



2018 EMMA S. CLARK MEMORIAL LIBRARY
HELEN STEIN SHACK
PICTURE BOOK CONTEST

— Procedures & Guidelines —

Eligibility

The 2018 Helen Stein Shack Picture Book Contest is open to all students in grades 7 through 12 living in the Three Village Central School District or attending a Three Village Central School District school. Students must be valid library cardholders. The contest is divided into two grade categories, grades 7 through 9, and grades 10 through 12. A maximum of **one** entry will be accepted per author. Entries may be a collaboration of no more than **one** author and **one** artist/illustrator. Emma Clark employees, trustees, and their immediate family members are not eligible to enter.

Format

All entries must be in a picture book format consisting of original text and artwork. The author's/illustrator's name(s) should **not** appear anywhere in the text or artwork including the cover page. The story and artwork must be the students' work. Entries must be single-sided and must be on standard size 8 ½ x 11 paper (landscape or portrait). Text and artwork must be organized in page order and numbered **on the back**. Entries must be a minimum of 10 pages and a maximum of 35 pages with a maximum of 500 words. Entries should not be bound, stapled, or laminated.

Artwork

Original art can include drawings, collages created by the author, or photographs taken by the author. Three dimensional artwork will not be accepted (e.g., pop-ups, flaps, and moveable parts). No trademarked, copyrighted, or licensed characters, products, or images may be used.

Characteristics of a High Quality Picture Book

Picture books combine art and text to tell a story. A high quality picture book will have several characteristics including:

- A story aimed at young children (ages 2–6 yrs.), often meant to be read aloud
- The artwork is as important as the words in telling the story
- The plot is simple and appealing to a child
- The theme is something that a small child might encounter in their own life
- The language and style of the book should be appropriate for a child's interest and age
- The use of humor, repetition, rhyme or word play to help increase a child's engagement with the book
- The artwork enhances the setting, plot, and mood of the story
- The text is grammatically correct and free of spelling and punctuation errors

Originality

Entries must be solely original work. Copying or plagiarism of text or artwork from other sources will result in disqualification from the contest. Previous years winning entries may not be re-entered. Previous years winning authors/illustrators may enter new, original entries.

Criteria for Judging

Entries will be judged on originality, creativity, content, quality of artwork, integration of text and artwork, and the overall appeal to children. The winner will be selected by a panel of judges.

Entry Process

An Official Entry Form and completed Entry Checklist must accompany each submission. The Official Entry Form is available online and at the Children's Reference Desk starting November 17, 2017. Completed entries and entry forms must be submitted to the Children's Reference Desk.

Deadline

The last date for submitting an entry will be January 31, 2018. **Entries must be checked by the author/illustrator for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors prior to submission.** The winners will be announced on March 15, 2018.

Awards

There will be one First Prize Winner and one Second Prize Winner selected from each group. Each of the First Prize award recipients will receive a \$400 scholarship, and each of the Second Prize award recipients will receive a \$100 scholarship (in the event that a winning entry is a collaboration between an author and artist/illustrator, the prize will be shared). The winning entries will be bound and added to the Local Focus Authors Collection in the Children's Library. All entrants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Return of Entries

Non-winning entries will be available to be returned to authors after the awards reception on April 23, 2018. It will be the responsibility of the entrant to pick up the entry at the Children's Reference Desk.