



# CHILDREN'S STORIES

## OVERVIEW

A team creates an illustrated children's story that will incorporate educational and social values. The story may be written in a genre of choice. Examples are fables, adventures, non-fiction, fiction, and fairy tales. The story must revolve around the theme chosen for the given year. The theme will be posted on the TSA website ([www.tsaweb.org](http://www.tsaweb.org)) under Competitions/Themes and Problems.

## ELIGIBILITY

Participants are limited to one (1) team per chapter. A team of one (1) is permitted.

## TIME LIMITS

Each semifinalist team will be given up to twelve (12) minutes to read its story and share its illustrations with judges, and an additional five (5) minutes to answer judges' questions.

## ATTIRE

TSA competition attire, as described in the National TSA Dress Code section of this guide, is required.

## PROCEDURE

- A. In preparation for the event (and throughout the story development), participants research writing and illustrating children's books and literature. Participants must cite their research sources in their documentation.
- B. Participants develop a children's story with illustrations. The illustrations must be positioned in the text in a way that best enhances the effectiveness of the story's narrative and illustrations. Participants prepare their stories and required documentation for submission. All work is submitted in a portfolio.
- C. To prepare for evaluation (as the story nears final draft stages), the team will read to, or give the story to children to read, in order for the team to assess the story's quality and impact. The children's responses will be recorded in the team's Plan of Work log.

### What is a story?

For the purposes of this event, the term "story" refers to all types of literature structures—fables, fairy tales, poems, or instructional literature—and the included illustrations.

### Who is a child?

For the purposes of this event, children are defined as those twelve years or younger.




Children's stories can play a key role in the development of a child, and can help in the development of a child's literacy, social and psychological maturity, and understanding of the world in which we live. Stories that are designed to be read to children by adults provide the added value of intimacy and caring.


- D. Participants check in their portfolios at the time and place stated in the conference program. No more than two (2) team members drop off the team's entry.
- E. Portfolios are reviewed by evaluators. Neither students nor advisors are present at this time. A semifinalist list in random order is posted.
- F. Semifinalist teams report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program. Semifinalists sign up for a reading and interview time.
- G. Semifinalist teams will have no more than two (2) members. One member will be the team's reader, who will read the story to the judges. The reader will be given up to twelve (12) minutes to read the story. The other team member should be prepared to discuss illustrations included in the story. Both members will participate in the interview process following the reading of the story. The interview process will last up to five (5) minutes.
- H. No more than two (2) team members pick up the team's entry from the display area at the time and place stated in the conference program.
- I. Ten (10) finalists will be announced during the conference award ceremony.

It is essential that students and advisors routinely check the TSA website ([www.tsaweb.org](http://www.tsaweb.org)) for updated information about TSA general rules and competitive event guidelines. This information is found on the website under Competitions/ Competition Updates. When students participate in any TSA competitive event, they are responsible for knowing of all updates, changes, and clarifications related to that event.

## REGULATIONS

- A. Participants write and illustrate an age-appropriate children's story.
- B. The story (narrative with accompanying illustrations) should take between five (5) and ten (10) minutes to read and view (as would be needed in an actual quality reading to or by a child). The maximum reading time is twelve (12) minutes. There is not a minimum length assigned to the reading time.
- C. The story should be no more than fifteen hundred (1500) words. There will be a five (5)-point deduction for every hundred (100) words over the fifteen hundred (1500) word limit. **Stories containing two thousand (2000) or more words will be disqualified.** There is no minimum number of words required.
- D. The narrative and illustrations will be organized in a "book" format of 8½" X 11". The book's orientation may be portrait or landscape. There must be a minimum of seven (7) unique illustrations. These illustrations will enhance the story and deepen the child's understanding and enjoyment of the reading experience. One illustration will be placed on the book's cover. The team may use the cover illustration within the story as well.
- E. Both the narrative and the illustrations must be the original work of the team members. NO copyrighted material is permitted. If the narrative or illustrations that appear in the story are not the work of one (1) of the team members, the team will be disqualified.
- F. All illustrations MUST be original, freehand, and/or computer-generated drawings by the team member(s). All computer-generated work MUST be developed from primitive lines and shapes and be the sole work of the team member(s). Physical or computer templates, previously existing drawings, characters, backgrounds, etc., are NOT PERMITTED. All work must have been developed during the current school year.

