

The Zumbro Education District, together with the ZED Gifted and Talented Planning Committee, is offering the Twenty-Eighth Annual Creative Writing Contest to all students in grades 5-12.

**How to Enter**

Create a prose or poetry composition using the image and caption provided.

Follow the Contest Rules AND Contest Guidelines listed below.

**Click on the link below to submit your composition and complete the entry form online.**

**Contest Rules** – need to be followed or your entry will not be accepted.

- Entries must be the student’s original work and previously unpublished. The content needs to be appropriate for all ages. Judges will determine if there are any violations which could result in point deductions/disqualification.
- Use the image and caption included to create your own story. The image and caption are meant to be a creative writing “starter” and it is up to you to complete the story using your creativity and imagination.
- Your entry will be judged independently by three different judges using a separate rubric for prose and poetry. The rubric is available to review on the ZED Website under ‘Student Enrichment’ and ‘Creative Writing Contest’.
- You may not discuss the **content** of your paper with your teacher or parent as one of the purposes of this contest is to show independent work reflecting your acquired writing ability; however, check your spelling, grammar, and punctuation before submitting. Honorable Mention & Exemplary Compositions will be published as submitted, grammatical and spelling errors included.
- Your composition must be submitted along with your entry form online by **3:00p.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020** (*Submissions received after this date will not be accepted*). If you are not able to submit your composition electronically, you may send your composition by mail and note that on the online entry form.
- For reference purpose; if you are interested in reviewing samples of past Honorable Mention and Exemplary Compositions, please visit your school library or see your teacher to view the creative writing booklets from prior years.

**Awards**

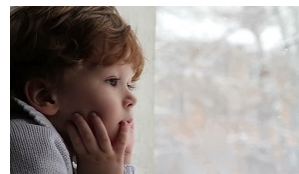
- Top authors in each division will receive a small gift and a \$25 Barnes & Noble Gift Card. Prizes will also be awarded to those with Honorable Mention Compositions (80% and above).
- Students receiving Exemplary and Honorable Mention will also have their compositions organized into the 2020-2021 Creative Writing Booklet and they will each receive a copy.
- The names of the division winners in prose and poetry will be engraved on the Zumbro Education District Creative Writing Contest Plaque. The plaque will be displayed at the Zumbro Education District Office.

**Entry Guidelines (must follow)**

- Title each entry piece.
- **Do Not** put your name on your composition. You will enter your name, school, etc. when you complete the online entry form and submit your composition.
- Your prose composition must be 300-350 words, excluding the title. Poems can be less. Hyphenated words, such as “man-of-war”, count as one word, if listed as such in the dictionary.
- Composition Divisions will be as follows: 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade; 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade; and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Each division will have separate categories for prose and poetry.

**Topic**

For this year’s topic, students will use the following image and caption to create their own story.



**“It’s June 13, the snow won’t stop falling....”**

**Judging Process**

Judging will take place in November. In the event there is a tie, three other judges will read the papers and serve as tie-breakers.

**Announcing Winners**

Winners will be announced the week of January 4, 2021.

**Questions**

Questions should be directed to the ZED office, (507)775-2037 or email [jsplinter@zumbroed.org](mailto:jsplinter@zumbroed.org).

**Composition Submission**

Click [here](#) to complete the online entry form and attach your composition. If you are not able to submit your entry electronically (ex. hand-written), please note that in the comment section of the online entry form and mail your composition to:

**Zumbro Education District  
 Creative Writing Contest Submission  
 801 Frontage Road NW  
 Byron, MN 55920**