

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

LITERATURE

Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Literature Rules.

Description

A literature entry may be a work of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry, and drama are all accepted. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Literature entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Return of Artwork

The national PTA office does not return literature entries.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of literary genres, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- One original and one copy of the entry are to be submitted.

- Entries may be handwritten or typed, either on a typewriter or with a computer.
- Number all pages.
- Illustrated entries, including “books,” with pictures drawn by the student are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.
- Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Format

- Submit entries on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8½ inches by 11 inches in size.
- Submit the original and one copy of the entry in a manila file folder with the Student Entry Form stapled to the back of the folder.
- Do not mount entries.
- Do not offer entries with printed text on both sides of the page.
- Write the student's name on the back of each page in case pages become separated.
- Collections of poems or short stories are not acceptable. A student may submit more than one work, but each one must be submitted separately.

Assistance

Dictation and typing:

- Students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- Students who are physically challenged or students in kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.
- Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

Translation:

- Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own languages. **An interpretive translation must accompany the entry.**
- Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Musical Composition Rules.

Description

A musical composition entry may be for voice, instruments, or a combination of voice and instruments. Lyrics may or may not be included in vocal compositions. The composition is not to exceed five minutes. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

The use of composition software is permitted. Students are strongly discouraged from submitting highly edited MIDI sequences or audio files. The recording submitted must capture performers in real-time. The entry may not include imported MIDI or other source files, or use algorithmic composition software.

Use of notation software for the purpose of creating scores and printed parts is permitted. Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Musical composition entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

The national PTA office does not return musical composition entries.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of musical genres, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

Whether a student must submit musical notation is determined

by his or her grade division:

- Primary and Intermediate: No notation is required. Iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is “made-up” notation.
- Middle/Junior and Senior: Notation, either traditional, tablature, or electronic, is required. The notation should aid the listener and serve as a guide through the piece.
- Adults may not assist. Physically challenged students may dictate to another person who may write the notation. The quality or accuracy of the notation and performance support the musical idea, but they are not considered judging criteria.

Format

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- Students are not required to perform their own compositions.
- A student's composed work may be performed by a group.
- Score size:
 - Entries should be no larger than 11" X 14".
 - Band/orchestra compositions may be 11" X 16".
 - Do not mount or bind the scores.

Recording Requirements

- All grade divisions must submit a CD recording of the composition.
- Submit the CD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD and the container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the CD with the score (if required) in a large envelope. Write the student's name on the back of each page of the score in case pages become separated.
- Secure the Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Make the room you record in as quiet as possible. Close windows and turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument or speakers.
- Don't record at too loud (in the red zone on the meter) or too soft (meter barely moving) a level.
- Record a short test and listen to it while watching the meter. If needed, improve recording quality by changing the record volume or microphone location.
- Return to the beginning of the CD and record two seconds of silence; then start performing your composition. Finish with another two seconds of silence.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, please answer the following:

- Who performed your composition?
- Did you use traditional instrumentation or a synthesizer?
- If you used MIDI, what software and hardware did you use to compose your work?
- If you included lyrics, how do they work with your composition?

Required Artist Statement On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

PHOTOGRAPHY

Theme: "Wow!"

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Photography Rules.

Description

A photography entry must be an original black-and-white or color image, or a group of images, produced by a photographic process. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

The entry may incorporate such techniques as montage, multiple exposure, negative sandwiches, and photograms. Images may be manipulated conventionally or digitally. Images should demonstrate the student's proper use of photographic techniques such as depth of field and exposure. The images may be created using various lenses, filters, and light sources. Photographs with added graphics over the image, including lettering, are not acceptable.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

Please contact your state PTA for its artwork return policy. If your entry receives a national-level award, your original artwork will be used to prepare the Reflections Program online gallery. Your artwork may also be chosen to participate in other shows or exhibits; if so, the national PTA office will contact you to inform you of the approximate date of the return of your artwork. If your work is not chosen for additional display outside the online gallery, the national PTA office will make every effort to return your artwork by early 2010.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of photographic processes and treatments, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

- A single print or collage may not exceed 11 inches by 14 inches, including a mat.
- Print the entries on paper or other two-dimensional material.
- Mount all prints on a cardboard mat, poster board, or some other sturdy material.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Framed entries, original film (negatives or transparencies), and multidimensional pieces are not accepted.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and tape it (with masking tape) to the back of the photograph on top of the shrink-wrap.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, give the dimensions of the piece and describe the process used in preparing the piece.

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

VISUAL ARTS

Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Visual Arts Rules.

