
ELIGIBILITY AND CONTEST RULES

1. Authors must be both:
 - a. A member of the Oberlin community, defined as:
 - i. An OPL cardholder; OR
 - ii. A resident of Oberlin; OR
 - iii. Currently enrolled at an Oberlin City School
 - b. Currently in 1st – 8th grade, or a homeschool equivalent.
2. Submissions must be received by 6:00pm on Friday, January 20, 2023. Entries can be brought to the library or submitted via email (send to OPLwriting@gmail.com).
3. All submissions must be *original works* created by the entrant and written in English. Plagiarism, which includes the use of another's poetry, song lyrics, characters, or another person's universe, without written permission, will result in disqualification. Excessive profanity, violence or sex, as determined by the judges, will result in disqualification.
4. Each author may submit **one** entry.
5. Each submission must be accompanied by an entrance form.
6. Entries will be judged by OPL staff. The decisions of the judges are entirely their own and are final and binding.
7. We will select three winners: one from lower elementary (grades 1-3), one from upper elementary (grades 4-5), and one from middle school. Two professionally bound copies of the winning submissions will be created: One copy will be presented to the author, and one will remain the property of Oberlin Public Library, to be added to our circulating collection.
8. All original submissions (both winners and non-winners) will be incorporated into the OPL catalog, in the Local Authors section. This means that your book will be available for people to borrow from the library. If you *do not* want your book to be part of the library collection, please circle "NO" on the Entry Form.
9. Winners will be notified in mid-February.

WRITING TIPS

1. Write what you know and care about. Write something that you would want to read yourself!
2. Crafting a story isn't just about words.
3. Seek out feedback. Your friends and family can be a great source for new ideas and may notice spelling or grammar mistakes that you missed.
4. Follow the formatting rules required for publishing your book.
5. Read, read, read! You'll learn new words and ways of describing the world.

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

In order for us to be able to print a hardcover copy of your book, you must:

1. Provide a **design** for the cover (both front and back). Look to other books for ideas of what to include. You may choose to incorporate illustrations, reviews, or a summary on the back.
2. Provide an **author bio**. Your readers will want to know about you! If you don't want people to know exactly who you are, remember that many great authors have written under pseudonyms – a fancy word for a fake name.
3. Your finished document must have **at least 12 pages**, front and back. For example, you might have:
 - i. Cover Design
 - ii. Inner Title page
 - iii. Dedication Page
 - iv. 7 pages of writing/illustration
 - v. Author Bio
 - vi. Back Cover Design

Other pages you may want to add include a Table of Contents, Index, or Glossary.

4. Use standard letter size paper (8.5" x 11").
5. Return completed manuscripts to the Oberlin Public Library. We will also accept digital submissions, which should be emailed to OPLwriting@gmail.com.

OPL Youth Writing Contest – Official Entry Form

Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Each entrant must meet at least one of the following qualifications. Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Resident of Oberlin
- ☐ OPL cardholder
- ☐ Currently enrolled at an Oberlin City School

Title: _____

Author: _____

**I GIVE PERMISSION TO ADD MY WORK TO THE LIBRARY
COLLECTION. (Circle one)**

YES

NO