 Story entries should not exceed 1500 words. Word processing software should be used to count the number of words in the story to make sure the entry adheres to this regulation.

 The story should be designed so that it can be read at the same pace it would be read to a child, finishing within twelve (12) minutes.

- G. Pop-up books are permitted, but they are not encouraged. Students should focus on creating exemplary narratives and illustrations.
- H. The team's work will be submitted—as hard copies AND on a USB flash drive included in the team's portfolio—at the designated time and place.
- I. Documentation materials (comprising “a portfolio”) are required and should be secured in a clear front report cover. (Click [here](#) for a sample.) The report cover must include the following single-sided, 8½" x 11" pages, in this order:
  - 1. Title page with the title of the story, the event title, the conference city and state, the year; and the team/chapter ID number; one (1) page
  - 2. Table of contents; pages as needed
  - 3. Purpose of story; one (1) page, to include:
    - a. Story's intent
    - b. Summary of storyline, and theme
    - c. Intended audience (age, gender, demographics, and special disabilities, if any)
    - d. Word count—number of words comprising the story's narrative
  - 4. Two (2) hard copies of the story, separately stapled (one [1] for the team's reader, one [1] for the judges)
  - 5. Each copy of the story will include the following 8½" X 11" pages:
    - a. Cover with story title, an illustration, and the names of the author(s) and illustrators (this entry is exempt from General Rules J, which states that identifying information must not appear in the entry)
    - b. Inside pages as needed (may be one [1]-sided or two [2]-sided); page orientation may be portrait or landscape; the team will determine the format that best presents the team's narrative and illustrations
  - 6. Plan of Work log that describes the development of the story and illustrations and the story's assessment (periodic readings to or by children), as noted by date, task, time involved, name of team member responsible, and comments (see Plan of Work log); pages as needed
  - 7. Professional and technical information; one (1) page containing:
    - a. A brief narrative of the research, writing strategies, and problems encountered in the writing and illustrating of the story
    - b. A list of artist tools, software used (if any), and techniques in the creation of the illustrations
  - 8. References; one (1) page



9. A USB flash drive containing all the above documents saved as PDF files; the story with its incorporated illustrations must be saved as a separate PDF file.
  10. The USB flash drive and its contents become the property of TSA for communication purposes only. Publishing rights remain with the authors and illustrators.
- J. Two (2) members only of each semifinalist team will report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to sign up for a reading and interview time.
- K. The team's reader will be given up to twelve (12) minutes to read the story to the judges. Both team members will participate in the interview process (lasting up to five [5] minutes) following the reading of the story.

## EVALUATION

Evaluation is based on the portfolio, the story (narrative and illustrations), the performance and animated reading of the story, and the interview. Please refer to the official rating form for more information.

## NOTE

Research for this event might begin with information found at these websites.

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants>

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal>

### STEM INTEGRATION

Depending upon the subject of the story this event may align to one or more STEM areas. Please refer to the STEM Integration section of this guide for more information.

### COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS) INTEGRATION

Please refer to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Integration section of this guide for more information.

### PRIMARY LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Leadership skills promoted in this event:

- Communication – Students communicate through written language. Suggested leadership activities: *Take Action and Mirror Mirror*
- Creative thinking – Students create an original children's story. Suggested leadership activities: *And The Next Contestant Is* and *Open Minded*
- Teamwork – Students work together to create a narrative and illustrations for a children's story. Suggested leadership activities: *Jumping Rope and Match Face*

Additional leadership skills promoted in this event:

- Critical thinking
- Evaluation
- Organization

### TSA AND CAREERS

This competition connects to one or more of the career areas featured in the TSA AND CAREERS section of this guide. Use *The 16 Career Clusters* chart and the *TSA Competitions and The 16 Career Clusters* grid as resources for information about careers.

### CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT

- Writer
- Illustrator
- Educator
- Editor
- Publisher
- Graphic artist

## TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION PLAN OF WORK

Date	Task	Time involved	Team member responsible	Comments
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

Advisor signature \_\_\_\_\_

## CHILDREN'S STORIES

### EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

#### PERSONNEL

- A. Event coordinator
- B. Assistants for check-in, two (2)
- C. Evaluators for portfolios, two (2) or more
- D. Evaluators for semifinalist readings/interviews, two (2) or more

#### MATERIALS

- A. Coordinator's packet, containing:
  - 1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and for each evaluator
  - 2. TSA Event Coordinator Report
  - 3. List of evaluators/assistants
  - 4. Stick-on labels for identifying entries
  - 5. Marking pens for evaluators
  - 6. Results envelope with coordinator forms
- B. Stopwatch
- C. Display tables for entries (minimum width 18")
- D. Table and chairs for evaluators and two (2) semifinalist team representatives

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Upon arrival at the conference, report to the CRC room and check the contents of the coordinator's packet. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough evaluators and assistants have been scheduled.
- B. Inspect the area in which the portfolios are being placed for appropriate set-up including sufficient number and size of tables.
- C. Check in the entries at the time stated in the conference program. Anyone reporting who is not on the entry list may check in only after official notification is received from the CRC. Late entries are considered on a case-by-case basis and only when the lateness is caused by events beyond the participant's control. Requirements for attire do NOT apply during check-in.



- D. Each entry must include the participant's identification number in the upper right-hand corner of the entry. Position the entries for evaluation and viewing. Secure the entries in the designated area.
- E. Meet with evaluators to review time limits, procedures, and regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.
- F. Evaluators independently assess the entries.
- G. For participants who violate the rules, the decision either to 1) deduct 20% of the total possible points or 2) disqualify the entry, must be discussed and verified with the evaluators, event coordinator, and the CRC manager, who all must initial either of these actions on the rating form.
- H. Evaluators determine the twelve (12) semifinalists.
- I. Submit semifinalist results to the CRC for posting.
- J. Inspect the area in which the readings/interviews are to take place. Ensure that there is a table and seating for the interviews.
- K. Meet with semifinalist evaluators to review time limits, procedures, and regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.
- L. Conduct semifinalist readings/interviews using the same official rating form used by the first set of evaluators. Evaluators should be sure to ask interview questions.
- M. Evaluators determine the ten (10) finalists. Evaluators discuss and break any ties.
- N. Submit the finalist results and all related forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.
- O. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the event area.



Participant/Team ID# \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDREN'S STORIES****2016 & 2017 OFFICIAL RATING FORM****MIDDLE SCHOOL****Documentation (50 points)**

CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points
Evaluators: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline, record the scores earned for the event criteria in the column spaces to the right. The X1, X2, X3, or X4 notation in the criteria column is a multiplier factor for determining the points earned. (Example: an "adequate" score of 7 for an X1 criterion = 7 points; an "adequate" score of 7 for an X2 criterion = 14 points; an "adequate" score of 7 for an X3 criterion = 21 points; an "adequate" score of 7 for an X4 criterion = 28 points.)			
<b>Portfolio components</b> (X1)	Portfolio is unorganized and/or is missing three or more components.	Portfolio is missing one or two components and/or is loosely organized.	Portfolio has all required components and is well organized.
<b>Purpose of story</b> (X1)	Story's intent, story-line, and theme are poorly explained and/or the intended audience is not identified.	Story's intent, story-line, theme, and intended audience are adequately explained.	Story's intent, storyline, theme, and intended audience are complete and well explained.
<b>Plan of Work log</b> (X1)	Log is poorly organized and/or incomplete.	Log is adequately detailed and organized and contains all the required components, including a record of the periodic readings to children.	Log is well documented and contains all the required components, with special attention given to periodic readings to children.
<b>Professional and technical information</b> (X1)	Summary of the research, design, and writing process is poorly done and/or is incomplete.	Summary of the research, design, and writing process is clear and complete.	Summary of the research, design, and writing process is extremely well written, detailed, clear, and complete.
<b>Research base</b> (X1)	There are few references listed, and/or the references listed show little relevance to the project's goal.	There are a sufficient number of references listed; the quality is good.	Many quality references are listed, reflecting research in writing and illustrating for children and child development.

