

OVERVIEW

Participants create an illustrated children's story that will incorporate educational and social values. The story may be written in a genre of choice. Examples are fables, adventures, non-fiction, fiction, and fairy tales. The story must revolve around the theme chosen for the given year. The theme will be posted on the [TSA website](#) under Competitions/Themes and Problems.

What is a story? For the purposes of this event, the term "story" refers to all types of literature structures — fables, fairy tales, poems, or instructional literature — and the included illustrations.

Who is a child? For the purposes of this event, children are defined as those twelve (12) years or younger.

ELIGIBILITY

Three (3) teams per state may participate; a team of one (1) individual is permitted.

TIME LIMITS

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Twelve (12) minutes per team are allotted to read the story and share the illustrations with judges.
2. An additional five (5) minutes are allotted to answer judges' questions.

LEAP

An individual or team LEAP Response is required for this event and must be submitted at event check-in.

ATTIRE

TSA competition attire is required.

PROCEDURE

PRE-CONFERENCE

1. In preparation for the event (and throughout the story development), participants research writing and illustrating children's books and literature, as well as the creation of storybooks similar to the annual design challenge (e.g., pop-ups, interactive books, etc.).

2. Participants develop a high-quality children's storybook with illustrations.
3. Participants "field test" their storybook and document outcomes and findings in a portfolio.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Participants report to the time and place stated in the conference program. No more than two (2) team members drop off the team's entry.
2. Participants check-in:
 - a. The storybook
 - b. A hard copy of the portfolio
 - c. A hard copy of the LEAP Response with no report cover, separated from the portfolio
3. Storybooks and portfolios are reviewed by judges with neither students nor advisors present.
4. A list of twelve (12) semifinalist teams (in random order) will be posted.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Semifinalist teams report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to sign-up for a reading and interview time. Teams must arrive on time, according to their sign-up time.
2. Semifinalist teams will be represented by no more than two (2) members.
3. One member will be the team's reader, who will read the story to the judges.
4. Both members will participate in the interview process following the reading of the story. The interview process will last up to five (5) minutes.
5. No more than two (2) team members pick up the team's entry from the display area at the time and place stated in the conference program.
6. The LEAP Response will be judged for semifinalist teams.
7. Ten (10) finalists will be announced during the conference award ceremony.

REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

PRE-CONFERENCE

A. Storybook:

1. Participants design and create an entirely original storybook, complete with narrative and illustrations to meet the annual design challenge.
2. The physical storybook should be of high quality, designed to meet the age group for which it is intended.
3. Together with the storybook, the narrative and accompanying illustrations should result in an experience that delights, enlightens, and contributes to the wholesome development of a child.
4. The storybook and narrative with accompanying illustrations should take between five (5) and ten (10) minutes to read and view.
5. The maximum reading time is twelve (12) minutes. There is not a minimum length assigned to the reading time.
6. The physical storybook must not exceed 12" x 12" when closed.
7. There is no limit on the number of inside pages (may be one or two-sided).
8. The team must determine which format best presents the team's narrative and illustrations.
9. There must be a minimum of seven (7) illustrations that enhance the story and deepen the child's understanding and enjoyment of the reading experience.
 - a. An illustration on the book's cover may count as one (1) of the required seven (7) illustrations. The team may use the cover illustration within the story as well
 - b. All illustrations **MUST** be original, freehand, and/or computer-generated drawings made by the team member(s).
 - c. All computer-generated work **MUST** be developed from primitive lines and shapes and be the sole work of the team members(s).

d. Physical or computer templates, previously existing drawings, characters, backgrounds, etc., are **NOT PERMITTED**.

10. The storybook may include the name of the author(s) and illustrator(s) on the cover.
11. Copyrighted material is **NOT PERMITTED**.
12. The physical storybook must be the original work of the team members.
13. If narrative or illustrations appear in the story and they are not authored by one of the team members, the team will be disqualified.
14. The book must be designed, engineered, created, and bound together solely by the team; no professional binding is allowed.
15. Photographic verification of the book construction process must be included in the portfolio.
16. The story must be no more than fifteen hundred (1500) words.
 - a. There will be a five (5)-point deduction for every hundred (100) words over the fifteen hundred (1500) word limit.
 - b. Stories containing two thousand (2000) or more words will be disqualified.
 - c. There is no minimum number of words required.
17. Publishing rights remain with the authors and illustrators.

