

St. Joseph County 4-H



Creative & Illustrative Writing Guidelines

PROJECT RULES

1. **COMPLETED CREATIVE WRITING AND ILLUSTRATED WRITING PROJECT EXHIBIT(S) MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY MSU EXTENSION OFFICE BY AUGUST 28th.**
2. The Creative Writing project judge will read each exhibitor's writing prior to the fair and complete an evaluation form regarding his/her work. The judge will then meet with the exhibitor one-on-one to discuss his/her writings during Still Exhibit Project Evaluation at fair.
3. Exhibited writing for any age may be **fiction, nonfiction or poetry**.
4. **ATTENTION: Creative Writing** class writing **MUST** be types/printed on **plain white paper**. No colored and/or designer stationary allowed. All writings prepared using special paper / illustrations / creative effects must be exhibited under **Illustrated Writing**.
5. Contact the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office to request a copy of the "4-H Creative Writing Project Guidelines" which includes a list of "Suggested Writings".
6. Exhibitor may exhibit in his/her choice of appropriate age-level Creative Writing class, or Illustrated Writing class (all ages), or both.
7. Writing done for school projects are ineligible.
8. Creative Writing age-specific class exhibits to consist of required number of writing for age group, with exhibitor's one (1) best writing exhibited on 11" x 14" poster board, and remaining writings exhibited in a 3-ring binder notebook. Both the poster board and the notebook must be labeled with member's name, "4-H age" by January 1 and club name. **NOTE:** Poster board is available at the MSU Extension office.

PROJECT EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS - (Ages are as of January 1 of the year exhibit will be evaluated at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.)

CREATIVE WRITING (8-10 years old) - exhibit to include three (3) writings of at least two (2) different types of writings selected for "Suggested Writings" list.

CREATIVE WRITING (11-12 years old) - exhibit to include four (4) writings of at least two (2) different types of writings selected from "Suggested Writings" list.

CREATIVE WRITING (13-14 years old) - exhibit to include four (4) writings of at least two (2) different types of writings selected from "Suggested Writings" list.

CREATIVE WRITING (15-19 years old) - exhibit to include four (4) writings of at least two (2) different types of writing selected from "Suggested Writing" list, **or** one (1) major writing of 10 or more pages selected with leader approval. All writings must be typed. Prose must be double-spaced. Line spacing on poetry is at member's discretion. (If major writing is selected, it should be placed in a notebook, not on poster board as is required for "group of four" writings.)

ILLUSTRATED WRITING (all ages) - Exhibit one (1) writing, any type, which has been illustrated in a creative fashion to enhance the impact of the writing, with the emphasis to be placed on the writing. Method of display of illustrated writing is at the exhibitor's discretion, and is open to creativity. (Cartooning to be exhibited in Cartooning Department.)

Following is a list of "suggested" (not required) "writing projects" from which to choose when developing a 4-H Creative Writing project exhibits for fair. You are encouraged to try different writing projects each year in order to best develop your writing skills.

FICTION

- Short story
- Stage or screen play
- Lyrics
- Greeting cards
- Original story about a picture/photo
- "Extended story"/" fractured fairy tale" (i.e. Cinderella's life in the "happily ever after")
- Mystery
- Science-fiction
- Fantasy
- Opposing point of view (i.e. "Three Little Pigs" told from the wolf's perspective)
- Commercial/advertisement
- "Period Piece" (historical fiction)

NONFICTION

- Journalism (i.e. feature story, editorial, news article)
- Biography
- Autobiography
- Historical piece (i.e. regarding your family, community etc.)
- Text of a speech
- "How to" instructions
- Correspondence (i.e. thank you, sympathy, congratulations, request for information, etc.)
Including a correctly prepared mailing envelope
- Crossword puzzle
- Script for radio/television interview
- Essay (i.e. persuasive, argumentative, informative)

POETRY

- Ballad
- Couplet
- Sonnet
- Blank verse
- Free verse
- Haiku
- Cinquain
- Tongue-twister
- Limerick
- Alphabet poem
- Diamante
- Simple
- Metaphor
- Tanka
- Onomatopoeia