

Write Away!! Contest

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

BASIC GUIDELINES

Entries may be written especially for the contest, or may be taken from your writing portfolio. The Write Away!! Contest is open to all Haverhill Public School students. Only one entry per student, and one author per entry.

- Paper size: 8 1/2" x 11" only
- Margins: standard 1" margin on all sides; Minimum font size: 12 point
- Maximum length: 5 single-spaced typed pages OR 10 double-spaced typed pages OR 15 neatly handwritten pages (single spaced or equivalent).

We encourage older students to type their stories, as they are easier to read. However, we welcome neatly handwritten stories. Any entry that is typed by a parent or teacher must include the student's handwritten version.

HELP FROM OTHERS

Students may ask teachers, peers or parents for feedback. A writer often improves his or her piece through comments from readers or listeners. As the author reads the piece aloud, the listener should only comment on the ideas and how they are expressed. Does the piece show what happened rather than just telling it? It is more interesting if the reader can picture what the writer is trying to describe. Is the piece a list of undeveloped ideas? Ask the writer to focus on one or two ideas in more depth. *Comments should be of a general nature, letting the author rewrite.* Remind students that they are sending us their best effort, ready to publish. *Final editing should be done by the student, not by the teacher or parents.*

HOW TO ENTER

Give the entry to your classroom teacher. If your teacher chooses not to enter stories for the class, mail the entry to the District Parent Council at City Hall.

Each entry should have: (1) Title and Date on the front (no name!), and
(2) A completed Write Away!! Entry Form stapled to the back.

If no Entry Form is available, write student's name, grade, school, and teacher on the back. Send to: The Write Away!! Contest, Haverhill Public Schools, 4 Summer St., Haverhill, MA 01830.

JUDGING

Parents and community members, who volunteer as readers, screen all entries to choose semi-finalists. A second reading produces the top five entries in each grade. Winners are then selected by a panel of judges from the community at large: elected officials, business people, librarians, professional writers, etc. *No one reads entries from his or her child's school or grade.*



Questions? Please contact Joan Becker at 978-469-9095
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