

It's Time for Illinois Young Authors



What is Young Authors?

Sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Language and Literacy Council, Young Authors is a celebration of the written work of children in K-8. Its purpose is to recognize student authors, and to support classroom teacher's efforts to encourage and improve their students' abilities in writing, reading, listening, and sharing.

How does it work?

Your child is invited to submit an **original** story for this conference. A student representative from Highland will be invited to share his or her written work at a one-day conference to be held on **Saturday, May 19, 2012**, at Illinois State University in Normal. At this conference, our student representative will meet with noted children's authors, educators, and other young authors from throughout the state.

**All completed manuscripts must be handed in to your child's teacher by
Wednesday, February 15, 2012**

Teachers will choose one manuscript from each grade level for consideration as Highland's YA entry. From these grade level manuscripts, one will be chosen by the staff to represent Highland at the conference. Students whose manuscripts are chosen at each grade level will have their stories placed in the LRC for checkout.

Guidelines for Manuscripts

- Manuscripts **must be written by the children in their own words**, be an original idea, and should represent their best effort. Parents may not add to or change any of the words in the story. However, you may help your child brainstorm ways to improve their writing.
- Parents may edit the story for grammar and spelling errors only.
- Dictated books may be typed or handwritten by an adult but must be in the student's own words.
- Manuscripts must have a **heavy cover**—card stock or construction paper works best.
- Illustrations are optional. Photos taken **by the student** may be used.
- Manuscripts that contain violence, the use of weapons, inappropriate content, or ideas from other published works will not be considered.

Downers Grove Public Library Showcase

Manuscripts selected for the Young Authors Conference will be showcased at the Downers Grove Public Library from March 12 through April 11, 2012. This is a great honor for those students whose writing piece has been chosen for the conference.

Please encourage your child to participate in this worthwhile event. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or the LRC.

