

2017 Short Story Contest

How to enter: Up to three stories per classroom (Must be Language Arts classrooms.) may be submitted, postmarked by **March 13, 2017**. There will be three Southern Illinois winners per grade level. To be eligible, **all entries must have an entry blank attached**. Identifying information is to be only on the entry blank; only the title may be on the story. Entries will not be returned, so please keep a copy. **First place winners are asked to read their stories at the awards celebration. Stories must be typed, double spaced, size 12 font, and on the front and back of the paper or be disqualified.**

Judging Criteria: Stories will be judged on the *creativity* and *organization* of the short story. *Appropriateness of language, theme, and message* will also be considered. *Conventions* will be considered but to a lesser extent. Emphasis should be on quality rather than quantity. There is a word limit of **1500** words. Illustrations are optional and will not influence the outcome.

Awards for 2017: A first, second and third place winner will be chosen in each grade, second through eighth. The 21 winning stories will be compiled into an *SIRC Short Story Contest Yearbook*. **Each first, second, and third place winner will receive a copy of the yearbook, a certificate, and a book of the winner's choice.**

Winners will be notified by April 10, 2017. All winners will be invited to attend Southern Illinois Reading Council's **Spring Celebrations Program and Reception on Tuesday, April 25, 2017**, at the Carbondale Civic Center, where they will receive their awards. First place winners will read their winning stories.

Attention busy teachers: Writing short stories supports PARCC preparation! Students develop writing fluency and learn in a most meaningful way as they write and edit their stories: story terminology (plot, moral, theme), spelling, punctuation (even dialogue), capitalization, paragraphing, and more.

Send entries to:

Second Grade: Jessica Carsrud, 1208 Marion St., Carterville, IL 62918

Third Grade: Kathy Merz, 506 Cambridge Dr., DeSoto, IL 62974

Fourth Grade: Barbara James and Gail Webb, 410 S. Green St., Anna, IL 62906

Fifth Grade: Nyla Montgomery, 3508 Creek Nation Blacktop, Mulkeytown, IL 62865

Sixth Grade: Pat Searcy, 405 Oakwood Dr., Carterville, IL 62918

Seventh Grade: Johanna Tolbert, 5268 Park St., Mulkeytown, IL 62865

Eighth Grade: Cindy Pender and Hope McFarland, 33964 Wilderness Retreat Rd., Jonesboro, IL 62952

Entries must be postmarked no later than March 13, 2017
Questions? Contact Kathy Stegle, 618-614-4227, kwstegle@gmail.com

SIRC Short Story Contest Entry Blank
(Entry blank **required**; attach to front of story)

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher's full name: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

School phone number: _____

Teacher's email address: (optional) _____

Story title: _____

Total word count _____

Verification:

We verify that:

_____ this story is original work of this student

_____ this story meets the word count limit of **1500 words**

_____ the author of this story lives or attends school in Illinois Reading Council Region 9. Please check which county:

_____ Alexander _____ Franklin _____ Gallatin _____ Hardin _____ Jackson

_____ Jefferson _____ Johnson _____ Massac _____ Perry _____ Pope

_____ Pulaski _____ Randolph _____ Saline _____ Williamson _____ Union

Student signature: _____

Teacher signature: _____

***Someone other than the student may type the entry. However, no changes in content, spelling, etc. may be made. Double spacing, size 12 font, page numbers at the bottom, with front and back used. Stories must be typed. Only stories entered by teachers who teach story writing in their classrooms will be considered.**

***Three stories may be entered per classroom (Writing must be taught in the class the entry is from.) If a teacher has more than one section of a class, three stories may be sent from each section.**

***Entries failing to meet the above criteria will be disqualified.**