



2012 Short Story Contest

How to Enter Up to three stories per classroom may be submitted, postmarked by **March 23, 2012**. There will be three Southern Illinois winners per grade level.* (See back.) To be eligible, **all entries must have an entry blank attached.** (Master on back.) 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 dinner.**

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 2012 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 2012 Short Story Contest Yearbook*. **Each first, second, and third place winner will receive a copy of the yearbook, a plaque, and the choice of a book.**

Winners will be notified by April 6, 2012. All winners will be invited to attend Southern Illinois Reading Council's **Spring Celebrations Program and Reception on Tuesday, April 24, 2012**, 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 ISAT 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. Some teachers have found ISAT week is good time to assign students to write stories as homework.

Send entries to:

Second Grade: Concetta Lamendola, 1308 N. 14th St., Murphysboro, IL 62966

Third Grade: Kathy Merz, 506 Cambridge Dr., DeSoto, IL 62924

Fourth Grade: Kathy Stegle and Barbara James, 2185 Lick Creek Rd., Anna, IL 62906

Fifth Grade: Judy White, 492 E. Industrial Pk.Rd., Murphysboro, IL 62966

Sixth Grade: Debbie Braden. 9985 Old Highway 51N, Cobden, IL 62920

Seventh Grade: Jennifer Osman, 105 Woodland Trail, Anna, IL 62906

Eighth Grade: Cindy Pender and Pat Searcy, 33964 Wilderness Retreat Rd., Jonesboro, IL 62952

Entries must be postmarked no later than March 23, 2012.

Questions?
Shiryl Walquist
634-2255
shirylwalquist@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: _____

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: _____

Entries failing to meet the above criteria will be disqualified.

Notes:

Three stories may be entered per classroom. If a teacher has more than one section of a class, three may be sent from each section.

Someone other than the student may type the entry. However, no changes in content, spelling, etc. may be made. Double spacing, size 12 font is preferable.