

LITERATURE is the art of writing. The author (e.g., student submitting the entry) is a person who expresses their own thoughts and ideas through the use of words. *Collections of literary work, such as multiple poems or short stories are not accepted.*



To Portray Your Original Writing

- **Consider the following literary styles**, Prose, Poetry, Drama, Reflective Essay, Narrative, Short Story.
- **To show a clear relation to the theme**, use fiction or non-fiction, plot and characterization, setting and imagery, style, symbolism, etc.

Illustration, Translation & Transcription

Illustration

The following uses of illustration are acceptable:

- **Originality**: Illustrated entries are acceptable if the visual content is created by the student artist. *Only literary content is judged.*
- **Prioritize Your Writing**: The plot or purpose of an illustrated entry must be explained through written content, not illustration. For example, an illustrated comic may be accepted, but only the written plot, dialogue, and descriptions will be reviewed.

Dictation, Transcription and Translation

As necessary, the following uses of dictation, transcription and translation are acceptable. Collaborate with your PTA/PTSA or state PTA on any additional needs.

- **Translation**: Students may submit in their preferred language. An interpretive translation in English must accompany the entry.
- **Transcription**: Based on the student's grade and/or support needs, entries may be dictated to another person and printed or typed in exact words as provided by the student.
- **Accuracy**: Translators/transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

DIGITAL TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY

Digital technology and/or software may not provide the primary design and/or

concept, but can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry. Entries may not be exclusively created with generative tools (e.g., AI) and/or composed exclusively of elements generated or provided by the technology platform.

Accepted:

- A sound library generated performance of student's original composed score.
- Use of audio editing platforms to mix, enhance or completely transform original audio.

Not Accepted:

- Algorithmic composition techniques in music submissions.
- Use of templates, formulas, etc. provided by a platform/technology.

Guidelines

- **Describe Use of Technology:** If digital technology is used, *entrants must use the "Additional Details" field to provide a brief description* of the tools and method used in the creation process, including any generative elements (10 to 50 words).
- **Verify Prohibited Technology:** Check if your state PTA prohibits the use of any digital platforms and/or methods (i.e., artificial intelligence).

Overall Entry Guidelines



These are basic guidelines that all Reflections entries must meet to be eligible on the national level. *Additional state and/or local program requirements may apply.*

Each entry must be new artwork inspired by the current year's theme are accepted.

- **Theme-Inspired:** Engage with the theme and create inspired artwork. This is critical to success in Reflections.
- **New Artwork:** Do not “recycle” artwork by submitting a piece created for other purposes (e.g., homework not related to Reflections; art used in another competition).

Each entry must be the original work of one student only.

- **Individual Originality:** Reflections is designed to encourage and recognize individual creativity, artistic assistance from friends, family and/or teachers is not allowed.
- **No Group Submissions:** Only one student will be awarded for each entry.
- **Artwork Details:** Titles or artist statements must be the student's own words and interpretations of the theme.
- **Creative Choices:** Decisions in the creative process must be made and/or directed by the student. If support is required, it should be limited and appropriate to the student's grade and needs.

Each entry must contain a title and an artist statement.

- **Word Count:** Artist's statement must include at least 10 words and not exceed 100 words.
- **Be Creative and Unique:** Each entry submitted in Reflections must have a unique title and artist statement specific to that submission. Learn more about crafting a title and artist statement in the section below.

Each entry using digital technology/software in creation process must consider the following:

- **Enhance:** Technology/software *may be used to* develop, enhance and/or present an entry.
- **Original Use:** Technology/software *may not be use to* provide the primary design and/or concept.
- **Use Description:** Entrants must use the “Additional Details” field on their entry form to briefly describe the tools and method used in the creation process, including any generative elements (10 to 50 words).