



## Mississippi Department of Education

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Trecina Green, Bureau Director   
Office of Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: Reading Fair 2011

DATE: September 17, 2010

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction is pleased to announce the 13th annual Mississippi Reading Fair. The state reading fair provides students in grades kindergarten through twelve the opportunity to share their favorite book through a storyboard display. *Students in grades 4-12 have the option of sharing a favorite fiction or non-fiction book.*

A successful fair is one in which students enjoy the process of reading, creating a project, and sharing their favorite book whether individually, with peers, or with family members. Ultimately, as a result of participating in this process, students should experience a deeper enjoyment from reading and develop a lifelong love of reading.

The guidelines and condensed rubrics (fiction and non-fiction) are enclosed. A sample permission form for photographing, videotaping, and posting of pictures on websites is also included. Districts may opt to use their standard permission form. Please disseminate the attached information to all principals in your district.

Fairs at the school and/or district levels must be held before January 31, 2011, since regional competitions are expected to begin in February 2011. Information concerning dates and locations of regional reading fair competitions will be mailed to districts at a later date.

The state level competition will be conducted on May 20, 2011. Each school, district, and regional fair may decide to award more place winners, as well as special award winners. Only the first place winners will advance to the next level of competition.

For further information, please contact Lakechia Grant at: (601) 359-3778 or [lgrant@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:lgrant@mde.k12.ms.us).

### Enclosures

C: Dr. Tom Burnham  
Dr. Lynn House



## MISSISSIPPI READING FAIR 2011 GUIDELINES

Sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Education  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction



- Storyboards should be constructed on a tri-fold project board, the same type that are traditionally used for science fairs, measuring at least 30" H x 40" W and not exceeding 36" H x 48" W. This year's boards are to be full-sized and boards are not to exceed the approved height, width, and depth guidelines. Boards that do not meet the size requirements will be disqualified, *even if they proceed to the State Reading Fair*. Electrical cords will not be allowed due to the danger they create in the aisles.
- Storyboards should be colorful and interesting. Models, shadowboxes, and illustrations that *fit in the middle of the display* are allowed. The total project should not exceed the width or depth of the standing display board (approximately 36" W x 14" D of table space). No items should hang over the edge of the table or be placed on the floor. However, students may hold or wear items that coordinate with the project, if desired. Items used for the project are not to be alive, valuable, or dangerous.
- Identifying information (name of the student(s), category and division, student's grade level, homeroom teacher's name, school and district name) should be labeled on the back of the storyboard. If this identifying information is on the front, the project is disqualified.
- Students in grades 4-12 have the opportunity to share their favorite non-fiction book. All students deciding to do so are to compete in the Individual Category, within their specified grade group (Divisions M-N) All other entries should represent only **fictional** books. Remember the school's librarian is an excellent resource for determining if the book selected is indeed fictional. **(Please see pages 4-6 for clarifying information on both text types.)**
- We encourage students and teachers to accompany their projects throughout the competitions; however, it is not required. Attendance at the local, regional or State Reading Fair is encouraged because judges may wish to question students about projects. Only students may represent the projects during the judging, even for the group and family projects.

- Kindergarten and first grade students may select a book for their project that they have read or listened to. Questions may be simplified for young students. For example: What is the title of the book? Who are the main characters? Who wrote the book? Where and when did the story happen? What is the book about? What happens in the book? Was there a problem in the story? How was the problem solved? Why do you think the author wrote the book? How did the book make you feel?
- Items on the boards may be handwritten or typed. Kindergarten students and other young students may require assistance in writing, typing, spelling, cutting, etc. This is permissible and part of the learning process; however, if a student of any age has extensive assistance, please enter the project in the family category for grades K-3 or 4-8.
- The family division projects should portray a book appropriate to the age of the child(ren). The child should be very knowledgeable about the book's story elements and should have an active part in the construction of the display. The individual and group categories will be judged more closely on whether the project shows work appropriate for the age level of the student. (If a group or family project has students in various grades, the project should be placed in the division of the oldest student.)
- The first place winner of each category division at the local level will advance to the district level. District Reading Fairs should be completed by January 31, 2011, but may be held as early as October 8, 2010. District Reading Fair winners in each division will advance to one of the Regional Reading Fairs at a location to be determined by the Mississippi Department of Education. Regional Fairs will be scheduled during February-March, 2011. The first place regional winner in each category will advance to the State Reading Fair, which will be scheduled for May 20, 2011, at the Department of Education in Jackson.

