



## 2023-2024 NCRA & MCRA Young Authors Project "Reflections: Celebrating the Me I See"

### MCRA Theme & Guidelines

#### THEME

The theme for the Young Authors' Project is "**Reflections: Celebrating the Me I See.**" Young Authors are encouraged to write pieces celebrating themselves, including their heritage, culture, identity, and life experiences. Young Authors may write about what makes them unique, parts of them that tie them to family members and special memories or challenges they have overcome to become the people they are today. Authors may write prose or poetry, fiction or nonfiction. Authors may write in their first language and submit along with an English translation. All entries must follow the guidelines and be submitted as Google docs via the school where they are enrolled, along with a completed entry form.

This theme can be interpreted and expressed in a variety of ways and can include the following ideas and perspectives. Here are some examples of writing prompts:

- As you reflect on yourself, what can you find to love and appreciate?
- Write about your connections to a special family member.
- Tell about a time you did something that made you proud.
- What are some things that you love about yourself?
- Write about a time that you struggled with something and how it changed your life.

See the online posting of Ideas for Responding to the Theme for more suggestions on the theme.

## GUIDELINES

- ~ All entries must be original creations.
- ~ All writing entries must be typed in the correct format.
- ~ All entries must be submitted to your teacher digitally and as a hardcopy with the completed entry form on the back.
- ~ **All entries must have a COMPLETED legible entry form, including the parent signature and the author signature. Entries without a completed entry form will be disqualified from all judging.**
- ~ Only one writing entry per person, and one person per entry, may be submitted. (*\*NOTE: Authors may also choose to submit for the art contest, but again, may only submit one piece of writing and one piece of art, total.*)
- ~ All entries must be submitted through your teacher and then your school's MCRA Representative.
- ~ Please remember these pieces will be published in a book for authors in Kindergarten to adulthood, and their parents, and that all 33 entries (art and writing) should be appropriate for a wide audience that includes young children. If an entry is deemed too mature for young audiences, it will not be included in the book, so please consider the topic you choose before submitting.

## Length of Entries

- Grades K-1:** Entries should have no more than 200 words.
- Grades 2-5:** Entries should have no more than 300 words.
- Grades 6-8:** Entries should have no more than 400 words.
- Grades 9-12 and Forever Young:** Entries should have no more than 500 words.

## Forever Young Entries

- Forever Young entries do not count toward the number of entries noted above.
- Adult entries should also be judged first at the local council level and will be judged at the state level as described above for all student entries.
- Forever Young authors must be members of NCRA.

## Formatting Your Hardcopy/Digital Entry

All entries should typed using Times New Roman font:

- Include an original title, typed in bold, 12- point type, with only the first letter of each major word in the title capitalized. Avoid using "Your Voice Matters" for the title.
- Use 10- point, single-spaced, for the body of the piece.
- Include author information after the body of the piece. Skip two lines and then center the following information in 10-point. Your entry should look like this:

**Your Title (12 pt. Bold, Centered)**

Story or poem entry. Please follow guidelines for length of writing. (10 pt., Single spaced)

Author's First and Last Name, Grade (numerical) or Forever Young (10 pt., Single spaced, centered)  
Teacher's First and Last Name (Teacher: Name)  
School (entire name)

**For example:**

**All About Me!**

Write your prose or poem here. Single space. 10 pt. Times New Roman

Sarah Garcia, Grade 4  
Teacher: Bob Smith  
Cameron Elementary

***If you are unsure the correct format, look at last year's County YA book.***

**Saving Digital Entries for Moore County**

You will submit your entries via your school's MCRA School Representative. Each entry should be saved as follows: the child's grade level (00 for kindergarten, 01 for first, and so on through grade 12, and then Forever Young entries will be labeled 13), then the author's last name and first name. Each author needs to save your entry in your own file and then be sure that your teacher also has a digital copy, saved as below. You also need to submit a hardcopy to your teacher. **DO NOT SAVE YOUR DIGITAL ENTRY WITH YOUR STORY TITLE. (*The saving formula below is different from the way entries going to State are saved. Please save as listed below.*)**

**GradeLevel\_LastNameFirstName\_School**

**Here are several examples:**

**Kindergarten:**

**00\_GarciaJavier\_CAR**

**Fifth Grade:**

**05\_SmithKate\_SPE**

**Forever Young:**

**13\_JonesJen\_STARS**

**School abbreviations:**

Aberdeen Elementary – AE  
Cameron Elementary – CAM  
Carthage Elementary – CAR  
Christian Homeschool – CH  
Community Learning Center -- CLC  
Crain's Creek Middle – CCM  
Elise Middle – EM  
Episcopal Day School – EDS  
Highfalls Elementary – HF  
MaryLou STEAM Homeschool –  
ML\_STEAM\_HmS  
McDeeds Creek Elementary – MDC  
Moore Montessori Community -- MMC  
New Century Middle – NCM  
North Moore High School -- NMHS

Pinecrest High School -- PHS  
Pinehurst Elementary – PE  
Robbins Elementary – RE  
Sandhills Farm Life Elementary -- SFL  
Southern Middle – SM  
Southern Pines Elementary – SPE  
St. John Paul II Catholic – SJPII  
STARS Charter – STARS  
Union Pines High School – UPHS  
The Academy of Moore County – TAMC  
Vass-Lakeview Elementary -- VL  
West End Elementary – WE  
West Pine Elementary – WPE  
West Pine Middle – WPM  
Westmoore Elementary – WM

If your school is not listed here, please contact MCRA at [moore.read@hotmail.com](mailto:moore.read@hotmail.com)