

LITERATURE

LITERATURE is the art of writing. The author (e.g., student submitting the entry) is a person who expresses their own thoughts and ideas through the use of words. *Collections of literary work, such as multiple poems or short stories are not accepted.*

To Portray Your Original Writing

- **Consider the following literary styles:**
 - Prose, Poetry, Drama, Reflective Essay, Narrative, Short Story
- **To show a clear relation to the theme,** use fiction or non-fiction, plot and characterization, setting and imagery, style, symbolism, etc.



Entry Checklist & Reminders

National-Level Requirements:

- **Student Artist:** Authors submit a single literary work using grammar, punctuation, and spelling appropriate for their grade and/or support needs.
- **Word-count:** Entry must not exceed 2,000 words.
- **Accepted formats:** PDF. Handwritten & typed entries are accepted on 8.5x11 paper (one sided only). Number each page.
- **Copyright:** Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. *Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.*

Reminders:

- **Length Considerations:** While there is no minimum word count, entries less than 10 words must be intentionally short, and the artist should explain the creative reason for the shortened entry.
- **Illustration:** While original illustration is accepted, *only literature content is scored.*

Category Tips: Artist Statement and Title

Titles and artist statements can be useful in sharing details specific to your writing, that help capture your creative process and theme interpretation. Consider the following:

- **Summarize** the plot (main events, key turning points) without revealing too much.
- **Describe** how the structure and point of view enhance the narrative or help convey the theme.
- **Explain** the themes in the piece, along with how they relate to you personally, to the reader, and to the annual Reflections theme.
- **Examine** the significant elements of narrative voice, literary devices, language, and/or diction in the piece.

Illustration, Dictation, Translation, and Transcription

Review the following considerations for informed use of dictation, transcription, illustration, and/or translation.

Illustration

- The following uses of illustration are acceptable:
 - **Originality:** Illustrated entries are acceptable if the visual content is created by the student artist. *Only literary content is judged.*

- **Prioritize Your Writing:** The plot or purpose of an illustrated entry must be explained through written content, not illustration. For example, an illustrated comic may be accepted, but only the written plot, dialogue, and descriptions will be reviewed.

Dictation, Transcription, and Translation

- As necessary, the following uses of dictation, transcription, and translation are acceptable. Collaborate with your PTA/PTSA or state PTA on any additional needs.
 - **Translation:** Students may submit in their preferred language. An interpretive translation in English must accompany the entry.
 - **Transcription:** Based on the student's grade and/or support needs, entries may be dictated to another person, and printed or typed in exact words as provided by the student.
 - **Accuracy:** Translators/transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

Digital Tools and Technology

Digital technology and/or software may not provide the primary design and/or concept, but can be used to develop, enhance, and/or present an entry. Entries may not be exclusively created with generative tools (e.g., AI), and/or composed exclusively of elements generated or provided by a technology platform.

Accepted:

- Prototyping an original idea, design, or concept before creating the final submission. Final pieces must be an original student creation.

Not Accepted:

- Using templates, formulas, and/or graphics provided by a platform/technology.
- Plot, characters, and/or literary elements generated by a platform/technology.

Guidelines:

- **Use Description:** If digital technology software/tools are used in the creation process, including any generative elements (AI), entrants should use the back of the student entry form to briefly describe these methods in 10 to 50 words. This description will be used to assist judging during the evaluation process.
- **Verify Prohibited Technology:** Check if your state PTA prohibits the use of any digital platforms and/or methods (i.e., artificial intelligence). *Ohio PTA does not prohibit the use of digital platforms beyond permitted usage stated in the National PTA Entry, Category, and Division Guidelines.