

The Reading Reptile & Johnson County Library
announce our 16th Annual Young Writers Contest !

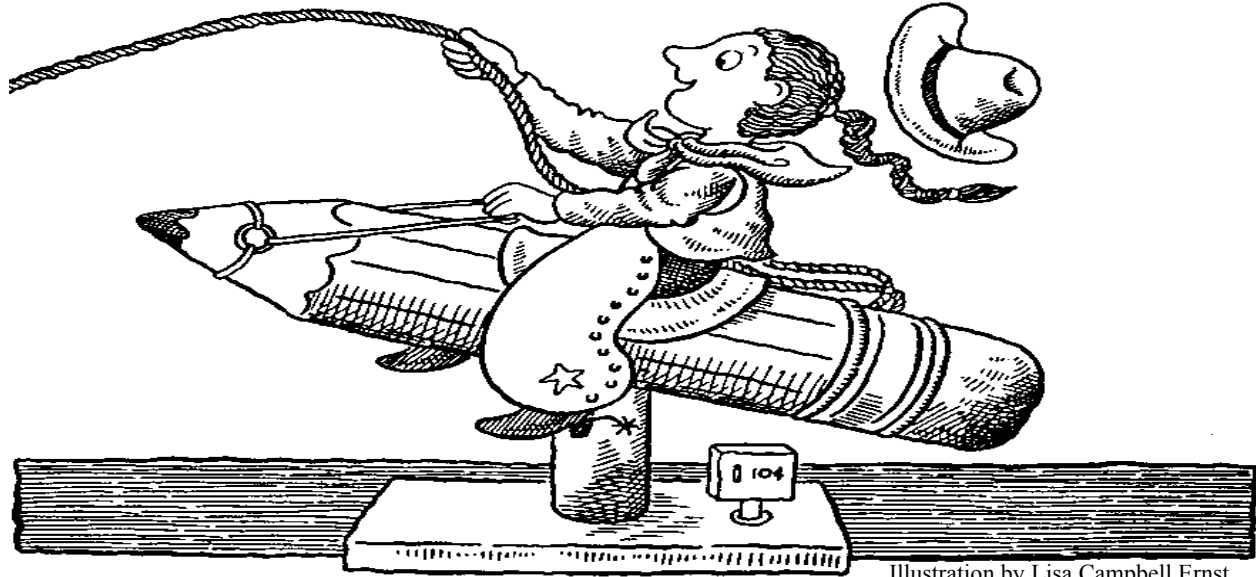


Illustration by Lisa Campbell Ernst

The writing contest will culminate with a reception for all contestants on Friday, February 13th, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at the Antioch Neighborhood Library (8700 Shawnee Mission Pkwy Merriam, KS 66202 913-261-2300)

At the reception, contestants and their parents will have the opportunity to meet and hear from several of Kansas City's finest, nationally-published children's book authors and illustrators, including Lisa Campbell Ernst, Brad Sneed, Jenny Whitehead, Eric Brace, Dana Regan, and Laura Huliska-Beith, all of whom are Writing Contest judges!

At the reception, 6 (or more) winning entries will be announced and read aloud by the judges, and prizes awarded. All contestants will receive a Certificate of Recognition. Refreshments will abound!

Let the writing begin!

ENTRY DEADLINE: *No entries will be accepted after January 26th, 2009.*

(See back side for rules and entry form.)

ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Age: _____

Teacher: _____

School: _____

Cut here and attach the above form to your story – due by January 26th, 2009!

then submit it in person to the Reading Reptile or any Johnson County Library Children's Desk
OR

mail it to: Reading Reptile, 328 W. 63rd St., Kansas City, MO 64113 (816) 753-0441

RULES:

- You must be between the ages of 5 and 12 to enter.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO entries will be accepted without an Entry Form (above) attached.**
- Entries must be a copy or duplicate of your original -- stories will not be returned.
- Illustrations are welcome, but not necessary.
- No limits on brevity or length of stories, although 500 words or less is recommended. (The judges are tired and old.)
- There are no stipulations on the nature, subject or form of your story. It may be poetry, fiction, biography, or a letter to your dog.
- Teachers are welcome to enter students' work, but please don't enter 30 stories about trees or holidays. Pick out the ones you think are the best stories. (Help us triage.) If you really want to enter 30 stories, they should be unique to each student. We also ask that teachers follow up on the contest so parents know about it. There may be postcards available to schools UPON REQUEST in January to send home with students, announcing the celebration/reception on February 13th, 2009.
- Stories must NOT have been written prior to Sept. 2nd, 2008. We want the fresh stuff.
- **Don't plagiarize! * [IT REALLY HAPPENS EVERY YEAR! CHECK YOUR STUDENTS' WORK!]**

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PRIZES:

- All prizes and acknowledgements will be bestowed at the reception on Friday, February 13th, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at Antioch Neighborhood Library (8700 Shawnee Mission Pkwy. Merriam, KS).
- There are as many winners as there are judges. Each judge will select one winning story and create an original artwork illustrating that story. After reading the story at the reception, the judge will present his/her illustration to the lucky contestant! It's really cool. It's frameable!
- Winners also receive a Gift Certificate from the Reading Reptile, and a gift from your friends at Johnson County Library!
- All contestants receive a Certificate of Recognition.

For more information, call the Reading Reptile at 816-753-0441 or Dennis Ross at 913-495-2400.

Entry forms are also available at www.readingreptile.com