

# Writer's Olympics 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grades 2017-18

## Due to your teacher by Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

1. It's time for Writer's Olympics! You will have until Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> to submit a fictional story that has never been written to your teacher.
2. Be sure to use the Six Traits in writing, which are: Ideas, Organization, Conventions, Voice, Word Choice, and Sentence Fluency. Overall Creativity is an additional category above the usual Six Traits and is worth twice as many points as the other categories.
3. Be sure to do a prewrite. Think: who, what, when, and where. The who will be your characters. See if you can make the reader love the good ones and hate the bad ones. The what is the plot. Then you have to decide if your story takes place in the past, present, or future. That is the when. Take time somewhere in your story to describe where it takes place. Following these steps means you need at least three drafts of your story. (Write it once, then revise and write it a second time adding and deleting what will make it a better story; then write it a third time after editing.)
3. You may get ideas from something scary, funny, or exciting that happened to you one time or another. It might be about a family pet or a distant relative who came to visit. Maybe you went camping once and got lost. You may have babysat once and something unexpected happened. Once you have the idea, then add a healthy portion of imagination.
4. The story may be up to 10 double-spaced pages, but no more than ten pages, whether it is handwritten or typed (no smaller than 12-point font). The story may be less than ten pages.
5. Be on the lookout for a fresh or more interesting way to write, for example, She walked to the store. Think of how many action verbs you might use in place of "walked." Depending on her mood or circumstances, she may have strolled, ambled, flew, crawled, hopped, skipped, jumped, moped, stumbled, raced, or even zigzagged.
6. When describing something, let the reader know more than just what your character sees. Include other senses, such as: taste, smell, touch, or hearing. Read your story aloud to determine if you have just the right amount of description. Too much slows down the action of your story. Not enough may leave the reader wondering at times.
7. Get Dad, Mom, Grandma, Grandpa, sister, brother, your friend, and/or your teacher to read it through and give suggestions for what you might put in or take out of your story. Revision is your most critical step for improving your story. (It might also be the hardest but the more you give this your best effort, the more reason you will have to be proud of your accomplishment.)
8. Check one last time to see if your story has a good balance of action and description. Did you remember to focus on just one main character, and can you feel its happy, sad, angry, or fearful emotions? Do some things happen that are unusual or surprising? Is there mystery or suspense?
9. Your published copy should be in your best handwriting or printed on a computer – be sure to double-space, whether typed or handwritten.
10. There is a limit of one entry per student and one author per entry.

Good luck and have fun writing!