CHILDREN'S STORIES

OVERVIEW

Participants create an illustrated children's story of high artistic, instructional, and social value. The narrative may be written in prose or poetry and take the form of a fable, adventure story, or other structure. The physical story book should be of high quality, designed to meet the year's given theme, which will be posted on the national TSA website under Competitions/Themes and Problems.

The story must have a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) focus. There are many themes to consider. For example, from the sciences one could create a story about dinosaurs, the oceans or their extraordinary sea life, a single cell animal, or our solar system and beyond. From technology and engineering one could concentrate on the impacts of technology in our lives, or the environment, the building of ancient and contemporary monuments, or how something works. From mathematics one could write about numbers and shapes and the many mathematical designs found in nature and the industrial world.

ELIGIBILITY

Three (3) teams or three (3) individuals per state may participate.

TIME LIMITS

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Twelve (12) minutes per team are allowed to read the story and share the illustrations with judges.

2. An additional five (5) minutes is allotted to answer judges' questions.

3. Semifinalists will participate in a LEAP interview that will last a maximum of five (5) additional minutes and will be conducted immediately following the semifinalist reading/interview.

LEAP

An individual or team LEAP Report is required for this event and must be submitted at event check-in (see LEAP Program).

ATTIRE

TSA competition attire is required for this event.

PROCEDURE

PRE-CONFERENCE

1. In preparation for the event (and throughout the story development), participants research writing and illustrating children's books and literature, as well as the creation of storybooks similar to the annual design challenge (e.g., pop-ups, interactive books, etc.).

2. Participants develop a high-quality children's storybook with illustrations.

3. Participants "field test" their storybook and document outcomes and findings.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Participants check in their storybooks, USB drive, and a LEAP Report at the time and place stated in the conference program.

   a. NOTE: A documentation portfolio and storybook must be submitted together in order for the entry to be judged.

   b. No more than two (2) team members drop off the team's entry.

2. Storybooks and portfolios are reviewed by judges. Neither students nor advisors are present at this time.

3. A list of twelve (12) semifinalist teams (in random order) will be posted.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Semifinalist teams report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to sign-up for a reading and interview time. Teams must arrive on time for the semifinal round, according to their sign-up time.

2. Semifinalist teams will be represented by no more than two (2) members.

3. One (1) member will be the team's reader, who will read the story to the judges.

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4. Both members will participate in the interview process following the reading of the story, as well as, the LEAP interview.

5. No more than two (2) team members pick up the team's entry from the display area at the time and place stated in the conference program.

6. The top ten (10) finalists will be announced during the conference award ceremony.

REGULATIONS

PRELIMINARY ROUND

A. The team will submit a portfolio as a single, multi-page PDF document on a USB flash drive, along with a hard copy of the storybook, at the time and place designated in the conference program.

B. Storybook:

1. Participants design and create an entirely original storybook, complete with narrative and illustrations to meet the annual design challenge.

2. The physical storybook should be of high quality, designed to meet the age group for which it is intended.

3. Together with the storybook, the narrative and accompanying illustrations should result in an experience that delights, enlightens, and contributes to the wholesome development of a child.

4. The storybook and narrative with accompanying illustrations should take between five (5) and ten (10) minutes to read and view.

5. The maximum reading time is twelve (12) minutes. There is not a minimum length assigned to the reading time.

6. The physical storybook must not exceed 12" x 12" when closed.

7. There is no limit on the number of inside pages (may be one or two-sided).

8. The team must determine which format best presents the team's narrative and illustrations.

9. There must be a minimum of seven (7) illustrations that enhance the story and deepen the child's understanding and enjoyment of the reading experience.

   a. An illustration on the book's cover may count as one (1) of the required seven (7) illustrations. The team may use the cover illustration within the story as well.

   b. All illustrations MUST be original, freehand, and/or computer-generated drawings made by the team member(s).

   c. All computer-generated work MUST be developed from primitive lines and shapes and be the sole work of the team members(s).

   d. Physical or computer templates, previously existing drawings, characters, backgrounds, etc., are NOT PERMITTED.

10. Copyrighted material is NOT permitted.

11. The physical storybook must be the original work of the team members. The book must be designed, engineered, created, and bound together solely by the team.

12. Pre-manufactured parts/kits for special interactive features (e.g. lights/sounds, finger puppets, etc.) may be included in the construction of the book.

13. **If narrative or illustrations appear in the story and they are not authored by one of the team members, the team will be disqualified.**

14. Photographs used as illustrations are not permitted.

15. No professional binding is allowed.

16. Photographic verification of the book construction process must be included in the portfolio.

17. The story must be no more than fifteen hundred (1500) words.

    a. There will be a five (5)-point deduction for every one hundred (100) words over the fifteen hundred (1500) word limit.

    b. Stories containing two thousand (2000) or more words will be disqualified.

    c. There is no minimum number of words required.