**Mississippi Department of Education  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction  
2011 Reading Fair Categories**

This year's students will be judged in the following divisions:

**Individual Categories**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Division</b>
Kindergarten	Division A
Grade 1	Division B
Grade 2	Division C
Grade 3	Division D
Grades 4-5	Division E
Grades 6-8	Division F
Grades 9-12	Division G

**Group Project Categories**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Division</b>
Grades K-3	Division H
Grades 4-8	Division I
Grades 9-12	Division J

**Family Project Categories**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Division</b>
Grades K-3	Division K
Grades 4-8	Division L

**Non-Fiction Individual Categories**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Division</b>
Grades 4-8	Division M
Grades 9-12	Division N

Each school district may be represented by only **one** project from each division at the Regional Reading Fair.

**Mississippi Department of Education  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction  
Understanding Non-Fictional Text**

The first component of non-fiction is *genre*. Genres of **non-fiction** can be identified by one single factor: the intent, or purpose, of the writing. On the other hand, genre of **fiction** blends together. For instance, a fantasy story can have characteristics of an adventure story, but not all adventure stories are fantasies. Genres of non-fiction are more clearly defined than fiction. They explain the intent of the author or the purpose of the material.

The six main genre of non-fiction are:

1. Instructional: describes how something is done or made.
2. Explanatory: tells what happened or how something works, with defined reasons.
3. Report: tells how things are or are discovered.
4. Discussion: looks at both sides of an idea and makes a decision.
5. Opinion: decides on a point-of-view and has reasons to support the view.
6. Relate: retells the information or events for an audience.

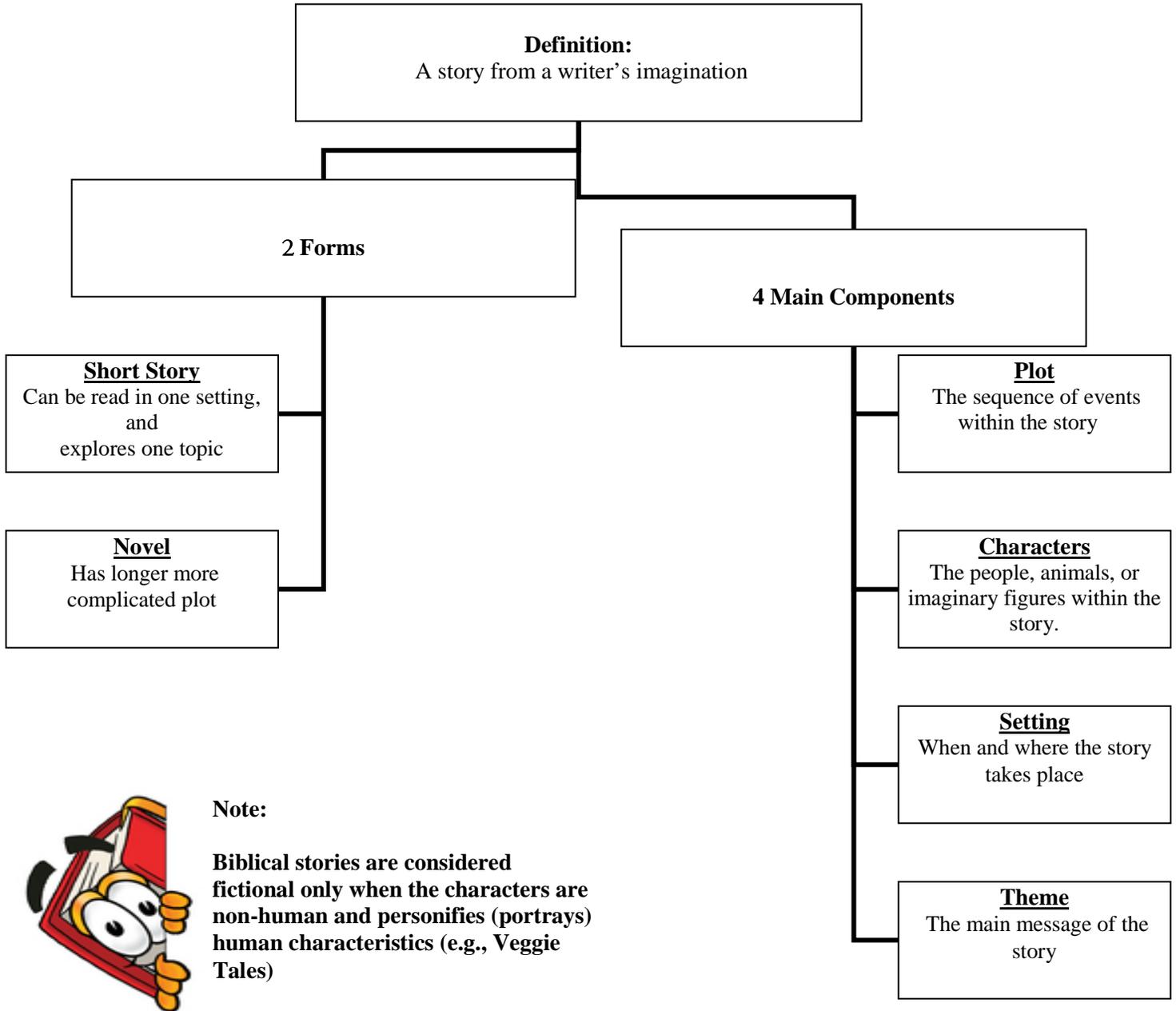
Students should be aware of the variety and format of the structures of non-fictional text. Some structures or formats of non-fiction can be seen within a variety of text. For example, a speech can be instructional, explanatory, a report, opinion, discussion, or relating. On the contrary, a recipe is considered instructional. This is one thing that makes non-fictional text so unique. The structure can take on different tones and formats depending on the author's intent. See Figure 1-1 for an appended list of genre and formats of non-fictional text. Only the formats labeled with an *asterisk* (\*) can be used for Reading Fair projects.

