

Young Authors Conference Excellence Awards



Tri-County ESC and Buckeye Book Fair are excited to announce a new component to the Young Authors Conference. New for this coming year, we will be asking each school to identify 1 Excellence Award Winner. This award will go to 1 student in each school that shows determination, ability, and a passion for writing.

Each school will have the flexibility to select a winner of the excellence award how they deem fit. However, to help support this process we have included a rubric that could be used to score and rank student work to be evaluated. Deadline for submission is October 1st, 2025

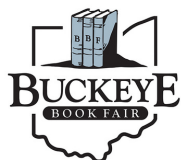
Tri-County ESC and Buckeye Book Fair are asking each school to select 1 winner to submit to the submission portal linked below. We will ask for the student's name, grade, hoodie size, and a work sample if possible for us to display on the day of the Young Authors' Conference.

Buckeye Book Fair and Tri-County ESC work to provide an educational and fun event for students and teachers at the 2025 Young Authors' Conference. We strive to increase access to enriching experiences within the world of literature and the arts. We hope this added award gives students excitement and builds anticipation for our November event.

Important Details:

- Your school will only provide 1 winner to the submission portal.
- Schools have flexibility in selecting their excellence award winner.
- Deadline to submit your school award winner is October 1st, 2025.
- Student must be a 3rd-8th grader

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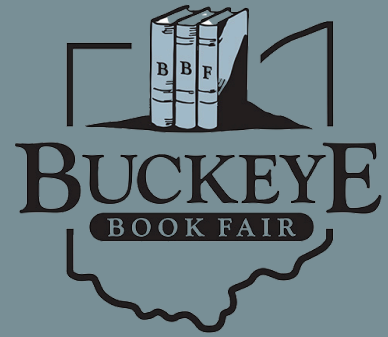


Potential Evaluation Ruberic

Traits	4	3	2	1
Focus & Details	There is one clear, well focused topic. Main ideas are clear and are well supported by detailed and accurate information.	There is one clear, well focused topic. Main ideas are clear but are not well supported by detailed information.	There is one topic. Main ideas are somewhat clear.	The topic and main ideas are not clear.
Organization	The introduction is well designed. Information is relevant and presented in a logical order. The conclusion is strong.	The introduction states the main topic. The writing contains a body, and a conclusion.	The organization of the writing is missing one key element (Introduction, Body, Conclusion)	There is no clear introduction, structure, or conclusion.
Voice	The author's purpose of writing is very clear, and there is strong evidence of attention to the audience. The author's extensive knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are evident.	The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is some evidence of attention to the audience. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are evident.	The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is evidence of attention to the audience. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are limited.	The author's purpose of writing is unclear.
Word Choice	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words seems accurate, natural, and not forced.	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words is inaccurate at times and/or seems overdone.	The author uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety	The writer uses a limited vocabulary. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning.
Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, Spelling	All sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes minimal errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	Most sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes a few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, but they do not interfere with understanding.	Most sentences are well constructed, but they have a similar structure and/or length. The author makes several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.	Sentences sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. The author makes numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.
Additional Comments				

BOOK LIST

Buckeye Book Fair Recommendations

☐

Plants Fight Back by Lisa Amstutz

☐

The More You Give by Marcy Campbell

☐

The River that Wolves Moved by Mary Kay Carson

☐

Sit Down, Little Prince! by Jean Colebank

☐

Good Night to your Fantastic Elastic Brain by JoAnn Deak, PhD

☐

Boo Stew, Illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbler

☐

Little Blue Bunny by Erin Guendelsberger

☐

Annette Feels Free by Katie Mazeika

☐

My Name is Bilal by Asma Mobin-Uddin

☐

The Cloud Factory by Paul Stutzman

Book Recommendation

BOOK TITLE: Plants Fight Back

AUTHOR: Lisa Amstutz

ILLUSTRATOR: Rebecca Evans

SUMMARY

How do you survive when danger is near and you are rooted in the ground? Plants use their defenses and fight back!

As readers turn the pages of this beautifully illustrated book, they will find fun and poetic language describing various situation where different plants find themselves under attack. This is followed by informative, science-based lessons about these plants and their survival methods. Back matter includes a glossary and a STEM challenge activity to use at home or in the classroom.