C. Documentation/Portfolio:

1. Documentation materials (comprising "a portfolio") are required and must be submitted as a single, multi-page PDF document on a USB flash drive and submitted with the hard copy storybook.

2. The USB flash drive and its contents become the property of TSA for communication purposes only. Publishing rights remain with the authors and illustrators.

3. No identifying information other than a team/student identification number is to appear anywhere on the portfolio or storybook.

4. The portfolio must include the following pages in a single, multi-page PDF document in this order:

   a. LEAP Report

   b. Title page with the title of the story, the event title, the conference city and state, the year; and the team/individual chapter identification number; one (1) page

   c. Table of contents; pages as needed

   d. Purpose of story; one (1) page, to include:

      i. Story's intent

      ii. Summary of story line and theme

      iii. Intended audience (age, gender, demographics, and special disabilities, if any)

      iv. Word count—number of words comprising the story's narrative

   e. A summary indicating the academic, as well as ITEEA standards, used in the creation of the final project; one (1) page.

   f. Photographic verification of book construction and binding; pages as needed

   g. A Plan of Work log (see Forms Appendix) that describes the development of the narrative, illustrations, and physical storybook; pages as needed

      i. The Plan of Work log must include a summary of the storybook's assessment during a "field test" with a group of children within the age group specified in the current year's theme which is posted on the TSA website under Competitions\Themes and Problems.

      ii. A "field test" is a reading of the storybook to a group of children in the intended target age range, similar to the process outlined in the semifinal round.

      iii. A minimum of two (2) "field tests" must be conducted.

      iv. As part of evaluation, the storybook's "field tests" will be measured to ensure that the book will meet the physical demands of the age group for which it was intended, and assess the quality and impact of the story, illustrations, and the book overall.

      v. Participants must document each field test and record outcomes and findings.

      vi. Each field test must also be documented through photographs (recognizable individuals must sign a release and consent form, or have their faces obscured).

      vii. Each "field test" must be signed off on by the chapter advisor.

      viii. The Plan of Work Log must be signed off on by the chapter advisor.

   h. Research summary: A written summary of the research, writing strategies, problems encountered, and solutions developed in the writing and illustrating of the story; one (1) page

   i. Project summary: A written summary of the research regarding the creation of storybooks similar to the annual design challenge (e.g. paper folding, interactive features in books, etc.). The summary must include the process and challenges the team encountered and the solutions developed in overcoming them; one (1) page

   j. A list of tools, software (if any), and techniques used in the creation of the physical storybook and illustrations, not to exceed one (1) page

   k. References/research sources; one (1) page

SEMIFINAL ROUND

A. Two (2) members of each semifinalist team will report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program to sign up for a reading and interview time.

B. The team's reader will be given up to twelve (12) minutes to read the story to the judges.

C. The other team member must be prepared to discuss illustrations included in the story.

D. Both team members will participate in the interview process (lasting up to five [5] minutes) following the reading of the story.

E. The LEAP Report

   1. Teams document the leadership skills they have developed and demonstrated while working on this event, and on a non-competitive event leadership experience.

   2. Teams will respond to questions about the content of the LEAP Report as part of the LEAP interview, which will be conducted as part of the semifinalist presentation/interview.

   3. Specific LEAP Report regulations can be found in the LEAP Program section of this guide and on the TSA website.

EVALUATION

PRELIMINARY ROUND

   1. The portfolio
   2. The story (narrative and illustrations)
   3. The physical storybook

SEMIFINAL ROUND

   1. The reading of the book and interview
   2. The LEAP requirements and interview

Refer to the official rating form for more information.

STEM INTEGRATION

Depending upon the subject written about, this event may align to one or more STEM areas. Please refer to the STEM Integration section of this guide for more information.

CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT

- Writer
- Illustrator
- Educator
- Editor
- Publisher
- Graphic artist

CHILDREN'S STORIES
2019 & 2020 OFFICIAL RATING FORM
HIGH SCHOOL

Judges: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline in the rating form, record the scores earned for the event criteria in the column spaces to the right. The X1 or X2 notation in the criteria column is a multiplier factor for determining the points earned. (Example: an "adequate" score of 7 for an X1 criterion = 7 points; an "adequate" score of 7 for an X2 criterion = 14 points.) A score of zero (0) is acceptable if the minimal performance for any criterion is not met.

