



Parkside Middle School

Writing Oscars Criteria

As you may be aware, the Writing Oscars are now in full swing. With the school closed however, the competition will run a little differently this year. If you have written a piece of work that you are really proud of, you should submit it to:

writingscars@parkside.worcs.sch.uk

The work can be a piece of writing from your Learning Letters, or something you have chosen to write yourself. Once you have sent the email, a member of the English department will reply and give you feedback. You will also be entered into this year's competition.

Below you can find more details about the different categories, as well as the process for redrafting and improving your work to ensure it's in with a chance of winning.

Categories

Best KS2/KS3 Story

The classic. Everyone loves a good story. This can be a story about anything you like, however real or however fantastical. Just make sure it has a clear structure, a catchy beginning, an engaging middle and a satisfying end.

Best Essay

Those of you in KS3 will know all about essay writing. Use your knowledge of the PETER paragraph structure to analyse any text you like. Set a question that focusses on language (what types of words the author uses) or the structure (how the text is put together, what happens in the beginning, middle and end).

Best Sport Writing

This is a popular non-fiction category. With all of the sport currently cancelled, do you have a favourite sporting moment that you could recollect? It could be a match report from a rugby game, a review of a particular football team's season or a diary entry for Usain Bolt. Just try to keep it as factual as possible.

Best Description

This category focusses on how you use language (words) to create a clear and powerful image in the reader's mind. It could be a description of an object, a place, an experience or an emotion. The important things here are your use of vocabulary to create a truly powerful piece of writing.

Best Cross-Curricular Text

In English, we do lots of writing, but we also want to celebrate the writing that goes on in other subjects. Did you write a great story in History? Was your scientific investigation something you were really proud of? If you wrote it outside of English, this is the category for you.

Best Poem

A good poem is one where every word matters. Poems may be smaller than other texts, but they should be twice as powerful. Your poem can be about anything you feel strongly about. Make sure you include poetic features such as metaphors, alliteration, powerful vocabulary and any others you can think of. Top tip: it doesn't have to rhyme!

Best Speech

Do you feel strongly about a certain issue? Do you want to change something in our society? This category is for you. You need to write an emotive, persuasive speech that convinces people of your opinion. Try to use a range of persuasive techniques.

Best Action

Have you written a fantastic action sequence? Is it fast paced? Does it excite your reader? Is it full of short sentences and gripping vocabulary? Brilliant. This is the category for you. It could be part of a bigger story, or an individual section you have written.

Best Diary

A day in the life. You could write an entry about yourself, it could be the truth, or you could make it up. You could write about someone you admire, or someone you find interesting.

Writing Checklist

Before you submit a piece of work, ensure you have checked, improved and edited your work. Even the best authors have to redraft their work multiple times. Have you checked these things?

1. **Punctuation.** This includes capital letters, full stops and commas. But don't forget to be ambitious! Did you include any challenging punctuation? This could include things like brackets, semi-colons and speech.
2. **Sentence openers.** Are they varied and engaging? Make sure you are not repeating the same opener over and over. Consider the different ways you can start your sentences.
3. **Spelling.** Check your spelling. Particularly the high frequency words. Make sure you haven't included any silly mistakes!
4. **Grammar.** Are you writing in the correct tense? Do you need to change any run-on sentences? Check your work for any grammatical errors.
5. **Upgrade your vocabulary.** If you want to be in with a chance of winning, you need to be using an impressive vocabulary. If you don't have a thesaurus, you can access one online at www.thesaurus.com
6. **How does it sound?** Read it out loud or get someone to read it for you. Does it make sense? If not, how can you change it to ensure it flows better?

When you have edited and improved your work and you have something you are really proud of, send it in!