B. Documentation/Portfolio:

1. Documentation materials (comprising a "portfolio") are required and should be secured in a clear front report cover (click [here](#) for a sample) and submitted with the hard copy storybook.
2. The portfolio must include the following pages in a single, multi-page PDF document in this order:
 - a. Title page with the title of the story, the event title, the conference city and state, the year, and the team/individual chapter ID number; one (1) page
 - b. Table of contents; pages as needed

- c. Purpose of story; one (1) page, to include:
 - i. Story's intent
 - ii. Summary of storyline and theme
 - iii. Intended audience (age, gender, demographics, and special disabilities, if any)
 - iv. Word count – Number of words comprising the story's narrative
- d. Photographic verification of book construction and binding (pages as needed)
- e. A Plan of Work log (see Forms Appendix) that describes the development of the narrative, illustrations, and physical storybook; pages as needed
 - i. The Plan of Work log must include a summary of the storybook's assessment during a "field test" with a group of children within the age group specified in the current year's which is posted on the [TSA website](#) under Competitions/Themes and Problems.
 - ii. A "field test" is a reading of the storybook to a group of children in the intended target age range, similar to the process outlined in the semifinal round.
 - iii. Participants must document each field test and record outcomes and findings; pages as needed.
 - iv. A minimum of two (2) "field tests" must be conducted.
 - v. Each "field test" must be signed off by the chapter advisor.
- f. Research summary: A written summary of the research, writing strategies, problems encountered, and solutions developed in the writing and illustrating of the story; one (1) page.
- g. Project summary: A written summary of the research into the creation of storybooks similar to the annual design challenge (e.g. paper folding, interactive features in books). The summary must include the process and challenges the team encountered and the solutions developed in overcoming them; one (1) page.
- h. A list of tools, software (if any), and techniques used in the creation of the physical storybook and illustrations, not to exceed one (1) page.
- i. References/research sources; one (1) page.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

- A. No more than two (2) team members drop off the team's entry: storybook, portfolio, and LEAP Response at the time and place stated in the conference program. **NOTE: The documentation portfolio and storybook must be submitted together, in order for the entry to be judged.**

SEMIFINAL ROUND

- A. Two (2) members of each semifinalist team will report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to sign up for a reading and interview time.
- B. The team's reader will be given up to twelve (12) minutes to read the story to the judges.
- C. The other team member must be prepared to discuss illustrations included in the story.
- D. Both team members will participate in the interview process (lasting up to five [5] minutes) following the reading of the story.
- E. The LEAP Response:
 - 1. Teams document the leadership skills they have developed and demonstrated while working on this event and on a non-competitive event leadership experience.
 - 2. Find specific LEAP Response regulations in the LEAP Program section of this guide and on the [TSA website](#).

EVALUATION

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. The portfolio
2. The story (narrative and illustrations)
3. The physical construction of the storybook

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. The performance and animated reading of the story
2. The interview
3. The content and quality of the LEAP Response

Refer to the official rating form for more information.

STEM INTEGRATION

Depending upon the subject of the story this event may align to one (1) or more STEM areas. Refer to the STEM Integration section of this guide for more information.

CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT

This competition connects to one (1) or more of the career areas below:

- Writer
- Illustrator
- Educator
- Editor
- Publisher
- Graphic artist

CHILDREN'S STORIES

2020 & 2021 OFFICIAL RATING FORM

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Judges: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline in the rating form, record the scores earned for the event criteria in the column spaces to the right. The X1 or X2 notation in the criteria column is a multiplier factor for determining the points earned. (Example: an "adequate" score of 7 for an X1 criterion = 7 points; an "adequate" score of 7 for an X2 criterion = 14 points.) A score of zero (0) is acceptable if the minimal performance for any criterion is not met.

Go/No Go Specifications

- Before judging the entry, ensure that the items below are present; indicate presence with a check mark in the box.
- If an item is missing, leave the box next to the item blank and place a check mark in the box labeled ENTRY NOT EVALUATED.
- If a check mark is placed in the ENTRY NOT EVALUATED box, the entry is not to be judged.