Go/No Go Specifications

- Before judging the entry, ensure that the items below are present; indicate presence with a check mark in the box.
- If an item is missing, leave the box next to the item blank and place a check mark in the box labeled ENTRY NOT EVALUATED.
- If a check mark is placed in the ENTRY NOT EVALUATED box, the entry is not to be judged.

- ☐ Portfolio (a single [multi-page] document in PDF format) is present on a flash drive.
- ☐ Storybook is present.
- ☐ The story is no more than 2,000 words (verified in documentation).
- ☐ Completed LEAP Report is present.
- ☐ ENTRY NOT EVALUATED

DOCUMENTATION (90 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Purpose of story (X1)	The story's intent, story-line, and theme are poorly explained, and/or the intended audience is not identified.	The story's intent, story-line, and theme are adequately explained; the target audience is identified.	The story's intent, storyline, and theme, are complete and well explained; the target audience is identified along with additional information, including age, demographics, gender, special abilities, etc.	
Word Count (X1)	Word count is not provided.	Word count is provided.	Word count is provided.	
Standards summary (X1)	A summary indicating the academic and ITEEA standards is not complete or is not included.	A summary indicating the academic and ITEEA standards is included.	A detailed summary of academic and ITEEA standards is included along with a description of how they are addressed through the project.	
Photographic verification of the book's construction (X2)	Photographic verification of book construction and binding is not provided or does not fully illustrate the process.	Photographic verification of book construction and binding is provided.	Photographic verification of book construction and binding is provided; photos are captioned and illustrate the entire process.	
Field test documentation and photographic verification (X2)	Photographic verification of field tests of the book are not included; there is little or no documentation regarding outcome of field tests; fewer than two field tests were conducted.	Photographic verification of field tests of the book are included; there is adequate information included regarding outcome of tests; two field tests were conducted.	Photographic verification of field tests of the book are included; multiple field tests are documented; photos are captioned; there is detailed information regarding the outcome of field tests; two or more field tests were conducted.	
Plan of Work log (X1)	The log is poorly organized and/or incomplete.	The log is adequately detailed and organized and contains all the required components, including a recording of the periodic readings to children.	The log is well documented and contains all the required components, with special attention given to periodic readings to children.	

DOCUMENTATION (90 points) – continued

Summary of Research (X1)	The summary of the research, design, and writing process is poorly done and/or is incomplete; there are few references listed and/or the references listed show little relevance to the books goals/objectives.	The summary of the research, design, and writing process is generally clear and complete; there are a sufficient number of references listed; the quality is good.	The summary of the research, design, and writing process is extremely well written, detailed, clear, and complete; there are many high quality references listed and they reflect research in writing and illustrating for children and child development.	
			DOCUMENTATION SUBTOTAL (90 points)	

Record scores in the column spaces below.

STORYBOOK (100 points)

CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Story narrative (X3)	The narrative is poorly written; there is little apparent purpose; it is lacking a coherent theme and storyline.	The narrative's purpose is generally clear, with a focused theme and storyline; the narrative has good pacing and development of characters and/or events.	The narrative is extremely well written, with a clear purpose; the storyline is fast paced and exciting; the details are rich and enchanting.	
Illustrations (X3)	Artisanship of the illustrations reflects little technical skill and/or adds little value to the story's narrative, storyline, and/or theme.	Artisanship of most illustrations reflects good technical skill; illustrations add to the story's narrative, story-line, and theme.	Artisanship of illustrations is excellent, reflecting sophisticated technical skills; illustrations enhance the story's narrative, story-line, and theme, and they are of high aesthetic quality.	
Impact (X4)	The story (narrative, with the illustrations) is lacking in purpose and coherence; it is not very interesting; the story lacks artistic, and/or instructional, and/or social value.	The story (narrative, with the illustrations) reflects a purpose and coherence throughout most of the work; the story reflects artistic, instructional, and social value; it is generally compelling and entertaining.	The story (narrative, with the illustrations) is beautifully told; it is compelling, entertaining, and purposeful, and it reflects high artistic, instructional, and social value.	
			STORYBOOK SUBTOTAL (100 points)	

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: _____

Story length violation: For stories exceeding 1,500 words, a deduction of 5 points will be incurred for every 100 words more than 1,500 up to 2,000. Stories of 2000 words or greater will be disqualified. Example: 1600 – 1699 words - 5 points; 1700 – 1799 words - 10 points; 1800 – 1899 words - 15 points; 1900 – 1999 words - 20 points; 2000 words and above, disqualified.

