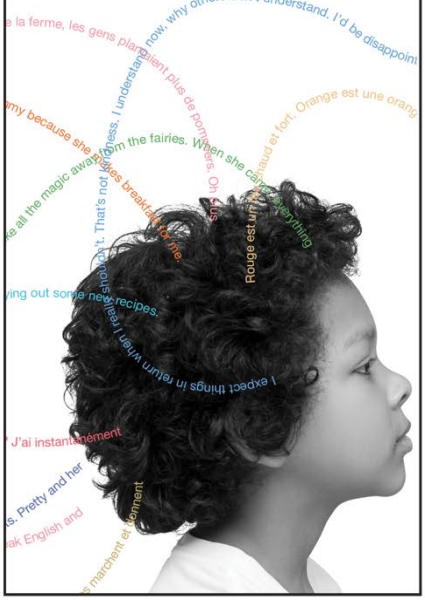
ONTARIO ENGLISH Catholic Teachers ASSOCIATION

YOUNG AUTHORS AWARDS

PRIX JEUNES ÉCRIVAINS

COMPETITION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the annual OECTA Young Authors Awards/Prix Jeunes Écrivains is to celebrate and showcase students' writing talents and their teachers' instructional talents. **All submissions must be original and student-authored. To ensure the integrity of the Young Authors program, written work created wholly or partially with Artificial Intelligence is not permitted. Student writing should be completed in class and/or with the guidance of the teacher.**

2. LANGUAGE, LEVELS, DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

There are three levels of competition: school, unit and provincial. The first-place winners at each level advance to the next. Each level of competition consists of the divisions and categories listed below. These divisions and categories are the same for both the French and English tracts.

CONTEST DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES FOR BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH LANGUAGES

DIVISION	CATEGORIES
JK and SK	Short Story Poem Nonfiction (e.g. reflection or report)
Grades 1-2	Short Story Poem Nonfiction (e.g. reflection or report)
Grades 3-4	Short Story Poem Nonfiction (e.g. reflection or report)
Grades 5-6	Short Story Poem Play Nonfiction (e.g. reflection or report)
Grades 7-8	Short Story Poem Play Nonfiction (e.g. essay or report)
Grades 9-10	Short Story Poem Play Nonfiction (e.g. essay, article or report)
Grades 11-12	Short Story Poem Play Nonfiction (e.g. essay, article or report)

3. ENTRY RULES

3.1 For the school level of competition, teachers must submit their classes' entries to their OECTA school association representative by the school deadline, **February 12, 2027.** There are no limits on the number of entries that can be submitted for the school level of competition.

3.2 Each individual entry must be submitted with a completed entry form signed by the teacher.

3.3 Each school may submit only one entry per category and division to the unit level of competition by the unit deadline, **February 19, 2027.** For example: a single school may submit only one poem, one story, and one nonfiction piece from their Kindergarten division to the unit level of competition. The entry forms for school entries must be signed by the OECTA school association representative before being sent to the unit office, to indicate approval at the school level.

3.4 Each unit may submit only one entry per category and division to the provincial level of competition by the provincial deadline, **March 3, 2027.** The entry forms must be signed by the unit president or the president's designate to indicate official approval by the unit. **Each unit should submit entries electronically to the provincial level to: youngauthors@catholicteachers.ca**

3.5 All entries, except plays, must be the original work of a single author. Original plays written by more than one student are eligible for competition.

3.6 Work submitted should be done at school using processes established by the teacher.

3.7 No entry may exceed 3,000 words. Any entry over 3,000 words will be disqualified.

3.8 Verification signatures are required on the entry form for each level of competition. The teacher's signature is required for all school level entries, the OECTA school association representative's signature is required for the entries that advance to the unit level of competition, the unit president's signature (or that of the unit's contact designated by the president) is required for the entries selected to continue on to the provincial level of competition.

3.9 AI is not permitted to be used for any entries. Teachers are encouraged to support students throughout the writing process while ensuring that the final submission reflects the student's own ideas, voice, and writing ability. Teachers must sign off attesting that AI was not used on the entry form for each student work they submit.

4. COMPETITION DEADLINES

Please note: All submissions must be received by the deadlines.

February 12, 2027	School deadline - Class Entries received by Staff Representatives
February 19, 2027	Unit deadline - School Entries received at Unit Office
March 3, 2027	Provincial deadline - Unit Entries received at Provincial Office
June 10, 11, 2027	June Council of Presidents - Provincial Winners announced

5. AWARDS

5.1 Provincial certificates will be issued to all provincial entries.

5.2 Provincial plaques will be issued to all provincial winners.

5.3 Provincial winners will be published in a commemorative book.

6. CRITERIA FOR SCORING

All entries will be judged on the basis of the criteria listed below which have been adapted from the achievement scales of the current language curriculum guidelines. The entries that exhibit the highest level of performance overall will be named winners.

Creativity: impact and originality
Reasoning: level of understanding, range and complexity of ideas
Communication: clarity of purpose and expression
Organization: control and complexity of form
AI-Free Verification: no AI-generated content

7. PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING WINNERS

7.1 The OECTA school association representative selects the winners at the school level. It is recommended that the OECTA school association representative establish a selection committee comprised of student, parent and teacher representatives to assist with the selection of the winners to advance to the unit level of competition.

7.2 The unit president or the unit contact person designated by the president selects the winners at the unit level. It is recommended that the president or designated contact establish a selection committee comprised of representatives of the executive and OECTA school association representatives from more than one school to assist with the selection of the winners to advance from the unit to the provincial level of competition.

7.3 A provincial selection committee selects the provincial winners. The selection committee is comprised of classroom teachers representing different grades and OECTA units. A call for applicants to serve on the provincial selection committee will be posted at the beginning of February.

8. EDITING POLICY

8.1 All forms of editing associated with the writing process approach to writing instruction are permitted and encouraged. Students may receive feedback and advice on their writing from their teachers, peers and parents. Teachers may note errors in writing but should give any suggestions for corrections and improvements orally. Students should make corrections and improvements themselves. Students should be encouraged to use (Canadian) spelling and grammar checks.

8.2 Winning entries may be edited slightly by the provincial selection committee before publication (for significant spelling/grammar errors). Every effort will be made to change the works as little as possible and to correct errors without changing the level of sophistication of the writing.

Submit your students' writing to the contest through your OECTA school association representative, with the completed entry form.