








Items that Impact How a YA Book is Judged

****Here are a few things to note...neatness, covers, and spell check. Please let your covers sell the book. They should draw the reader in. Don't color over the words (this goes for the inside pages as well). The pictures should be neat and should not look like an afterthought. Make sure that your story has a beginning, middle and end. Don't just stop a story just because you are tired of writing. Please use spell and grammar check. This is a final draft! Lots of errors cost the book votes even though it might be the best story.**

Helpful Hints and Such

-  These are to be published books...typed and neatly illustrated. Colored pencils work best in the upper grades. Do NOT color over words!!! Do NOT use markers!
-  For most picture books...a font size of 24 works nicely and a larger font for cover. Plain fonts are best for the text of the book and save the fancier, hard to read ones for the title. I usually type all the text on one page, change the font and font size, adjust my margins so that the left hand margin is 1 inch and the rest 0.5 inch, then I move the text down onto other pages by hitting enter as many times as needed.
-  Please spell and grammar check the books...Microsoft Office will catch most mistakes if you will run the spell and grammar check when you are finished typing the text. Books with these kinds of mistakes are promptly noticed by the judges and usually aren't picked to represent our school.
-  Please follow the guidelines attached for putting your YA Books together. Cover with Title, Author, and Lincoln Elementary typed on the front cover, Title page (can be another copy of the front), Dedication Page (optional), and Story. Typed Manuscript form laminated on the back of the cover page and the About the Author page with student picture laminated on the inside of the back cover.
-  The book pages are 8.5 X 11 so the construction paper cover will need to be cut down to 8.5 X 11. Then trim the cover printer paper down to 7.5 X 10 so that it will fit on the construction paper.
-  Personal photographs may be used with or instead of illustrations.
-  Images from the Internet must be cited in a bibliography on a separate piece of paper at the end of their story.