

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Wisconsin State Organization's Annual Mary Jo Nettesheim Memorial Literary and Illustrator Competition est. 1984 2026 Contest Information



Local Chapter: <i>Omicron</i>	Due Date: January 30, 2026
Chapter Contact Name: <i>Stephanie Malaney</i>	Contact's email: <i>smalaney5@aol.com</i>
Submit books for judging to (Name/Address): <i>Stephanie Malaney 307 E MCARTHUR ST. Appleton, WI 54911</i>	

Additional Information available:

<https://dkgwso.weebly.com/literary-competition.html>
wsolitcomp@gmail.com

Entrance Requirements

- To enter, a student must attend a Wisconsin school and be in grades 3-12 this school year.
Books must be entered at the current grade level.

Book Requirements

- The book must be written and illustrated by **one student**.
 - **Pages must be numbered.**
- The book should be an **original fiction or an enhanced personal narrative** with well-developed characters, setting, and plot.
 - *All written content must be entirely each student's own work.*
 - *AI generated text is not acceptable.*
- Poetry is not accepted.
- Stories may be handwritten or typed computer printouts. Someone other than the author may do the typing and editing. Please proofread the book for errors.
- Illustrations can be **original** drawings, collages, computer generated art, paintings, or photographs and must be incorporated into the text. (Not just before or after the story.)
 - *All computer generated art, including all AI tools, or images downloaded from the internet must be cited at the end of the book, including the tool or platform used to generate them. While AI generated images are allowed, they will not be scored as highly as student-created illustrations.*
- Books must have an illustrated or designed cover **and a separate title page** just as professionally-printed books do. The title page must include the book title and author's name.
- Books should be securely bound.
- Each entry must include an **Official Contest Entry Form** attached to inside back cover of the book

- The **maximum** number of words are as follows:

Grade 3	500 Words	Grades 6-8	1,000 Words
Grades 4 and 5	600 Words	Grades 9-12	1,600 Words

Bilingual Spanish and Spanish Entries

- All of the requirements for standard entries apply.
- The book must be written and illustrated by one student.
- It may be written so it contains both Spanish and English text for the Bilingual entries. The author's creativity may allow for both languages to be used together. Spanish entries are written in just the Spanish language.
- Students will write based on their knowledge of Spanish and/or English. Google Translate or other translators are not allowed.

Judges have the right to disqualify any books that do not meet the requirements in any category.

Judging at the Chapter Level

- All books are submitted to the local DKG Chapter for chapter level judging by **January 30, 2026**.
- The local chapter will set dates for their judging.
- The local chapter will send the finalists to the state level competition.

State Literary Competition Entrance Requirements

- Winning books at the chapter level will be forwarded to the state competition by the local literary committee on/or before **March 5, 2026**.
- Individual entrants are not allowed to send their books directly to the state level competition. If you need help finding a chapter, email wsolitcomp@gmail.com for instructions for submitting entry.

State Judging

- Books will be judged using the following criteria: story elements, creativity, originality, and mechanics.

State Literary Awards All winning entries receive a certificate, award and monetary prize:

- 1st Place - \$50 check
- 2nd Place - \$40 check
- 3rd Place - \$30 check
- Honorable Mention - \$20 check

State Illustrator Competition Entrance Requirements

- All chapter level winners whose books are submitted to the State Literary Competition will also be considered for the Illustrator Competition.

Judging

- The student's grade level will be taken into consideration when illustrations are judged.
- Judging criteria will include originality, appropriateness of illustrations to the text and cover design, continuity, creative use of media and techniques, and neatness.
- *All computer-generated art, including all AI tools, or images downloaded from the internet, must be cited at the end of the book, including the tool or platform used to generate them. While AI generated images are allowed, they will not be scored as highly as student-created illustrations.*

State Illustrator Award

- Grand Prize – Award and \$30 check
- 1st Place - Award and \$25 check
- 2nd Place - Award and \$20 check
- 3rd Place - Award and \$15 check

2026 Official Contest Entry Form

Please neatly print this contest page and securely bind it as the LAST PAGE of your book or attached to the INSIDE BACK cover.

Book Title:	Book Word Count:
	Grade:
Author's Legal Name:	Parent Contact Name:
Author's Address:	Author's Parent's email:
Author's City & Zip Code:	Phone Number:
School Name:	Teacher's name:
School Address:	Teacher's email:
My book is <input type="checkbox"/> Fiction <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Narrative <input type="checkbox"/> Bilingual Spanish or Spanish	Please check the following are completed. <input type="checkbox"/> Book is Securely Bound <input type="checkbox"/> Pages are Numbered <input type="checkbox"/> Book has a Title Page By signing below, you are agreeing that you have followed the rules for the competition. You also give permission to DKG to copy all or parts of your book and to use your name, picture, and/or video for publication to promote the Literary Contest.
Illustrations must be throughout the book. Illustration type/medium used: If computer generated images are used, please include citation(s) on the last page of your book.	
Submitted to which local chapter:	
Author's Signature:	
Parent/Guardian Printed Name and Signature:	

Delta Kappa Gamma
Mary Jo Nettesheim Literary Contest
Est. 1984
Spanish Bilingual Category
Est. 2019

Background:

- Just like the English Literary Contest, students need to write their book on their own. The piece needs to be Fictional or a Personal Narrative.
- They need to have a title page, cover page, and illustrations throughout their writing piece. It also needs to be securely bound.
- Categories include elementary (grades 3-5), middle (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12).
- Awards would be given, first through third place, for each level.
- Books are entered into the local chapter's contest first. From there, top entries may be sent to the State-Level Competition.

Who may choose to enter:

- Any student in grades 3-12.
- Students who are learning Spanish as a second language at any level.
- Students whose native language is Spanish and are learning English.
- The Literary Competition could be a special project (enrichment) assigned by the teacher, or the student may ask the teacher if this contest could take the place of other class projects.

What do the entries "look like":

- Students can be creative as to how they want to structure their book; some options are:
 - A book that has a full English translation for Spanish text. Spanish could be written on one page while the English translation is on the opposite page.
 - A book that mixes both Spanish and English; for example, one character could speak in Spanish while another character speaks in English. Another option is that the book is written such that a language is represented in a particular setting; for example, during the parts of the book which are set in school, the book may be in Spanish, while the parts that are at home may be in English. Perhaps the character travels to a Spanish speaking country; when the character is getting ready to leave, and lives in the USA, that part is in English; when the character(s) arrive in México, the book is written in Spanish (or visa versa).

- Really, the book is a mix of Spanish and English; it is up to the author to use his/her creativity to incorporate the two languages into the book. There should be at least 50% Spanish and 50% English throughout the book.

What about the word count: Spanish words are counted if the book is also translated into English; if the book is a mix of Spanish and English, all of the words are counted.

Google Translate: Cannot be used. The focus on the contest is for students to showcase their comprehension of the Spanish & English languages.

Scoring the entries:

- Spanish speaking teachers score the entries.
- The rubric that is used to score the English entries is also used to score the Spanish entries.