WHO ARE THE CHARACTERS THIS BOOK?

Cacti, Sand Verbena, Nettles, Stone Plants, Mimosa, Sticky Geranium and more!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART IN THIS BOOK?

Warning signals in the willow tree roots when caterpillars attack and Mimosa plants folding its leaves to look like dried twigs.

PRICE \$8.99

ISBN: 978-1-5846-9673-5

Book Recommendation

BOOK TITLE: The More You Give

AUTHOR: Marcy Campbell

ILLUSTRATOR: Francesca Sanna

SUMMARY

A modern-day response to *The Giving Tree*, this lyrical picturebook shows how a family passes down love from generation to generation, leaving a legacy of growing both trees and community.

Once there was a wide-open field, and a boy who loved his grandmother, who loved him back.

The boy's grandmother gives him many gifts, like hugs, and Sunday morning pancakes, and acorns with wild and woolly caps. And all her wisdom about how things grow. As the boy becomes a father, he gives his daughter bedtime stories his grandmother told him, and piggyback rides. He gives her acorns, and the wisdom he learned about how things grow. His daughter continues the chain, then passing down gifts of her own. Here is a picture book about the legacy of love that comes when we nurture living things—be they people or trees.

WHO ARE THE
CHARACTERS
THIS BOOK?

A boy, his grandmother,
and their decendents.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE
PART IN THIS BOOK?

The realization that there
is a forest because of
family.

PRICE \$18.99

ISBN: 978-0-593-37273-9

Book Recommendation

BOOK TITLE: The River that Wolves Moved

AUTHOR: Mary Kay Carson

ILLUSTRATOR: David Hohn

SUMMARY

Long before its establishment as a national park in 1872, Yellowstone was home to the gray wolf, as well as other large predators. But the relationship between human and wolf has always been a tense and complicated one. Predator control programs were developed and, by the mid-1900s, wolves had almost been entirely eliminated from the region and even the lower United States. The removal of even one strand of an ecosystem's complex web can have a ripple effect, though. Using the structure of "The House that Jack Built," science writer Mary Kay Carson shows the interconnectedness of the wildlife that lives in a place and how the presence (or absence) of a single species can impact an ecosystem so that the physical landscape itself is altered. Engaging text and colorful detailed artwork make the natural science understandable and accessible to young readers. With so many of Earth's ecosystems under threat by climate change, pollution, and loss of habitat, this is a critical and timely topic. Back matter includes information on the Yellowstone region during the wolves' absence and after their reintroduction.

BOOK PRICE: \$17.99

ISBN: 978-1-53411-120-2

Book Recommendation

BOOK TITLE: Sit Down, Little Prince!

AUTHOR: Jean Colebank

ILLUSTRATOR: Margeaux Lucas

SUMMARY

A boy must prove he is a genius with numbers before he can study to become the famous mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauss. Follow along with young Johann as his curiosity with numbers is finally noticed by Schoolmaster Buttner in this delightful and engaging story! The story is fictional but based on real life events. Readers of all ages will enjoy learning a little math and history through fun and informative storytelling.

WHO ARE THE CHARACTERS THIS BOOK?

Johann Carl Friedrich Gauss
His Parents
School Master
His friends

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART IN THIS BOOK?

Johann purposefully answers
math problems wrong so that
he can have more recess time.

PRICE \$12.99

ISBN: 978-0-9800481-2-4

Book Recommendation

BOOK TITLE: Good Night to your Fantiaastic Elastic Brain

AUTHOR: JoAnn Deak, PhD.

ILLUSTRATOR: Neely Daggett

SUMMARY

Written by two brain experts, this STEM picture book is packed with fascinating science and fun facts about the importance of sleep that will have kids excited to get a good night's rest!

Go to sleep and grow your brain!

During the day, your brain helps you do things like eat, walk, play with friends, and learn new things—and using your brain helps it stretch and get stronger. But did you know that you have the power to grow and train your brain just by going to sleep? In fact, while you're resting, your brain is doing some of its most important work!

Learn about the important jobs your brain does at night like:

- Locking in what you learned during the day
- Resetting itself so that it's ready when you wake up
- Even taking a bath to make sure it's clean and healthy!