PRELIMINARY SUBTOTAL (190 points)

SEMIFINAL READING AND INTERVIEW (52 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
Story's reading (X1)	The story's reading is lackluster; the reader shows little enthusiasm; the delivery is halting and difficult to understand; the story is read too quickly to permit viewing of the illustrations.	The story's reading is generally good; the reading is clear and usually well paced and enthusiastic; sufficient time is given for reflection on the illustrations.	The story's reading is exemplary; the reading is clear, well paced, and enthusiastic; sufficient time is given to reflect upon and appreciate the illustrations.	
Interview (X2)	Responses to the judges' questions are incomplete and/or poorly articulated; responses show little understanding of the research or development of the project.	Most of the judges' questions are answered with articulation and show some understanding of most of the concepts addressed.	Responses to judges' questions are detailed and articulate; the answers reflect a high degree of understanding of the development of children's literature, including the artistic and technical concepts in both writing and illustrating for children.	
LEAP Report/ Interview (22 points; 10% of the total event points)	The individual's or team's efforts are not clearly communicated, lack detail, and/or are unconvincing; few, if any, attempts are made to identify and/or incorporate the SLC Practices and Behaviors.	The team's efforts are adequately communicated, include some detail, are clear, and/or are generally convincing; identification and/or incorporation of the SLC Practices and Behaviors is adequate.	The team's efforts are clearly communicated, fully-detailed, and convincing; identification and/ or incorporation of the SLC Practices and Behaviors is excellent.	
SEMIFINAL READING AND INTERVIEW SUBTOTAL (52 points)				

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: _____

SEMIFINAL SUBTOTAL (52 points)

To arrive at the TOTAL score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary.   **TOTAL (242 points)**

Comments:

_____

I certify these results to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

JUDGE

Printed name: _____   Signature: _____

CHILDREN'S STORIES
EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

PERSONNEL

A. Event coordinator

B. Judges:

1. Preliminary round, two (2) or more for portfolio judging

2. Semifinal round, two (2) or more for semifinalist readings/interviews

C. Assistants for check-in, two (2)

MATERIALS

A. Coordinator's packet, containing:

1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and for each judge

2. TSA Event Coordinator Report

3. List of judges/assistants

4. Pre-populated flash drives for judges

5. Stick-on labels for identifying entries

6. Results envelope with coordinator forms

7. Envelopes for LEAP Reports

8. LEAP Interview Judging Protocol

B. Stopwatch

C. Display tables for entries (minimum width 18")

D. Table and chairs for judges and two (2) semifinalist team representatives

RESPONSIBILITIES

AT THE CONFERENCE

1. Attend the mandatory coordinator's meeting at the designated time and location.

2. Report to the CRC room and obtain the coordinator's packet; check the contents.

3. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough judges and assistants have been scheduled.

4. Inspect the area in which the portfolios are being placed for appropriate set-up, including sufficient number and size of tables.

5. At least one (1) hour before the event is scheduled to begin, meet with judges/assistants to review time limits, procedures, and regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.

EVENT CHECK-IN

1. Check in the entries at the time stated in the conference program.

2. Anyone reporting who is not on the entry list may check in only after official notification is received from the CRC.

3. Late entries are considered on a case-by-case basis and only when the delay is caused by events beyond participant control.

4. Each entry must include the participant's identification number in the upper right-hand corner of the entry.

5. Position the entries for evaluation and viewing.

6. Secure the entries in the designated area.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Judges independently assess the entries.

2. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and CRC manager to determine either:

   a. To deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round or

   b. To disqualify the entry

   c. The event coordinator, judges, and CRC manager must all initial either of these on the rating form.

3. Judges determine the twelve (12) semifinalists.

4. Review and submit the semifinalist results and all related items/forms in the results envelope to the CRC room for posting.

5. Create semifinalist sign-up sheet for each team's semifinal presentation.

SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Inspect the area in which the readings/interviews are to take place. Ensure that there is a table and seating for the interviews.

2. At least one (1) hour before the event is to begin, meet with semifinalist judges to review time limits, procedures, and regulations. If questions arise that cannot be answered, speak to the event manager before the event begins.

3. Conduct semifinalist readings/interviews using the same official rating form used for the preliminary round. Judges should be sure to ask interview questions.

4. Conduct the LEAP interview. The LEAP interview will be conducted immediately following the semifinalist reading/interview and will last a maximum of five (5) additional minutes.

5. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and CRC manager to determine either:

   a. To deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round or

   b. To disqualify the entry

   c. The event coordinator, judges, and CRC manager must all initial either of these on the rating form.

6. Judges determine the ten (10) finalists and discuss and break any ties. (Determine the procedure for breaking ties before the onsite competition begins.

7. Review and submit the finalist results and all related forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.

8. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the event area.