



Peoria Public Library  
2024 - StoryWalk Story Writing Contest  
CONTEST RULES



The 2024 Peoria Public Library (PPL) StoryWalk Story Writing Contest begins on June 1, 2024 and ends on July 31, 2024, no entries will be accepted after July 31, 2024. To enter the contest you may submit your entry to either Peoria Public Library location. These contest rules are subject to modification by Peoria Public Library at its discretion.

### Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- The stories submitted for this contest should be **picture books**. Entries submitted that don't meet the minimum/maximum picture and word requirements will be disqualified.
- Entrants must be children age six to twelve as of June 1, 2024.
- Children of employees of the City of Peoria and judges are not eligible.
- To be eligible, an entrant must be a legal resident of Peoria. PPL reserves the right to disqualify ineligible entries.
- Only one entry per person will be accepted in this contest; all subsequent entries will be disqualified.
- Only single author stories qualify (no co-authored stories).
- Stories can be fact or fiction, and prose or poetry.
- Any failure to adhere to these Contest Rules may result in disqualification from the Contest.

### Word Count Requirement

- Children six, seven and eight (Age Group 1) stories must have a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words.
- Children nine and ten (Age Group 2) stories must have a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 350 words.
- Children eleven and twelve (Age Group 3) stories must have a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 500 words.
- The word count includes "a," "an," and "the,".
- Text must be printed, written legibly, or typed.
- Children who cannot write may dictate their story to be printed, written legibly or typed.
- Text may be integrated into the illustration pages or on separate pages.
- Non-English text must be translated on the same page and the translated text (English text) must adhere to word count.

### Format & Illustrations

- Stories must have at least 6 original, clear and colorful illustrations.

- Original art can include drawings and collages created by the author or photographs taken by the author. Use of copyrighted images (Disney, Marvel, etc.) will result in automatic disqualification.
- Each story must have a minimum of six 8.5"X11" pages and a maximum of twelve 8.5"X11" pages.

### **Official Entry Form**

- Each entry must include the official Peoria Public Library StoryWalk Story Contest Entry Form, with the required signature of a parent/guardian, consenting to allowing their child/ward to enter the Contest, confirming that the story and art are original, and granting certain rights to the entry materials.
- The entry form must be complete and legible to be eligible.

### **Judging, Awards & Notification**

All entries submitted to the Contest will be judged using the judging criteria and percentages below by a panel of no fewer than 3 judges selected and coordinated by Peoria Public Library. Judging will occur on or about **August 1 through August 31, 2024**. However, these dates could change. The judging criteria and percentages shall be scored and graded using a rubric based on the following criteria:

- Creative Expression
- Originality
- Storytelling/Plot Development
- Integration of Illustrations

All decisions of the judges are final and binding and not subject to appeal or review. Winners will be as follows: (1) the entry with the highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade will be deemed the First Place winners; (2) the entry the second to the highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade will be deemed the Second Place winners (3) the entry with the third to the highest score from among all eligible entries received per grade will be deemed the Third Place winners. In the event of a tie, the entry with the highest score in the creativity and originality category from among all tying entries will be deemed the winner from among all tying entries. Winners will be notified on or about **September 15, 2024**. However, this date could change.

### **Prizes**

**Three (3) First Place Winners** (One (1) First Place Winner Per age group). **Three (3) Second Place Winners** (One (1) Second Place winner per age group). **Three (3) Third Place Winners** (One (1) Third Place winner per age group).

The winning entries will be featured at the StoryWalks for one month at each location (Paloma Community Park, Rio Vista Community Park and Pioneer Community Park).

### **Return of Entries**

The Contest administrators will make every effort, but are not required, to return mailed entries only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of an appropriate size. Peoria Public Library is not responsible for late, lost, stolen, misdirected, damaged, mutilated, incomplete, returned, or illegible entries, or postage-due mail.