ATTENTION ALL TEENS & TWEENS!

GRADES 6-12

Create a children's picture book and you can WIN!

- ✓ Receive $$$ prize!
- ✓ Have your book bound & added to the Library's collection!
- ✓ Be honored & recognized by your community!

Top 5 reasons to enter:

#1 Include the honor on your college application (Colleges love this kind of stuff)

#2 Find a talented friend and collaborate on the book (More excuses to hang out together)

#3 Prove to your teachers that you have been listening in class

#4 Convince your parents that the money they're about to spend on college will be worth it!

#5 Put your doodles to good use (We've seen your notebooks!)

For more information visit *emmaclark.org/PictureBookAward* OR

SCAN ME!

Entry deadline is Sunday, Jan. 31, 2027.

2027 Emma S. Clark Memorial Library

HELEN STEIN SHACK PICTURE BOOK CONTEST

— INFORMATION —

The **Helen Stein Shack Picture Book Contest** is an annual writing award presented to young authors in the Three Village Community for an outstanding original picture book. The contest is divided into two grade categories, grades 6 through 8 and grades 9 through 12. Entries may be a collaboration of no more than one author and one artist/illustrator. The contest aims to develop and showcase young writing and artistic talent in the community.

This award is given in memory of Helen Stein Shack by her family. As a teacher, Mrs. Shack was committed to the education of children. She especially loved literature written for them. She was a frequent visitor to the Children's Department of the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library where, even in retirement, she kept current with the newest in Children's literature.

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 $400, and each of the Second Prize award recipients will receive $100 (in the event that a winning entry is a collaboration between an author and artist/illustrator, the prize will be shared).

The awards will be presented at a reception commemorating the birth month of Helen Stein Shack, on Monday, April 12, 2027 at 7:00 p.m. at the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library. 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.

2027 Emma S. Clark Memorial Library

HELEN STEIN SHACK PICTURE BOOK CONTEST

— PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES —

Eligibility

The 2027 Helen Stein Shack Picture Book Contest is open to all students in grades 6 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 6 through 8, and grades 9 through 12. A maximum of **one** entry will be accepted per individual. Entries may be a collaboration of no more than **one** author and **one** artist/illustrator. Both collaborators must live in the Three Village Central School District. If collaborators are in different grade categories, the entry will default to the grade 9 through 12 category. Entries that were submitted in past years and did not win, are eligible for resubmission. We encourage these past participants to edit their entry and resubmit (see "Characteristics of a High-Quality Picture Book & Judging Criteria" below). Emma Clark employees, trustees, and members of their household 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 (no AI-generated text or artwork). Entries must be single-sided and must be on standard size 8 ½ x 11 paper (landscape or portrait). Entries should also maintain at least a 1" margin on all sides of each page. 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 25 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. AI-generated text or artwork will **not** be accepted. 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 & Judging Criteria

A high-quality picture book skillfully combines art and text to tell a story that is creative, simple, appealing, and appropriate for young children. The artwork is as important as the text in telling the story and the text often uses humor, repetition, rhyme or word play to help increase a child's engagement with the book.

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

1. The story and artwork is unique and creative.
2. The story and artwork evokes emotion and is memorable.
3. The artwork enhances the setting, plot, and mood of the story.
4. The story uses language and style that is appropriate for children.
5. The story and artwork is aimed at children between the ages of 2 and 6 and lends itself to being read aloud.

6. The plot of the story is simple and appealing to children.
7. The theme is familiar to children, centering on something that a small child might encounter in their own life.
8. The artwork tells part of the story. It complements the story but does not compete with it.
9. The story does not use stereotypes and does not contain a lesson that overpowers the story.

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.

Entry Process

An Official Entry Form and completed Entry Checklist must accompany each submission. The Official Entry Form is available online starting October 13, 2026. **Completed entries and entry forms must be submitted to the Teen/Tween Services Desk on the lower level**. We will start accepting entries on January 2, 2027.

Deadline

The last date for submitting an entry will be January 31, 2027. **Entries must be checked by the author/illustrator for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors prior to submission.** The winners will be announced on March 4, 2027.

