minimum size 12 font
There are other patterns for the Sestina, but only those entries that follow these specifications will be judged.

Specifications
Poem written by one student
Typing required, minimum size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

Shrinklit Poem

Definition
A rhymed verse, which condenses the main ideas of a major work such as a novel, play or film. The last two lines frequently present an ironic twist or question.
Specifications
Poem written by one student
Typing required **minimum** size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

**Sonnet**

**Definition**
A lyric poem of fourteen lines written in **iambic pentameter**.  
**Shakespearean** sonnets have three quatrains followed by a rhymed couplet. The rhyme scheme is **abab cdcd efef gg**. The main thought is presented in the three quatrains and concluded in the couplet.  
**Petrarchan** sonnets are divided into a group of eight lines (the octave) followed by a group of six lines (the sestet). The rhyme scheme for the octave is **abba abba**. The rhyme scheme for the sestet is **cdecde**. The octave presents a single thought, and the sestet expands, contradicts or develops it in some way.

Specifications
Poem written by one student
Typing required, **minimum** size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper

**Tanka**

**Definition**
A Japanese verse form in five lines. The subject matter is not limited to nature. The tanka has the following lines and syllables:

- Line 1 - five syllables
- Line 2 - seven syllables
- Line 3 - five syllables
- Line 4 - seven syllables
- Line 5 - seven syllables

Specifications
Poem written by one student
Villanelle

Definition
A French verse form in 19 lines with no set number of syllables per line. The villanelle has a pattern of only two rhymes and is marked by its alternating refrain. The poem has five tercets and a concluding quatrain. The first line of the first stanza is repeated as the last line of the second and the fourth stanzas, and as the second-to-last line in the concluding quatrain. The third line of the first stanza is repeated as the last line of the third and the fifth stanzas and as the last line in the concluding quatrain.

\[
\begin{array}{c}
A1 \ b \ A2 \quad - \ lines \ in \ first \ tercet \\
 a \ b \ A1 \quad - \ lines \ in \ second \ tercet \\
 a \ b \ A2 \quad - \ lines \ in \ third \ tercet \\
 a \ b \ A1 \quad - \ lines \ in \ fourth \ tercet \\
 a \ b \ A2 \quad - \ lines \ in \ fifth \ tercet \\
 a \ b \ A1 \ A2 \quad - \ lines \ in \ final \ quatrain \\
\end{array}
\]

The first line of the second through fourth tercets and the quatrain rhymes A.

The second line of each tercet and quatrain is not repeated but rhymes with the first tercet.

Specifications
Poem written by one student
Typing required, \textbf{minimum} size 12 font; double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11” paper