YOUNG *Authors'* CONTEST 2024

SoMLA is thrilled to unveil the 2023-2024 Young Authors' Contest, presented in collaboration with various State of Maryland Literacy Association (SoMLA) local chapters. This exciting competition is open to students from grades 1 to 12, encouraging them to showcase their creativity and talent through original short stories and poetry. As an important note, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in supporting student work is strictly prohibited. Local contests will be hosted by the respective SoMLA chapters, with the top winners progressing to the state-level competition. Join us in celebrating the budding authors of Maryland and their remarkable literary endeavors!

GRADE-LEVEL GUIDELINES

All entries must be original work and submitted in 12-point Times New Roman font. Entries must not include graphics. Only individual entries are accepted; group submissions are not being accepted. Submissions that do not meet these guidelines will be disqualified.

Elementary 1-5

- Short story entries must range between 100-400 words in grades 1-2
- Short story entry must range between 300-800 words in grades 3-5
- Poetry entries will consist of a single poem, any style from a minimum of 25-150 words

Middle 6-8

- Short story entries must range between 600-1,600 words
- Poetry entries will consist of a single poem, any style, and must range between 25-200 words.
- Entries must not include graphics

High 9-12

- Short story entries must range between 800-2,000 words.
- Poem entries will consist of a single poem, any style, and must range between 25-300 words.

SUBMIT

Submit entry and coversheet to your school by December 11, 2023.

Submission Requirements:

- Each entry must include a completed cover sheet with a signature by the student author's guardian.
- Each participant must submit two files (original work and cover sheet).

For additional details and guidelines, contact your local SoMLA Young Authors' Contest Chairperson or go to

Howard County Literacy Association website
http://hocoreads.weebly.com/young-authors-contest.html