



Old Dominion Association of Church Schools

Elementary and Junior High 42nd Annual AACS Poetry and Short Story Contest*

Elementary Grades 4-6	Poetry	Write a poem about the best part of the day (or week, or month, or year).
	Short Story	Write a story that involves hiding something or someone.
Junior High Grades 7-8	Poetry	Write a poem about a special event (such as a fair, family reunion, or sports event). Consider including sights, sounds, and smells.
	Short Story	Write a story that includes a special discovery.

*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 shall 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 have time to think through what they wish to communicate.
- Student entries are not required to be spiritual in nature or application. Content should be wholesome and within the boundaries of appropriate Christian thought and behavior (Phil. 4:8). Vulgarity, sexual innuendoes, crass humor, dark subject matter, distasteful, and Biblically objectionable content are not appropriate.
- Students must submit a typed or handwritten entry that has been written in the school and under school supervision without any adult or student assistance. After writing a draft and making corrections, the student should type or write a clean copy to submit for judging. **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 shall be 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 typed, the final copy must be printed on one side of the paper. 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. 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; title; **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.
- Review the judging sheets for judging criteria. Each school should have received a copy of each judging sheet. If not, please contact the ODACS office. Before submitting the entry, on the judging sheet fill in the level, name, school, city, state, grade, **title, number of words, and signed statement of originality**. The student will be penalized if the judging sheet is not correctly completed, including the title, number of words, and signed statement of originality.
- Original student entries must be submitted to the ODACS office by **December 9, 2024**. 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, 2025.
- State winners will be presented medals. National winners will be awarded plaques. All awards will be provided by AACS.