

2018 Georgia National Fair Fair Bear Writing Competition

for Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades



Story Theme:

“Fair Bear's Family Reunion”

Fair Bear loves family and making new memories, and there's no better way to celebrate family traditions than at the annual Fair Bear family reunion.

In keeping with the Georgia National Fair theme for this year, 'Family - Traditions - Memories', students are asked to write a story describing Fair Bear's family traditions he looks forward to keeping each year, and new memories he looks forward to making at the annual family reunion. Who does Fair Bear look forward to seeing the most? What old favorite family recipe will Fair Bear's grandmother bring? Will Papa Bear tell the cousins the same old stories that he's been telling for years? Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all come hoping to make more memories to cherish each year.

Teachers, this is an excellent Creative Writing exercise to use in your classroom. It's easy to enter and a great opportunity to win prize money for your school!



Postmark Deadline
February 20, 2018

The "Bear" Facts

You are invited to write a story about a very special American black bear who lived from about 1980 to 1993 in middle Georgia near the Georgia National Fairgrounds. The bear was seen off and on by people who lived in the area. None of the people who saw the bear could believe it was really a bear at first! Once, the black bear was seen in a neighborhood subdivision located in a wooded area across the interstate from the Fairgrounds. Another year the bear was seen on a nearby road south of the Fairgrounds, paws on the top wire of a fence, watching the cars go by. In June 1993, the last reported encounter was described by a Perry resident who was jogging through the Fairgrounds just before dark. "I heard tractor-trailer trucks putting on brakes on the interstate and I looked to see why they were slowing down. I saw a large black animal standing by the fence near the west gate entrance to the Fairgrounds. I stopped jogging to get a better look at the animal and realized it was a black bear. The bear was standing with its paws on the fence watching me. Then the bear climbed over the fence and again stood on its back feet to get a better look at me. I didn't try to get a better look at the bear; I ran!" The bear's path often crossed I-75 near the Fairgrounds, which is a very busy interstate. One day the bear was hit by a car on the interstate and died. The people who had kept track of the bear were sad. The black bear was taken to a taxidermist so that more people would be able to see the beautiful bear. The bear's name is "Fair Bear" and has become the Georgia National Fair mascot.

Fair Bear has been the subject of the Georgia National Fair writing competition for 4th, 5th and 6th graders since 1994.

2017 Winners:

FOURTH GRADE

First Place

Charles Spivey
East Laurens Elementary/East Dublin
Laurens County Schools
Teacher: Mrs. Jennifer Stone

Second Place

Isabella Gerard
Tucker Elementary/Perry
Houston County Schools
Teacher: Mrs. Jennifer Sapp

Third Place

Kerra Mixon
Johnson County Elementary/Wrightsville
Johnson County Schools
Teacher: Ms. Haley Blackwell

FIFTH GRADE

First Place

Lily Collins
Southwest Laurens Elementary/Rentz
Laurens County Schools
Teacher: Mrs. Pam Hall

Second Place

Jimbo Farr
Hilltop Elementary/Bonaire
Houston County Schools
Teacher: Ms. Shelby Wright

Third Place

Lillian Gregory
Ruskin Elementary/Waycross
Ware County Schools
Teacher: Mrs. Tanya Hodges

SIXTH GRADE

First Place

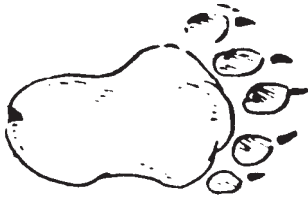
Mary Grace Winfrey
Johnson County Middle/Wrightsville
Johnson County Schools
Teacher: Ms. Beth Hall

Second Place

Reid Phillips
Tiftarea Academy/Chula
Independent
Teacher: Mrs. Sandra Summer

Third Place

Alexia Walden
Thomas County Middle School/Thomasville
Thomas County Schools
Teacher: Mrs. Laurel Johnson



GENERAL RULES



Suggested Time Line: *Classroom winners determined by December 8, 2017*
 School-wide winners determined by January 21, 2018
 System-wide winners determined by February 18, 2018

Questions? call 478-988-6555
or email skusuda@gnfa.com

Entry Deadline: *System winners must be mailed to the Georgia National Fair by February 20, 2018.*

WHAT TEACHERS NEED TO DO:

1. This writing competition is open to all 4th, 5th and 6th grade students currently enrolled in Georgia public schools and private schools accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission, and must reflect the theme, "**Fair Bear's Family Reunion**"
2. Students who entered last year (including winners) may enter this year.
3. Writing entries should be between **200 and 500 words**. Entries submitted must be original and must have been written by the student under a teacher's supervision and may be completed as part of the regular classroom writing program. Each entry must be prepared by the student. The essay should be **neatly handwritten on standard ruled note paper**. Students should use one side of the paper only. Students should rewrite their essays after teachers correct their first efforts. Spelling/grammar errors will result in point deductions. **The corrected copy** should be the one submitted for the competition. **Typed or computer generated work will be disqualified!**
4. Please put the name of the school and the student's name on the **BACK** of each page of the student's paper. A completed official entry form must be attached to each entry. An entry number will be assigned by the Georgia National Fair for judging purposes.
5. Winning entries may be used in future publications of the Georgia National Fair. All entries become the property of the Georgia National Fair. Entries will not be returned. Please make copies prior to submitting students' work.
6. **Determine classroom winners by: December 8, 2017; Determine school winners by January 21, 2018.**
7. **Mail school winners to system office by January 21, 2018. Teachers: your school system Curriculum Coordinator/ Language Arts Coordinator must sign the entry forms even though there may not have been a system-wide competition.**
8. **Please mail or fax "Total Entries By School" form to Georgia National Fair.**