**SUBTOTAL (50 points)****The Story (100 points)**

CRITERIA	Minimal performance Research base	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points
<b>Story narrative</b> (X3)	Narrative is poorly written; there is little apparent purpose; it is lacking a coherent theme and storyline.	Narrative's purpose is clear, with a focused theme and storyline; the narrative has good pacing and development of characters and/or events.	Narrative is extremely well written with a clear purpose; storyline is fast paced and exciting; the details are rich and enchanting.
<b>Illustrations</b> (X3)	Artisanship of the illustrations reflects little technical skill; illustrations add little value to the story's narrative, storyline, and/or theme.	Artisanship of most illustrations reflects good technical skill; illustrations add to the story's narrative, story-line, and theme.	Artisanship of illustrations is excellent, reflecting sophisticated technical skills; illustrations enhance the story's narrative, story-line, and theme, and they are of high esthetic quality.

Record scores in the column spaces below.



<b>Impact</b> (X4)	Story (narrative, with the illustrations) is lacking in purpose and coherence; it is not very interesting; it lacks artistic, and/or instructional, and/or social value.	Story (narrative, with the illustrations) reflects a purpose and incorporates artistic, instructional, and social value; it is compelling and entertaining.	Story (narrative, with the illustrations) is beautifully told; it is compelling, entertaining, purposeful, and it reflects high artistic, instructional, and social value.
<b>SUBTOTAL (100 points)</b>			

**Story length violation:** For stories exceeding 1500 words, a deduction of 5 points will be incurred for every 100 words more than 1500 and up to 2000. Stories of 2000 words or greater will be disqualified. Example: 1600 – 1699 words, 5 points; 1700 – 1799 words, 10 points; 1800 – 1899 words, 15 points; 1900 – 1999 words, 20 points; 2000 words and above, disqualified.

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initiated by the evaluator, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Semifinalist Reading and Interview (30 points)</b>			
CRITERIA	Minimal performance 1-4 points	Adequate performance 5-8 points	Exemplary performance 9-10 points
<b>Story's reading</b> (X1)	Story's reading is lackluster; reader shows little enthusiasm; delivery is halting and difficult to understand; story is read too quickly to permit viewing of the illustrations.	Story's reading is generally good; reader's speech is clear and usually well-paced and enthusiastic; sufficient time is given for reflection on the illustrations.	Story's reading is exemplary; reader's speech is clear, well-paced, and enthusiastic; sufficient time is given to reflect upon and appreciate the illustrations.
<b>Interview</b> (X2)	Team's responses to the judges' questions are incomplete and/or poorly articulated; responses show little understanding of the research or development of the project.	Team answers most of the judges' questions; team's answers are articulate and show some understanding of most of the concepts addressed in the project.	Team's responses to the judges' questions are detailed and articulate; answers reflect a high degree of understanding of the development of children's literature, including the artistic and technical concepts in both writing and illustrating for children.
<b>SUBTOTAL (30 points)</b>			

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the semifinalist section) must be initiated by the evaluator, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: \_\_\_\_\_

(To arrive at the TOTAL score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary.) **TOTAL (180 points)**

Comments:

I certify these results to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Evaluator

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_