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## ***When Characters Come To Life!*** **2025-2026 Orleans-Niagara Teacher Center Literacy Contest**

### **Attention Teachers!**

Looking for a fun and meaningful way to spark a love of reading and writing in your students? Our Annual Literacy Contest is back—and this year's theme celebrates the magic of *connection through characters*! Students are invited to write about a book character who felt real to them—someone who made them laugh, think, or see the world differently. This contest encourages reflection, empathy, and creativity as students explore how stories shape who we are.

Encourage students to explore:

- Who the character is and what makes them unforgettable.
- Why the character's story matters.
- How they personally connect—through shared challenges, traits, or life lessons.

It's a wonderful opportunity for students to blend literary analysis with personal reflection, deepening both their writing skills and their appreciation for storytelling. Let's inspire our students to reflect, imagine, and express how the power of story connects us all. The possibilities are endless—let the writing adventure begin!

### **Additional Information:**

1. The top 2-3 entries from each grade (K-8) will be selected to receive a top winner prize. All other entries will be acknowledged and receive a medal and token gift at the awards ceremony at the end of April, date and location TBD.
2. Students may submit entries in any format they wish (see examples below), noting that creativity will be a major factor in scoring. All entries **MUST** include some form of writing as this is a literacy contest.
3. Each teacher may submit up to 5 entries per class/class period.
4. All entries must be submitted electronically [using this form](#). Any hand drawings or handwritten entries must be scanned and saved as electronic files. Links to entries will also be accepted.

Examples of entries and ideas for apps to use include, but are not limited to: a written narrative with pictures/drawings (Google Doc), a picture story with text (Book Creator), a persuasive essay or speech, a slideshow (Google Slides, PowerPoint), a comic strip with text (Adobe Spark, Pixton), an electronic poster (Canva), etc. **Whatever the format of the entry, creativity is highly encouraged!**

**The submission deadline is March 12, 2026.**

**All entries must be submitted electronically using this [Google form](#)**

**Entries will be scored on the following:**

- Content - the entry relates to the theme and makes a personal connection to the character
- Voice - the entry is engaging to the reader
- Creativity - the format selected is creative and took forethought
- Authenticism - the entry is the original work of the student (mistakes are OK)
- Grammar and Punctuation - text follows age appropriate English Language grammar rules

**Students may not use any Artificial Intelligence tools for this contest. ALL work must be original and written on their own. Younger grades may receive limited assistance from teachers.**