

CREATIVE WRITING GUIDELINES

The following are guidelines for providing learning experiences in creative writing.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL MEMBERS

1. Check for spelling, punctuation, grammar, and neatness. Proofing is a must!
2. Project should reflect the age and experience of member.
3. Be creative when getting ready for the judge.
 - a. Create a cover
 - b. Mat your poem
 - c. Do anything else that would make your project look special when presenting it to the judge.
4. Learn to create a basis for critical evaluation of reading materials.
5. Develop an interest in learning good techniques of communicating.
6. Learn how to exercise originality of thought.
7. Develop a better vocabulary and feeling for words.
8. Improve mechanics of writing.

For fair: youth must present complete one original piece of writing. For projects greater than 3 pages project must be turned into 4-H staff 2 weeks prior to fair.

POEMS

Beginner

1. Try basic poems; example, rhythm, short story poems.
2. Start to be aware of different poets such as Dickenson and others.
3. Exhibit one poem about a person, place, or thing.
4. Have an adult read over before the fair.

Intermediate

1. Try poems that reflect some emotions.
2. Read poems by several poets like EE Cummings and Thomas Hardy.
3. Exhibit one poem with at least three stanzas.
4. Have an adult go over the poem before the fair.

Advanced

1. Try poems that reflect some inner feelings and emotions.
2. Study poems from the many different poets of the world.
3. Exhibit poems that are at least three stanzas long.
4. Have another person proofread your work.

5. Make sure to enter your poetry in the right class.

SHORT STORIES AND NOVELS

1. Proofread for spelling and punctuation.
2. Project should reflect the age and experience of the exhibitor.
3. Be creative in your story (if fiction) and in making a cover for your story.
4. If non-fiction make sure that all events, times, and places are correct.
5. The member should read stories for many different authors throughout the year.
6. Exhibit just one story.
7. Write on a subject that interests you.
8. Short stories should be less than 10 pages long.