WHAT SYSTEM COORDINATORS NEED TO DO:

1. Receive and judge fourth, fifth and sixth grade entries from all schools in system. Choose a first place winner from each grade level.
2. Each school system is asked to submit **only one entry for each grade level!** Stories will **not** be accepted **directly from individual schools** within a system. Each story submitted must have a completed entry form attached.
3. **Deadline: Postmarked by February 20, 2018.** System winners should be mailed to: Fair Bear Writing Competition, Georgia National Fair, 401 Larry Walker Parkway, Perry, GA 31069.

JUDGING

Procedures for Classroom Judging, School-Wide Judging and System-Wide Judging: It is recommended that the procedures listed in the Official Rules Booklet of "The Young Georgia Authors' Exposition and Recognition" (found at: <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/English-Language-Arts-Program.aspx>) be used as a guide for selecting the system winners in the three levels of the "Fair Bear" Creative Writing Competition.

Procedures for final judging at the Georgia National Fairgrounds:

1. Entries for the final judging will be scored using the guidelines on the following page, and in addition should show evidence of creativity and use of theme -"**Fair Bear's Family Reunion.**"
2. Judges for the final phase of the competition will be selected from language arts professionals in Georgia. A panel will be chosen for each grade level of competition.
3. The judges will not have access to each other's scores while judging nor shall they know the writer's name or school system.
4. The writing entry with the highest score at each grade level will be the first-place winner; next highest score at each grade level will receive second place; and the third highest score at each grade level will receive third place.
5. The first-place winners from the three levels will be read by a panel of judges to determine the Grand Prize Winner. The Grand Prize Winner will receive grand prize awards in addition to the first-place awards.
6. A list of winners will be posted online by April 15, 2018. Winning principals, teachers and students will be notified by mail by April 20, 2018.
7. Awards will be presented during a special ceremony at the 29th annual Georgia National Fair on Saturday, October 6, 2018.

Fair Bear Competition Judging Guidelines:

Content and Organization (maximum 30 points)
(Response to assigned task (**see rule 1**), clearly established controlling idea, relevant and clearly developed supporting ideas, sense of order, flow of ideas, sense of completeness)

Sentence Formation (maximum 20 points)
(Appropriate end punctuation, complete sentences, appropriate coordination and subordination)

Conventions of Written Language (maximum 20 points)
(appropriate usage and mechanics)

Style (maximum 20 points)
(Effective diction, varied and effective sentence structure, tone consistent with topic and purpose, sense of audience)

Creativity (maximum 10 points)

Total (maximum 100 points)



SCHOOLS

GRAND PRIZE: \$250
Plaque

Final winners in each grade level will receive:

First Place: \$150
Certificate

Second Place: \$100
Certificate

Third Place: \$75
Certificate

STUDENTS

\$250
Plaque

\$100
Certificate
Commemorative Fair Bear
*Trip for winner and family to 2018 GNF

\$75
Certificate
Commemorative Fair Bear
*Trip for winner and family to 2018 GNF

\$50
Certificate
Commemorative Fair Bear
*Trip for winner and family to 2018 GNF

All entries submitted in compliance with the rules and accepted for final competition will receive a certificate from the Georgia National Fair.

*Hotel Accommodations if needed (one room, one night at a hotel/motel booked by the Georgia National Fair); \$50 in Georgia National Fair Food Coupons, four gate passes & two sheets of advance ride coupons good for 12 to 20 rides.

2018 GEORGIA NATIONAL "FAIR BEAR" Creative Writing Competition Official Entry Form

COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION

*Unsigned and/or incomplete forms will not be considered for judging.

*ATTACH THIS FORM TO ALL ENTRIES.

*After system judging, mail winners to: Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter,
Fair Bear Competition, 401 Larry Walker Parkway, Perry, GA 31069

DEADLINE - February 20, 2018

Please type or print



Student's Grade Level

____ 4th ____ 5th ____ 6th

ENTRY NO. _____

(To be completed by GNF)

Student: _____ Age: _____

First Name

Last Name

Home Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Parent/Guardian Work Phone: _____

School (Full Name): _____ School System: _____

Superintendent: _____

Principal: _____ Address: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ School System

Language Arts/Contest Coordinator: _____

School Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Teacher's Full Name: Mr. - Mrs. - Ms. - Miss - Dr. (Circle One): _____

Type or Print

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Type or Print

This entry is my own original work and represents my best writing efforts.

Student's Signature

We are familiar with this student's writing. We have read this entry. We are satisfied it is his or her own original idea and work and represents his or her best writing efforts.

Teacher's Signature

Local System Writing Coordinator's Signature

2018 Georgia National Fair Fair Bear Writing Competition Total Number of Entries By School

In an effort to take a true measure of participation in the competition, we are trying to collect data on the total number of participants. Please fill out this form at the school level and return it to the Georgia National Fair "Fair Bear" Program.

School Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

4th Grade - Total Number Participants _____

5th Grade - Total Number Participants _____

6th Grade - Total Number Participants _____

Please mail to: Georgia National Fair, 401 Larry Walker Pkwy., Perry, GA 31069, or fax to 478-988-6514.