Dear Brookdale Families:

The 2018 Young Authors Program at Brookdale School is officially underway! Brookdale’s program is part of the Illinois Young Authors program, which is now in its 44th year and culminates with a statewide conference in May. Our school will choose a representative to send on behalf of Brookdale School to Illinois State University on May 19, 2018

This program is intended to generate appreciation and recognition of a child’s writing. Students in **second through fifth grade** are encouraged to participate in the Young Authors Program by writing and submitting an original story, essay, or collection of poems. As part of Brookdale’s emphasis on writing, all students taking part in the program are encouraged to use the writing process as they create their own stories.

A committee made up of classroom teachers from different grade levels and support staff teachers will judge the manuscripts based on established criteria. Winners and runners-up will be named.

**All manuscripts must be turned in to Brookdale School no later than Monday, February 12th**

**The prize? It's pretty great!**

It is our goal at Brookdale School to recognize all Young Authors. Every child who creates a book becomes a District #204 Young Author and will receive a participation ribbon acknowledgement. All participants will have the opportunity to read their manuscript aloud to their class and they will receive a hard cover blank book for their next story. Attached to this are all the details you need to participate in the Young Author's program. Please follow the guidelines carefully. Manuscripts that do not follow the established guidelines are subject to disqualification from the judging process.

We're proud of the creative minds we have at Brookdale and are looking forward to reading all of the good writing!

**Young Author Timeline**

* Manuscripts are due to classroom teacher by **February 12th.**
* Winners are announced in March.
* May 19th, Brookdale's Young Author representative may attend the

Young Author's conference at Illinois State University in Normal, IL.

Guidelines for Manuscript Development

* All manuscripts will be completed voluntarily outside of school time, and will be done with minimal parent assistance. This is not a graded assignment. Adults may point out mechanical errors or areas of concern without specifically telling students what to write.
* Finished stories must be typed or neatly written and well organized.
* The work must be original; the child must conceive the entire story. Adults may offer encouragement and criticism but may not act as “ghost writers.”
* Acceptable styles of writing are poetry, story, or essay. Try expository, narrative or persuasive writing! Let your imagination run wild and be creative.
* The author determines length and format. There is no size requirement for the book in terms of length, height, width, or shape. The only requirement is that the manuscript be securely bound. We cannot be responsible for loose pages that fall out of manuscripts.
* Dictated books may be typed or handwritten by an adult but must be in the student’s own “voice” and words.
* **\*\*IMPORTANT\*\* Manuscripts must be in book form with a *substantial cover and pages securely attached*. A title page MUST accompany the manuscript. Covers may be as fancy or as simple as the author desires, as long as they are well bound**. EXAMPLES of well bound manuscripts are spiral binding, comb binding, tape binding, several staples, reinforced holes, 3 ring binder, a blank book, etc. Report covers that have a sliding side plastic piece and clear front cover have proven not to hold up under so much handling even though they do look sturdy.
* Student may write about any topic they wish, but if names and/or pictures of Brookdale staff or students are used, written permission MUST be granted ahead of time and included in the back of the manuscript. (form on website) If written permission is not included with your manuscript, the manuscript will not be judged or displayed.



Good luck, Young Authors! Let your creativity shine!

USE THIS Young Author checklist to help you make sure you've done everything!

* The cover is secure and well bound. Be sure that the pages won't fall out!
* There is a title page after the cover page with all the required information written very neatly! **Students first and last name as well as class name must be on it.**
* The manuscript has been checked for quality and is an example of my best work. Everything is very neat.
* There is a "permission" page at the end of my manuscript **if** I used people who work at or attend Brookdale Elementary.

Young Author Title Page

**EXAMPLE**

The first page you should open to after your cover is your title page. It must have the following information on the page:

(Remember you don’t have to include the words title, author, etc. See below)

Title (your title)

By (author's name here)

Class (2F for example)

Place of Publication (Brookdale School)

City of Publication (Naperville, IL)

Year of Publication (2018)

You can be creative with how you display this, but all of this information **must be clearly identified on this page.** Check the title page of an actual book if you want it to look as authentic as possible!

How I will be judged on my Young Author's Manuscript?

When creating your Young Author's entry, consider that the following things will be looked at when it is judged:

* Ideas and Content
* Is your manuscript focused on one main idea with supporting details?
* Interest to the reader
* Do the ideas you've written about hold yours and anyone who reads it interest?
* Does the text leave you with an impression you can see, hear and/or

feel?

**Very important things to remember as a young author participant:**

* **Overall quality of the writing**
* **Neatness, spelling, punctuation, etc.**
* **General appearance of the book…is it appealing to others?**
* Is there a secure cover, title page? Is it in book format?
* Illustrations (if any are included)
* Do the illustrations enhance the text?
* If it is a story or essay does it follow through to conclusion
* Does the story have a beginning, middle and end? Is there is logical series of events leading to a conclusion?

If manuscript is a collection of poems-

* Imagery (Mental image as created by imagination or memory
* Originality and vivid descriptions through the use of figures of speech)
* Continuity (Uninterrupted development of theme)
* Technical Detail (Craftsmanship) Includes aptness of phrase, assonance, alliteration, freshness of rhyme, balance of lines against one another, and rhythmic quality

*Permission for Use*

Names and pictures of Brookdale students or staff

Author name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Manuscript\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Names of people being used in the manuscript: (add more lines if you need them) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are pictures of this person/these people being used? Yes No

By signing this form, I grant permission for the author of this manuscript to use my name and/or picture in their manuscript for the Brookdale Young Author's program. I understand that my name and/or picture may be displayed in public places wherever the manuscript is displayed.

**(All people who have names or pictures displayed in the manuscript must sign below).**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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