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 $400, and each of the Second Prize award recipients will receive $100 (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 mailed back to the author within a few weeks of the announcement of the winner.

Copyright Information

The Library does not hold copyright for entries. Entrants may feel free to publish their books on their own. If an entrant wins the contest and decides to publish their work, please understand that there will be pre-publication copies of the work in existence (in the library and any that may have been ordered by the schools or library guests).

TOP 10 REASONS FOR ENTERING THE HELEN STEIN SHACK PICTURE BOOK CONTEST

10 Put your doodles to good use *(We've seen your notebooks!)*

9 Revisit your childhood when Picture Books were just the best

8 Convince your parents that the money they're about to spend on college will be worth it!

7 Show the rest of the world your creative brain

6 Prove to your teachers that you have been listening in class

5 Find a talented friend and collaborate on the book *(More excuses to hang out together)*

4 Receive a $400 prize

3 Include the honor on your college application *(Colleges love this kind of stuff)*

2 Be recognized by your community

1 Have a book YOU created in the library's collection *(You'd be famous!)*

2027 Emma S. Clark Memorial Library

HELEN STEIN SHACK PICTURE BOOK CONTEST

— OFFICIAL ENTRY FORMS —

Title of Entry: _____ **Date:** _____

Author	Artist/Illustrator
Name:	**Name:**
Pronouns:	**Pronouns:**
Address:	**Address:**
Phone number: **(If you are a winner, this is the number we will call)**	**Phone number:** **(If you are a winner, this is the number we will call)**
Author Email:	**Artist/Illustrator Email:**
Parent/ **Guardian Email:**	**Parent/** **Guardian Email:**
School:	**School:**
Grade:	**Grade:**
Library Barcode:	**Library Barcode:**
Age:	**Age:**

Number of Pages Including Artwork: _____

Entry Number (FOR LIBRARY USE ONLY): _____

Entries must be solely original work. Copying or plagiarism of text or artwork from other sources will result in disqualification from the contest. AI-generated text or artwork will NOT be accepted.

The entrant consents to the publication of their name, photograph, video footage, and biographical information in promotional announcements and other promotional material. The submission of an Official Entry Form constitutes the agreement to abide by contest rules and warrants that the entry is original work and does not infringe upon or violate the rights of any third party. The entrant also consents to the scanning, copying, printing, binding, distribution, promotion, and/or other use of their submitted work by the Library.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the statements above and the attached Procedures and Guidelines.

Author Signature: _____

Author Parent Signature: _____

Artist/Illustrator Signature: _____

Artist/Illustrator Parent Signature: _____

"Hold Harmless" Agreement: The Author/Illustrator and the Library agree that Author/Illustrator shall hold the Library harmless from any and all damages, loss or theft, which may occur to the Author/Illustrator's entry.

Author Signature: _____

Author Parent Signature: _____

Artist/Illustrator Signature: _____

Artist/Illustrator Parent Signature: _____

2027 Emma S. Clark Memorial Library

HELEN STEIN SHACK PICTURE BOOK CONTEST

— ENTRY CHECKLIST —

To ensure the entry process runs smoothly and your entry meets all the requirements, please **carefully review** the following checklist and **check off each item** to show completion:

- ☐ The author/illustrator name does **not** appear anywhere on the entry except on the Official Entry Form
- ☐ Entry is original work and does **not** contain any trademarked, copyrighted or licensed characters, products, or images
- ☐ Entry is on standard size 8 ½ x 11 paper
- ☐ Entry has at least a 1" margin on all sides of each page
- ☐ Entry does **not** contain any grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors
- ☐ Entry does **not** contain three-dimensional artwork
- ☐ Entry does **not** contain AI-generated text or artwork
- ☐ Entry is single-sided
- ☐ Entry has page numbers written on the **back** of each page in pencil
- ☐ Signed "Hold Harmless" agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the above checklist and completed each item.

Author Signature: _____ Date: _____

Illustrator Signature: _____ Date: _____