Figure 1-1

<b>Structures/Formats of Non-Fictional Text</b>			
Almanacs	Editorials*	Magazine Articles	Presentations*
Autobiographies*	Essays*	Manuals	Proposals*
Biographies *	Evaluations	Newspaper Articles	Recipes
Book/Movie Reviews*	Guides	Notices	Reports*
Brochures	Interviews*	Obituaries	Request Forms
Consumer Reports*	Journals*	Observations*	Rules
Debates*	Letters	Polls/Surveys	Speeches*
Demonstrations	Logs	Postcards	Travelogues

\*Can be used for Reading Fair Projects

Mississippi Department of Education  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction  
Characteristics of Fictional Text



**Mississippi Department of Education  
Annual State Reading Fair Photograph/Video Permission Slip**

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**District:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Book:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of individual(s) presenting storyboard at the Mississippi Department of Education State Reading Fair:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please select the category and division your student will represent.

Category	Division						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Individual							
Group	H	I	J				
Family	K	L					
Non-Fiction	M	N					

I give permission for the above named individual(s) presenting at the State Level Reading Fair to be photographed and/or videotaped.

I do not give permission for the above named individual(s) presenting at the State Level Reading Fair to be photographed and/or videotaped.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Mississippi Department of Education  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction**

**READING FAIR 2011 JUDGE'S RUBRIC (Fiction)**

**PARTICIPANT #** \_\_\_\_\_ **JUDGE #** \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Place "+" next to each story element that is present.  
Place "-" next to each story element that is not present.

Story Elements	+ or -
1. Title	
2. Author	
3. Publisher and Publication Date	
4. Setting - place and time of story	
5. Main Characters - only those important to the story line	
6. Brief Plot summary - not a retelling of what the story is about and what takes place	
7. Conflict - the problem in the story	
8. Solution or Resolution - how the problem is resolved	
9. Author's Purpose - why the author wrote the story (to entertain, inform, persuade, or a combination)	
10. Tone or Mood - the tone affects the feelings of the reader or how the author wants the reader to feel when reading the story	
<b>Total Points Deducted</b>	

**An automatic 10 points will be deducted if any of the story elements are not present on the storyboard.**

For Divisions A-J: Subtract 10 points if student involvement is not evident in the display.

