

Hilldale Young Author Book Project

Beginning on Monday, February 11, 2013 and continuing through Monday, March 25, 2013, each student will become a real, “published” author! The Young Author Book Project will provide an opportunity for students to work both in school and at home to write a fiction book over the course of the six weeks, including the Celebrate Reading Week. This process will provide an abundance of skill building, challenge, creativity, fun, and excitement! It will also allow students to compare their creative skills from year to year, as they compare this year’s results to those from last year. In-class writing time will vary by teacher. Some will give more time in class, while others will reduce homework to allow for more time to work on the project at home. All teachers are eliminating book reports during the time of the Young Author Project.

Over the weekend, please discuss with your child what type of book he or she would like to write, what the theme will be, and whether it will be humorous or serious. Creativity and style, as well as accuracy and a coherent story line, should be the emphasis.

During the first two weeks of the project, students will work on the basic outline and rough draft of their books, including the characters, settings, plots, etc. Parents may make minor suggestions, but students should complete the writing independently, so that they learn important writing skills and create their “own” book! The third week will be spent completing the stories and using rewriting and editing skills to refine the stories. Students will be encouraged to re-read their books critically and to make use of peer editing to help catch errors they may have missed. Teachers will have the fourth week to read, provide feedback, and return the projects. In the fifth and sixth weeks, students will write a final draft, illustrate, and make a cover for their books. **A working draft should be brought to class for story development on Monday, February 25. Rough drafts are due to the teacher on Monday, March 11 and students will be given an opportunity to do peer editing. Drafts with teacher notes will be returned by Monday, March 18. Final drafts, complete with illustrations and covers, are due on Monday, March 25.**

Teachers will help with the requirements:

- * The book should be 8 ½" x 11" in size.
- * Good quality white paper – with lines for the younger children (Grades 1-2) – *will be supplied by the school for the final draft*.
- * Left margins must be at least 1 ½" for binding.
- * Margins at the top, right, and bottom of each page should be 1".
- * The front cover and back page should be on heavy paper stock, *and will be provided by the school*.
- * The front cover should be illustrated.
- * Illustrations should be on separate pages and distributed throughout the book.
- * There should be an inside title page including the book title, student’s name, and copyright date.
- * There should be an author page at the back which tells about the author. A picture (or copy of a picture) of the child should be included.
- * There may be an optional dedication page.
- * Pages should be numbered.
- * Grade 2 should write on every other line (double-spaced), in order to facilitate neatness and ease of reading.
- * Grades 1 through 2 should *neatly* hand write their books using pencil; neatness and handwriting will be part of the grading. Grade 3 may choose to submit the book in cursive or typed. Grades 4 through 8 must type them on a computer.

This project will be a major part of the third term Language Arts grade. Books will be graded on the following criteria: Front cover, illustrations, title page and copyright, author page, integrity of the basic story line, creativity, grammar, spelling, and neatness, writing style. Please see the rubric for each specific grade level.

When the books are complete, we will spiral bind them. Some works may be chosen to be copied and kept at Hilldale School as examples of fine products for future authors or for reading material by Hilldale students. The originals will be returned at the end of the school year.

OPTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK

** Grade 1 will have the option of writing three different types of stories only: fairy tales, fables, or folk tales. The majority of the work for Grade 1 will be done in class.*

FICTION

Fiction is a composition which requires an integrating idea or theme. It should be developed through plot, characterization, and style. There are many types of fiction:

NOVEL – A novel is a long, fictional story. Some novels portray true-to-life characters and events. Others deal with science fiction, fantasy, adventure, mystery, etc. Some are based on true historical events.

SHORT STORY – A short story is similar to a novel, only shorter.

PLAY – A play tells a story through the actions and speech of the characters in the story.

POETRY – Poetry is literature in which sound and rhythm are combined with strength of wording to create ideas and feelings. Poetry can be about any subject and can involve reality or fiction. Poetic devices such as rhyme, meter, assonance, etc., are used to emphasize or call attention to key words or ideas. Like other forms of literature, poetry needs a specific, discernable theme, and the style must be purposely chosen to complement the theme. Poetry may have plot and characterization, or it can do without them. Examples of poetry types are rhyming and metered poetry, free verse, limericks, haiku, sonnets, and cinquain.

Each of the above methods of presenting fiction can use various subject matter. The following are some different types of fiction...

FAIRY TALES – Fairy tales deal with adventures, magical powers, fairies, elves, pixies, and other imaginary beings with magical powers. Some examples are “Jack and the Beanstalk,” “Cinderella,” “Beauty and the Beast,” and “Snow White.”

