2024 JPL Young Writers Contest Rules & Guidelines

Rules:
- The contest is open to all students entering grades K-6 in the fall.
  - Parents can assist with proofreading and typing, but not with writing or drawing.
- One entry per person.
  - Collaborations between students are welcomed and encouraged.
- All artwork, photographs, characters, and stories must be original.
  - No fanfiction.
  - No plagiarizing.
- All entries must be submitted with the official submission form that includes a parent's signature.
- Any submitted work may not have been previously published in professional media.
- Submissions can be done electronically, in person, or by mail.
  - To submit electronically please send an attached PDF of the work to jplkids@johnsonlib.org with the subject, "Young Writers Competition"
  - Delivered to the Children's Department at the Johnson Public Library.
- Detailed descriptions of extreme and graphic violence are unacceptable.
- All rights to the work remain with the author.
- All submitted works may be used by the Johnson Public Library for educational purposes.
- All entries are final.

Judging:
- Judging will be done by JPL Children's Department staff.
- All entries are judged on the basis of content, originality, and quality of expression. Judges' decisions are final. Judges do not critique entries.

Deadline:
- All submissions are due by 5pm on Friday, August 9th. No submissions will be accepted after that date.
- Winners will be notified in September.

There are three categories for this competition: comics, short stories, and poems. The following goes over guidelines for submissions for each category. **Submissions for poems and short stories must be typed**.

Comics Submission Guidelines:
- Can be written and drawn digitally or by hand. Do not use notebook paper as it will make it difficult to print in a book.
- Pages should be 8.5x11 inches.
- Length:
    - Max: 20 pages

Short Story Submission Guidelines:
- Must be **neatly typed** on plain white paper in 12 pt. Times New Roman or Arial font.
- Pages should be 8.5x11 inches with one-inch margins on all four sides of the page.
- Accompanying illustrations are welcome.
- Length:
    - Max: 6,000 words

Poetry Submission Guidelines:
- Must be **neatly typed** on plain white paper in 12 pt. Times New Roman or Arial font.
- Pages should be 8.5x11 inches with one-inch margins on all four sides of the page.
- Accompanying illustrations are welcome.

Prizes:
- The winners will be included in an anthology that will be professionally printed by the library. The anthology will be added to the JPL children's collection. Winning entrants will also receive a copy.