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- Portfolio is present
 - Storybook is present
 - The story is 1999 words or less (verified in portfolio)
 - Completed LEAP Response is present
 - ENTRY NOT EVALUATED

DOCUMENTATION (80 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Portfolio components (X1)	Portfolio is unorganized and/or is missing three (3) or more components.	Portfolio is missing one (1) or two (2) components and/or is loosely organized.	Portfolio has all required components and is well organized.	
Photographic Verification (X1)	Photographic verification is very unorganized or is missing.	Photographic verification is somewhat disorganized and is missing a few components; the process is somewhat outlined.	Photographic verification has all components and is well organized; the process is clearly outlined.	
Purpose of story (X1)	Story's intent, storyline, and theme are poorly explained and/or the intended audience is not identified.	Story's intent, storyline, theme, and intended audience are adequately explained.	Story's intent, storyline, theme, and intended audience are complete and well explained.	
Plan of Work log (X1)	Log is poorly organized and/or incomplete.	Log is adequately detailed and organized and contains all the required components, including a record of the periodic readings to children.	Log is well documented and contains all the required components, with special attention given to periodic readings to children.	
Professional and technical information (X2)	Summary of the research, design, and writing process is poorly done and/or is incomplete.	Summary of the research, design, and writing process is clear and complete.	Summary of the research, design, and writing process is very well written, detailed, clear, and complete.	
Research base (X2)	There are few references listed, and/or the references listed show little relevance to the project's goal.	There are a sufficient number of references listed; the quality is good.	Many quality references are listed, reflecting research in writing and illustrating for children, and in child development.	
DOCUMENTATION SUBTOTAL (80 points)				

STORYBOOK (130 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Story narrative (X3)	Narrative is poorly written; there is little apparent purpose; it is lacking a coherent theme and storyline.	Narrative's purpose is clear, with a focused theme and storyline; the narrative has good pacing and development of characters and events.	Narrative is extremely well written with a clear purpose; storyline is fast paced and exciting; the details are rich and enchanting.	
Illustrations (X3)	Artisanship of the illustrations reflects little technical skill; illustrations add little value to the story's narrative, storyline, and/or theme.	Artisanship of most illustrations reflects good technical skill; illustrations add to the story's narrative, storyline, and theme.	Artisanship of illustrations is excellent, reflecting sophisticated technical skills; illustrations enhance the story's narrative, storyline, and theme, and they are of high esthetic quality.	
Book construction and concept (X3)	Book construction demonstrates little or no creativity or innovation; minimal consideration is given to basic design principles and book construction; is poorly constructed or is not bound.	Construction of the book is of good quality and demonstrates some degree of creativity and innovation; demonstrates an understanding of basic design principles; adequate choice of materials was used in its construction.	Book is designed with attention to detail; construction is of high quality and demonstrates a thorough understanding of design principles; an excellent choice of materials was used in the construction of the book.	
Impact (X4)	Story (narrative, with the illustrations) is lacking in purpose and coherence; it is not very interesting; it lacks artistic, and/or instructional, and/or social value.	Story (narrative, with the illustrations) reflects a purpose and incorporates artistic, instructional, and social value; it is compelling and entertaining.	Story (narrative, with the illustrations) is beautifully told; it is compelling, entertaining, purposeful, and it reflects high artistic, instructional, and social value.	
STORYBOOK SUBTOTAL (130 points)				
<p>Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.</p> <p>Indicate the rule violated: _____</p>				
<p>Story length violation: For stories exceeding 1500 words, a deduction of 5 points will be incurred for every 100 words more than 1500 and up to 2000. Stories of 2000 words or greater will be disqualified. Example: 1600 – 1699 words, 5 points; 1700 – 1799 words, 10 points; 1800 – 1899 words, 15 points; 1900 – 1999 words, 20 points; 2000 words and above, disqualified.</p>				
PRELIMINARY SUBTOTAL (210 points)				

Record scores
in the column
spaces below.