Perfect for parents and educators, Good Night to Your Fantastic Elastic Brain is an excellent tool to teach kids about brain development, growth mindset, and the power of making healthy choices like getting enough sleep!

WHO ARE THE
CHARACTERS
THIS BOOK?

Your Brain

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE
PART IN THIS BOOK?

During the night shift your
brain slows hown the heart,
muscles, and lungs.

BOOK PRICE: \$18.99

ISBN: 978-1-7282-2028-4

Book Recommendation

BOOK TITLE: Boo Stew

AUTHOR: Donna Washington

ILLUSTRATOR: Jeffrey Ebbler

SUMMARY

Curly Locks is a good-hearted girl, but she's an awful cook. The Scares of Toadsuck Swamp are running wild and terrorizing the town but Curly Locks isn't frightened, and she has an inkling her unsavory cooking can help corral those Scares for good.

WHO ARE THE
CHARACTERS
THIS BOOK?

Curly Locks
Townsfoks
Mr. Mayor
The Blacksmith and more

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE
PART IN THIS BOOK?

When Curly Locks pursues
her passions even when
other people misunderstand.

BOOK PRICE: \$17.99

ISBN: 978-1-68263-221-5

Book Recommendation

BOOK TITLE: Little Blue Bunny

AUTHOR: Erin Guendelsberger

ILLUSTRATOR: Stila Lim

SUMMARY

A young boy receives a plush blue bunny and together they play and have adventures! They spend all their time together — until the boy grows up. Luckily, the boy, now a man, gives his plush friend to his newborn son.

WHO ARE THE
CHARACTERS
THIS BOOK?

The boy, his blue bunny,
bear, dinosaur, and many
more.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE
PART IN THIS BOOK?

The discovery Blue Bunny
made that all his
adventures were perfect.

BOOK PRICE: \$17.99

ISBN: 978-1-7282-5448-7

Book Recommendation

BOOK TITLE: Annette Feels Free

AUTHOR: Katie Mazeika

ILLUSTRATOR: Katie Mazeika

SUMMARY

Discover the incredible true story of “The Original Mermaid,” Annette Kellerman, a girl who wanted to dance, swim, and feel free—and who grew into a woman who fought for the right to do just that!

WHO ARE THE
CHARACTERS
THIS BOOK?

Annette Kellerman
Her parents
Crowds of People
A Judge
Swimmers

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE
PART IN THIS BOOK?

The judge listens to
Annette's logic.
She was allowed
to wear her swim suit.

BOOK PRICE: \$18.99

ISBN: 9-781665-903431

Book Recommendation

BOOK TITLE: My Name is Bilal

AUTHOR: Asma Mobin-Uddin

ILLUSTRATOR: Barbara Kiwak

SUMMARY

When Bilal and his sister transfer to a school where they are the only Muslim kids, they must learn how to fit in while staying true to their beliefs and heritage.

WHO ARE THE
CHARACTERS
THIS BOOK?

Bilal, Ayesha, Mr. Ali, Scott

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE
PART IN THIS BOOK?

Bilal makes friends and plays ball. He learns there are other friends who are also muslim.

BOOK PRICE: \$9.99
ISBN: 978-1-63592-513-5

Book Recommendation

BOOK TITLE: The Cloud Factory

AUTHOR: Paul Stutzman

ILLUSTRATOR: Wendy Leach

SUMMARY

For generations, whimsical clouds in every- changing skies have fired the imagination of children and adults. Let the creativity of your child flow as they find stories and characters in the scenes above their heads.

Lying in the grass and watching the changing shapes of clouds above her, young Meg wonders where clouds come from. Grandpa tells a whimsical story about the factory and the children who work there to make clouds. Beyond the fantasy, there is a teachable lesson -- children taking responsibility for their actions and working together to accomplish a task. Delightful illustrations for the younger set, easy enough for early readers. Ages 3 - 8.

WHO ARE THE
CHARACTERS
THIS BOOK?

Meg, Grandpa,
The Cloud Crew

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE
PART IN THIS BOOK?

When the Cloud Crew
worked together to
solve the sticky problem.

BOOK PRICE: \$16.99

ISBN: 78173 72900