



# The Polk Writers Group Announces

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The Fourth Annual  
Young Writers Contest  
2009-2010



# Grade Categories

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- Middle School

Grades 6 – 8

- High School

Grades 9 - 12



# Prizes

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- First Place \$100.00
- Second Place \$50.00
- Third Place \$25.00



# Award Program

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- Winners will be announced on Thursday, November 12, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Jim Miles Professional Development Center on Hwy 98 and Wallace Road.
- Refreshments will be served.



# Deadline for Submission

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- Story entries must be submitted as an electronic copy saved in a student folder on a CD by Thursday, October 8, 2009.
- Via the school courier system to Deb Gornoski, Bartow Middle School, Route E **or**
- Via the postal system to Deb Gornoski, Bartow Middle School, 550 E. Clower St., Bartow, FL 33830.



# This Year's Prompt

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- Because of your parent's new job, your family just moved to another town. Now you must attend a different school. Leaving your friends behind makes you lonely. To make matters worse, a bully picks on you. But you manage to solve this problem without anyone getting hurt.



# Flash Fiction Length

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- 250 to 1,000 words



# Format

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- Times New Roman 12 pt. font
- Double-spaced
- Black ink



# Requirements

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- The story submitted must be the original work of the student.
- The student, parent, and teacher must sign to verify the story is the original work of the student.
- Plagiarism disqualifies the submission.
- Stories submitted for a previous Young Writers Contest are also disqualified.



# Three documents must be included in the student folder:

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- The cover sheet, which must be completed, signed, and then scanned to the CD.
- The title sheet, which includes the student's full name and student ID number.
- The story, which includes **only** the student ID number, **not** the student's name.



# Judging Criteria

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- Stories will be judged according to creativity, story elements, mechanics, and compliance with requirements.
- See the contest rubric for details.
- Here are the important factors.



# Plot

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The “what “ and “why” of the story are fully developed. Conflict or tension is evident.



# Setting

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The “when” and “where” of the story are fully developed.



# Characters

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- Main characters are well rounded and believable.



# Style

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- Writing is clear.
- Precise, descriptive words are used.
- The story fully engages the reader.



# Creativity

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- Ideas are fresh and original.
- Plagiarism disqualifies an entry.



# Mechanics

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- Punctuation
- Grammar
- Correct usage
- Spelling



# Requirements

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- Entry meets all stated requirements, including deadline and format.



# Dates to Remember

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- Contest begins Sept. 10, 2009.
- Deadline for submission is Oct. 8, 2009.
- Award program is Nov. 12, 2009.



Good luck!

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