****FIRST GRADE OPTION #1****

FABLES – A fable is a brief, fictitious story which teaches a moral, or lesson. In most fables, one or more of the main characters is an animal, plant, or thing which talks and acts like a human being. The moral is often summed up at the end of the story in the form of a proverb. Examples include Aesop’s fables.

****FIRST GRADE OPTION #2****

FOLK TALES – Folk tales and “tall tales” deal with legends, customs, superstitions, and beliefs of ordinary people. These stories frequently started out as true stories about people whom others admire, but through continual retelling, the stories became bigger and bigger. Some examples are “Paul Bunyan” and “Robin Hood.” ****FIRST GRADE OPTION #3****

SCIENCE FICTION – Science fiction is a type of fiction based on things which could really happen. Familiar themes include time travel, space travel, discoveries, and inventions. Some science fiction stories are about the future or take place on other worlds.

REALISTIC OR HISTORICAL FICTION – This is a story which is based upon an historical or actual event but which has characters, plot, and details which are not real. An example is “Little House on the Prairie.”

MYTHS – A myth is a traditional story about gods or heroes. Often the story attempts to explain a natural force such as thunder and lightning or the sun rising and setting. While a myth is not actually true, it generally does express some important truth on a suggestive or figurative level. Examples include “Pandora’s Box” and “The Twelve Labors of Hercules.”

ADVENTURE STORIES– Adventure stories are action-packed and involve daring heroes and cunning villains in “larger-than-life” situations. Examples are “Treasure Island” and “Captains Courageous.”

ANIMAL STORIES – These are adventure stories about animals. They may be very realistic or greatly humanized animals. Examples are “Big Red,” “White Fang,” and “Charlotte’s Web.”

FOREIGN TALES – Stories may tell of other countries, peoples, and customs. Examples are “Kim,” “Heidi,” and “The Secret Garden.”

MYSTERIES – These are stories involving characters who must investigate a situation and solve some sort of unexplained occurrence. Examples are the Agatha Christie mysteries, Nancy Drew mysteries, and Sherlock Holmes mysteries.

FANTASIES – These are stories based upon lots of imagination. An example is “James and the Giant Peach.”

Young Author Project Grade-Level Expectations

Grades 1

Length: 6 half-lined pages including pictures

- * Stress good handwriting and neatness – no (or very few) erasures, careful pictures
- * Plot should have structure and make sense
- * Ending should include a recap or a moral (depending on story structure) and should complete the whole story line
- * Sentences must be complete
- * Spelling is important
- * Punctuation should be correct
- * Pictures should illustrate the most important parts of the story and should be as detailed, neat, and as colorful as possible.
- * **All work not completed solely by the student will be returned for resubmission.**

Grade 2

Length: 6-12 cursive, double-spaced pages plus pictures

- * Grammar, punctuation, verb tenses, and spelling should be mostly correct
- * There should be a solid and sensible story line which creates a cohesive story
- * There should be a clear introduction and ending to the story
- * The story should be developed by creative descriptions
- * Quotes should be separated – each person on a separate line
- * Different topics should be in separate paragraphs
- * Students should proofread to find errors before the books are turned in
- * Pictures should illustrate the most important parts of the story and should be as detailed, neat, and as colorful as possible.
- * **All work not completed solely by the student will be returned for resubmission.**

Grades 3-4

Length: 4-8 typed, double-spaced pages plus pictures

- * Grade 3 may submit in cursive, if preferred (length is 8-12 pages if completed in cursive)
- * Grammar, punctuation, verb tenses, and spelling should be correct
- * There should be a solid and sensible story line which creates a cohesive story
- * There should be a clear introduction, middle, and ending to the story
- * The story should be developed by creative descriptions
- * Quotes should be separated – each person on a separate line
- * Different topics should be in separate paragraphs
- * Students should proofread to find errors before the books are turned in
- * Pictures should illustrate the most important parts of the story and should be as detailed, neat, and as colorful as possible. Grades 3-4 may choose to submit 50% of their illustrations from the computer.
- * **All work not completed solely by the student will be returned for resubmission.**

Young Author Project Grade-Level Expectations

Grades 5-8

Length: 10-15 typed, double-spaced pages plus pictures

- * Grammar, punctuation, verb tenses, and spelling should be correct
- * Story line should show creativity
- * Formality appropriate to a book
- * Extensive development of plot and characters, including introduction, middle, and ending
- * Correct paragraphing and attention to details
- * Avoidance of repetition
- * Students should proofread to find errors before the books are turned in
- * Pictures should illustrate the most important parts of the story and should be as detailed, neat, and as colorful as possible. Illustrations may be drawn or pulled from the computer.
- * **All work not completed solely by the student will be returned for resubmission.**