**(Scoring Rubric continued on next page)**

CATEGORY	SCORING	POINT TOTAL
<p align="center"><b>Clarity of Writing</b></p> <p>Captures attention</p> <p>Is easily understood</p>	<p align="center">Lowest <span style="float:right">Highest</span></p> <p align="center">1    2    3    4    5</p> <p align="center">1    2    3    4    5</p>	<p align="center">10 Points / _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>Creativity</b></p> <p>Has originality of subject or idea</p> <p>Has imagination in manner of production/presentation</p> <p>Has clever, inventive and effective use of materials to express ideas</p>	<p align="center">Lowest <span style="float:right">Highest</span></p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p align="center">30 Points / _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>Quality of Project</b></p> <p>Follows directions</p> <p>Demonstrates skill, craftsmanship, and durability</p>	<p align="center">Lowest <span style="float:right">Highest</span></p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p align="center">20 Points / _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>Thoroughness of Written Information</b></p> <p>Places proper emphasis on important items</p> <p>Has completely portrayed the concept of the book</p>	<p align="center">Lowest <span style="float:right">Highest</span></p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p align="center">20 Points / _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>Interest Evoked</b></p> <p>Represents real study and effort</p> <p>Exhibits appropriate age level</p> <p>Encourages viewer to read book</p> <p>Is visually appealing</p>	<p align="center">Lowest <span style="float:right">Highest</span></p> <p align="center">1    2    3    4    5</p>	<p align="center">20 Points / _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>Judge # _____</b></p>		<p><b>Total Points</b>            _____</p> <p><b>Points subtracted</b>    _____</p> <p><b>(from page 1)</b></p> <p><b>Grand Total</b>            _____</p>

**Mississippi Department of Education  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction**

**READING FAIR 2011 JUDGE'S RUBRIC (Non-Fiction)**

**PARTICIPANT #** \_\_\_\_\_ **JUDGE #** \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Place "+" next to each non-fiction element that is present.  
Place "-" next to each non-fiction element that is not present.

<b>Non-fiction</b>	+ or -
1. Title	
2. Author	
3. Publisher and Publication Date	
4. Student Prediction based on events and facts presented (before and after reading)	
5. Structure of Text/Genre (Discussion, Report, Explanatory, Opinion, Instructional or Relate)	
6. Use of Graphic Organizers (including, but not limited to: compare/contrast, cause/effect, problem solving) to capture the main idea and/or main points that are important to the text	
7. Brief Summary about the book (50 words or less, not word-for-word retelling) about the book	
8. Student-made Connections (text-to-self, text-to-text, and/or text-to-world)	
9. Author's Purpose - why the author wrote the story (entertain, inform, persuade, or a combination)	
10. Follow-up questions to the author after reading the non-fiction text	
<b>Total Points Deducted</b>	

**An automatic 10 points will be deducted if any of the above elements are not present on the project board.**

**(Scoring Rubric continued on next page)**

CATEGORY	SCORING	POINT TOTAL
<p align="center"><b>Clarity of Writing</b></p> <p>Captures attention</p> <p>Is easily understood</p>	<p align="center">Lowest <span style="float:right">Highest</span></p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p align="center">20 Points / _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>Creativity</b></p> <p>Shows imagination in manner of production/presentation</p> <p>Effectively uses materials to express ideas cleverly and inventively</p>	<p align="center">Lowest <span style="float:right">Highest</span></p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p align="center">20 Points / _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>Quality of Project</b></p> <p>Follows directions</p> <p>Has durability/skill and craftsmanship</p>	<p align="center">Lowest <span style="float:right">Highest</span></p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p align="center">20 Points / _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>Thoroughness of Written Information</b></p> <p>Emphasizes important items properly</p> <p>Completely portrays the concept of the book</p> <p>Uses appropriate graphic organizer to illustrate main idea of the author</p>	<p align="center">Lowest <span style="float:right">Highest</span></p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	<p align="center">30 Points / _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>Interest Evoked</b></p> <p>Represents real study and effort</p> <p>Encourages viewer to read this book</p>	<p align="center">Lowest <span style="float:right">Highest</span></p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5</p> <p align="center">1 2 3 4 5</p>	<p align="center">10 Points / _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>Judge # _____</b></p>		<p><b>Total Points</b> _____</p> <p><b>Points subtracted (from page 1)</b> _____</p> <p><b>Grand Total</b> _____</p>