2016-17 Writing and Illustration Contest

This year, we’ve updated our annual writing contest to create the two-part Writing and Illustration Contest! Check out the details below, and remember that you can participate in either part without participating in the other, or you can do both!  **Deadline:** The postmark deadline for the writing contest is January 20, 2017.

**Part 1: Creative writing contest**

It is a beautiful Saturday morning. While on patrol, an animal control officer is summoned to investigate the report of a wandering dog. The dog appears friendly, but is hungry and very dirty. As the officer attempts to apprehend the dog, the dog escapes and runs away...

Create a story that shares the adventure after the dog’s escape, from the dog’s perspective. What happens next? Where does the dog go? The story must include interactions between the dog and at least three other characters (animal or human) who cause significant changes in the dog’s adventure.

**Keep in mind**

As you write your story, remember that all stories for this contest:

- should have a beginning, middle, and end
- should be appropriate for posting on the Duke TIP website
- should not exceed one thousand words (excluding the title)
- may be told in either first or third person

**Story requirements**

You must:

- not exceed one thousand words (excluding the title)
- type and double-space your story—a parent or other person may type your entry, but they must type it exactly as you have written it to maintain the integrity of your original work
- not include your name or your TIP ID on your story, only on the cover sheet.
- include the title of your story on the cover sheet, as well as every page of your story.
- submit two copies of your story with a single cover sheet (this ensures that we have one copy for our files and one for judging)

**Cover sheet requirements**

Your cover sheet must include:

- your name
- your Duke TIP ID number – you must be enrolled in Duke TIP 4th-6th Grade Talent Search to participate
- your (or your parent’s or guardian’s) email address (so we can confirm your submission)
- your parent’s or guardian’s phone number
- your grade
- number of words in your story (excluding title)
- the name, city, and state of the school you attended when enrolling in Duke TIP
- the name, city, and state of your current school, if different from your enrolling school
- the title of your story

**Part 2: Illustration contest**

In the second part of the Writing and Illustration Contest, participants will be asked to create an illustration based on the winning story for their grade. The illustration component will open on March 1, 2017. The winning stories, as well as detailed guidelines, will be posted on the website at that time.

Questions? Email us at 456talentsearch@tip.duke.edu or visit [www.tip.duke.edu/writingcontest](http://www.tip.duke.edu/writingcontest)
General guidelines
To write a compelling story, you should:
 use appropriate vocabulary to create a visual picture of the story as you describe the dog’s adventures
 have a clear introduction, body, and conclusion
 make sure you don't have any punctuation, spelling, or grammatical errors (remember that computer spell checks do not catch all errors!)
 write a conclusion that brings the overall story theme together, wraps up the story’s events, and makes sense
 have a teacher, parent, or other adult review your story and make general suggestions (but not specific corrections) regarding format or grammar; however, your entry must be your original work

Before you mail your entry
Before you send us your story, make sure you double check that you:
 included a cover sheet with all required information, including word count and title (see above)
 typed and printed your story on 8.5” by 11” paper
 included two copies of your story that both meet all the requirements
 are submitting a story that is your own work, that you did not copy anything you have read by another person, and that all of the ideas and writing are your own
 followed the rules of grammar and mechanics and checked for spelling and punctuation errors
 included the title of your story on each page
 did not include your name in the story or on the entry pages, but did include it on the attached cover sheet

Where to submit
Once you have checked your submission to make sure you meet all the guidelines, please mail your entry to:
2017 Duke TIP Writing Contest
300 Fuller Street
Durham, NC 27701
Emailed entries will not be accepted

Deadline
The postmark deadline for the writing contest (Part 1) is January 20, 2017.

Prizes
Winners will be highlighted in Navigator, the 4th–6th Grade Talent Search's online magazine, and on our website. We will post the names, grades, and schools of the winners, along with their submissions. Writing contest winners will be posted in the spring, and illustration contest winners in the early summer.

Three winners will be announced from each grade for each part of the contest, and all winners and their enrolling schools receive cash prizes as follows:
 $200 to first place winner from each grade and their enrolling school
 $100 to first place winner from each grade and their enrolling school
 $50 to first place winner from each grade and their enrolling school

Additional details
The Duke TIP Writing and Illustration Contest is a benefit of participation in the 4th–6th Grade Talent Search and is open to current participants only. Students can only submit one entry for each part of the contest each year, and due to the large number of entries received, Duke TIP is unable to provide feedback or return individual submissions. However, we will provide a confirmation of receipt by email.

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