



Old Dominion Association of Church Schools

Elementary and Junior High 35th Annual AACS* Poetry and Short Story Contest

Elementary Grades 4-6	Poetry	Write a poem about this topic: <i>Looking...(backward, forward, elsewhere).</i>
	Short Story	Write a story that begins, "Peering from behind a curtain..."
Junior High Grades 7-8	Poetry	Write a poem about this topic: <i>Reflections.</i>
	Short Story	Write a story that involves changed plans.

*Please note that this contest is **NOT** the same competition as the ODACS Creative Writing competition that is part of our regional and state Bible, Fine Arts, and Academic Competitions in March.

- Entries must meet the specific length requirements listed below.

Elementary Level (Grades 4-6)	Junior High Level (Grades 7-8)
Poetry: maximum 200 words	Poetry: maximum 300 words
Short Story: maximum 750 words	Short Story: maximum 1000 words
- Each school may submit only one entry for each category in each level. Only a total of four entries may be submitted from your school.
- A student may enter only one category – either poetry or short story.
- Students should be told the topics at least one week prior to writing so they may have time to think through what they wish to communicate.
- Students must submit a handwritten or typed entry that was written in school and under school supervision without any adult or student assistance. The student should write a rough draft and then make the necessary corrections. The student then proceeds to write a final copy. **Entries to state and national competition must be free of written comments and corrections.**
- No reference materials or notes except a King James Bible and a dictionary are permitted at the time of writing. Preparation may be done outside of class, but no notes may be used during the writing period. The time limit for the writing is two hours.
- If the entry is hand-written, the student must use standard notebook paper. **The final copy must be written in pencil or black ink using only one side of the paper.** If entries are typed, the final copy must be printed on one side of the paper. Entries may be photocopied for school judging and will be photocopied for state and national judging. Leave a one-inch margin on all sides of the paper.
- The following information must be listed at the top of the first page of the student's entry: Student's name and grade, school name, city and state, category entered, and number of words.
 - A "fancy" cover page or title page is not allowed.
 - If the student uses more than one piece of paper, each additional paper should have the following information: page #, student's name, and name of school.
 - DO NOT** staple the pages together. Stapling tears out the corners of the photocopies.
- The main judging criteria will be the content, originality, and communication of the piece. Mechanics, such as spelling, punctuation, paragraph structure, poetical form, and neatness, are secondary criteria.
- Original student entries must be submitted to the ODACS office by **December 15, 2017**. Mail entries to ODACS, 3131 Valor Court, Broadway, VA 22815. ODACS will select one winner in each category and then will forward those winning entries to AACS for judging in the national contest. National winners will be announced in April, 2018.
- State winners will be presented medals. National winners will be awarded plaques. Winners will be announced in April. All awards will be presented by AACS.