

September 9, 2019

Dear Language Arts and Reading Instructors, Grades 5-12:

The Zumbro Education District, together with the ZED Gifted and Talented Planning Committee, is offering the Creative Writing Contest to all students in grades 5-12 again this year. Last year we had 671 students participate in the contest, which was awesome! Students have many thoughts and ideas going through their heads and writing is a great way to express them! Some teachers have required students to write by doing a class assignment and then letting the students decide if they want to submit their work for the contest while others have given extra credit for entering the contest. You may also have clever ways of encouraging them to write!

Included with this letter is a ***Creative Writing Flier to post in your classroom, a Contest Announcement, and a copy of the Student Rules/Registration packet (to use for making copies to distribute to students who would like to write)***. Please read through the attached *Contest Announcement* to your students on **Friday, September 20, 2019** (copy and send these home with your students if you would like). There is also a **Key Dates** sheet on the back side of this letter that lists the timeline of this creative opportunity for students.

On Monday, September 23, 2019, distribute the **Rules/Registration** packets with details to interested students and let them know they may begin writing immediately.

Completed papers are due on or before Friday, October 11, 2019 at 3:00p.m. When collecting papers, please verify that the student has a completed LEGIBLE Registration form attached. After all papers are collected, teachers will turn in the compositions to their local G/T contact (Blooming Prairie-Denise Hadrath; Byron-Rebecca Newsom; Hayfield-Sara Gillette; K-M-Jennifer Kujath; Pine Island-Kiah Solberg; Stewartville-Aimee Johnson; and Triton-Laura Lee). ZED will then collect these and distribute them to the judges. In order to comply with the designated key dates, student papers will not be accepted after the October 11th due date (exceptions will be reviewed on an individual basis, an example including if a student is absent on the due date).

In addition to submitting a hard copy, ***students are also being asked to submit an electronic copy*** to the ZED Office. ***Compositions can be e-mailed to jsplinter@zumbroed.org or shared through google.*** **Students should enter their name and school in the subject area of the e-mail or if sharing through google, in the note area** (This does not apply to students who hand-write their papers.)

For the topic, students will receive an image, accompanied by a caption, to create their own story. The image and caption are meant to be creative writing "starters" and then it is up to the students to complete the tale using their creativity and imagination.

If you would like to help by volunteering to serve as a judge for the contest, or if you know someone (colleague, friend, retired teacher, etc.) who might enjoy reading papers, please contact your district's G/T contact (listed above). The three weeks of judging are in November (See Key Dates Sheet-back side of this letter). We are always looking for additional people to judge.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and cooperation in bringing this opportunity to our ZED Students.

Sincerely,

Becky Remmele
ZED Special Projects Coordinator