SEMIFINAL READING AND INTERVIEW (54 points)			
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points
Story's reading (X1)	Story's reading is lackluster; reader shows little enthusiasm; delivery is halting and difficult to understand; story is read too quickly to permit viewing of the illustrations.	Story's reading is generally good; reader's speech is clear and mostly well-paced and enthusiastic; sufficient time is given for reflection on the illustrations.	The story's reading is exemplary; the reading is clear, well paced, and enthusiastic; sufficient time is given to reflect upon and appreciate the illustrations.
Interview (X2)	Team's responses to the judges' questions are incomplete and/or poorly articulated; responses show little understanding of the research or development of the project.	Team answers most of the judges' questions; team's answers are articulate and show some understanding of most of the concepts addressed in the project.	Team's responses to the judges' questions are detailed and articulate; answers reflect a high degree of understanding of the development of children's literature, including the artistic and technical concepts in both writing and illustrating for children.
LEAP Response/ Interview (24 points; 10% of the total event points)	The team's efforts are not clearly communicated, lack detail, and are unconvincing; few, if any, attempts are made to identify and incorporate the SLC Practices.	The team's efforts are adequately communicated, include some detail, are clear, and are generally convincing; identification and incorporation of the SLC Practices are satisfactory.	The team's efforts are clearly communicated, fully-detailed, and convincing; identification and incorporation of the SLC Practices are excellent.
SEMIFINAL READING AND INTERVIEW SUBTOTAL (54 points)			

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: _____

SEMIFINAL SUBTOTAL (54 points)

To arrive at the TOTAL score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary. TOTAL (264 points)

Comments:

I certify these results to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

JUDGE

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____

CHILDREN'S STORIES

EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

- A. Event coordinator
- B. Judges:
 - 1. Preliminary round, two (2) or more for portfolio judging
 - 2. Semifinal round, two (2) or more for semifinalist readings/interviews
- C. Assistants for check-in, two (2)

MATERIALS

- A. Coordinator's packet, containing:
 - 1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and for each judge
 - 2. TSA Event Coordinator Report
 - 3. List of judges/assistants
 - 4. Stick-on labels for identifying entries
 - 5. Results envelope with coordinator forms
- B. Stopwatch
- C. Display tables for entries (minimum width 18")
- D. Table and chairs for judges and two (2) semifinalist team representatives.

RESPONSIBILITIES

AT THE CONFERENCE

1. Attend the mandatory coordinator's meeting at the designated time and location.
2. Report to the CRC room and check the contents of the coordinator's packet.
3. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough personnel have been scheduled.
4. Inspect the area(s) in which the event is to be held for appropriate set-up, including room size, tables, chairs, etc. Notify the event manager of any potential problems.

5. At least one (1) hour before the event is scheduled to begin, meet with the judges to review time limits, procedures, regulations, evaluation, and all other details related to the event. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.

EVENT CHECK-IN

1. Check in the entries at the time stated in the conference program.
2. Participants check-in:
 - a. The storybook
 - b. A hard copy of the portfolio
 - c. A hard copy of the LEAP Response with no report cover, separated from the portfolio
3. Each entry must include the participant's identification number in the upper right-hand corner of the entry.
4. Late entries are considered on a case-by-case basis and only when the lateness is caused by events beyond the participant's control.
5. In order to compete, participants must be on the entry list or must have approval of the CRC.
6. Requirements for attire do NOT apply during check-in, only on the first day of the conference.
7. Position the entries for evaluation and viewing.
8. Secure the entries in the designated area.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Judges independently assess the entries.
2. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and the CRC manager to determine either:
 - To deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round
 - To disqualify the entry

The event coordinator, judges and CRC manager must all initial either of the violations on the rating form.

3. Submit the semifinalist results and all related items/forms in the results envelope to the CRC room for posting.
4. Create a semifinalist sign-up sheet for each team's final presentation.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Inspect the area in which the readings/interviews are to take place. Ensure that there is a table and seating for the interviews.
2. At least one (1) hour before the event is to begin, meet with semifinalist judges to review time limits, procedures, and regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.
3. Semifinalist teams report to the event area at the time and place noted in the conference program to sign up for an interview time.
4. Conduct semifinalist readings/interviews using the same official rating form used for the preliminary round. Judges should be sure to ask interview questions.
5. Discuss rule violations (e.g. 20% deduction, disqualification) and have all relevant parties initial the rating form.
6. Two (2) members of each semifinalist team will report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to sign up for a reading and interview time.
7. The team's reader will be given up to twelve (12) minutes to read the story to the judges.
8. The other team member must be prepared to discuss illustrations included in the story.
9. Both team members will participate in the interview process (lasting up to five [5] minutes) following the reading of the story.
10. Judges score the presentations and LEAP Response.
11. Judges determine the ten (10) finalists and discuss and break any ties.
12. Submit the finalist results and all related forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.
13. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the event area.