Description

A visual arts entry must be an original print, drawing, painting, collage, photographic collage, metal etching or punch work, fiber work, or computer-generated artwork that relates to the current Reflections Program theme.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

Please contact your state PTA for its artwork return policy. If your entry receives a national-level award, your original artwork will be used to prepare the Reflections Program online gallery. Your artwork may also be chosen to participate in other shows or exhibits; if so, the national PTA office will contact you to inform you of the

approximate date of the return of your artwork. If your work is not chosen for additional display outside the online gallery, the national PTA office will make every effort to return your artwork by early 2010.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of artistic media, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

- All art must be flat and may not be more than 3/8 inch thick. This includes all two-dimensional materials and images, including small, flat items (such as string, fabric, and screening) that have maximum surface contact with the face of the image. Nothing three-dimensional (noodles, beans, beads, boxes, etc.) may extend off the surface of a work.
- No art may exceed 24 inches by 30 inches, including a mat.
- Entries may be submitted on paper, canvas board, cardboard, hot or cold pressboard, or canvas (not to exceed 3/8-inch thickness).
- Mount all paper or canvas entries on sturdy cardboard mats, but not in wooden, metal, plastic, or glass frames.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Lamination is discouraged because it can permanently damage the surface of the artwork.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and tape it (with masking tape) to the back of the artwork on top of the shrink-wrap.

Works Not Accepted

- Sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, and other three-dimensional artwork
- Reproductions or enlargements of other artwork

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, give the dimensions of the piece and describe the medium (crayons, oil on canvas, etc.).

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Dance Choreography Rules.

Description

Dance choreography entries must be original choreographed dance composition works recorded on a DVD or CD. The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate creativity and interpretation of the current Reflections Program theme.

There may be up to three dancers performing the choreography. The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers, but does not have to be. Costumes are not necessary. If costumes are used, however, the choreographer must also create the costumes or directly note that the costumes are not the original work of the student.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique. Therefore, it is very important that the student show a clear relation of the dance choreography to the theme. The connection should be made evident through the use of song, props, or the dance itself.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material other than music is prohibited.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

The national PTA office does not return dance choreography entries.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of dance styles, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Music

The title, composer, and performer of any background music must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form. If the entry's connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist statement.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- All grade divisions must submit a DVD or CD of a performance of the choreography.
- The choreographer is not required to be the (or one of the) performer(s).
- The performance should directly relate to the theme.
- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats:
 - .MPG / .MPEG
 - .MOV / .QT (Quicktime Video)
 - .WMV (Windows Media Video)
- The recorded performance should be saved as a file on the DVD/CD, not as a DVD/CD movie.
- Submit the DVD or CD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the DVD/CD and the container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the DVD/CD in a large envelope.
- Secure the Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).
- Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, state who performed the choreography and credit the background music.

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.

20-29 PTA Reflections Program

FILM PRODUCTION

Theme: 'Wow!'

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Film Production Rules.

Description

A film production entry must be an original work of fiction or nonfiction relating to the current Reflections Program theme. Entries may be with or without sound.

The student submitting the entry must be the director, screenwriter, and cameraperson. If using a computer, the student must do all of the work. If the student chooses to appear in the production, a camera on a tripod may be used. All storyboarding, editing, etc., must be done by the student.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Categories

- **Animation:** Animation may be drawn; created from a collection of objects, clay, torn paper, etc.; or computer-generated.
- **Narrative:** A story told through the images created on film or computer. (This is not the same as a storyteller narrating an original story.)
- **Documentary:** Nonfiction documentation using narration, facts, and images.
- **Experimental:** Video that explores movement, light, and montage.
- **Media presentations:** Computer-generated media presentations must be completely original, and the student must do all the work. Cutting and pasting from other sources is not permitted.
- **PowerPoint presentations will not be accepted.** Students must adhere to copyright laws. Software should be used only to enhance and present the work of the student. Due to the fact that most graphic elements of PowerPoint presentations are copyrighted clip art, use of this program is prohibited.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material other than music is prohibited.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

The national PTA office does not return film production entries.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of film styles, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Music

The title, composer, and performer of any background music must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form. If the connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist statement.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The film should directly relate to the theme.
- The student submitting the entry is not required to appear in the video.
- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats:
 - .MPG / .MPEG
 - .MOV / .Quicktime Video
 - .WMV (Windows Media Video)
- Entries should be submitted on CD or DVD. The entry should be saved as a file on the CD/DVD, not as a CD/DVD movie.
- Submit the CD or DVD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD/DVD and the container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the CD/DVD in a large envelope.
- Secure the Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- Think about sound. Use an extra microphone (boom mike) if needed. Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, please answer the following:

- Who appears in your film? (It is suggested that you gain parental consent for any minors who appear in your film.)
- Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware.
- Was any background music used? If so, credit the music.

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.