

# 2009–2010 National PTA Reflections Program

## LITERATURE RULES

Theme: “Beauty is...”

**Students must adhere to the general rules as well as the following Literature Rules.**

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### Description

Literature entries may be works of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry, and drama are all accepted.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

### Originality

**Each entry must be the original work of one student only.** An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student’s work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student’s individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. **Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Literature entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.**

**Plagiarism** is defined as taking and using another person’s ideas or writings or inventions as one’s own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

### Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the **Official Entry Form**. Students who have not completely filled out the form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child’s name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Official Entry Form.

### Return of Artwork

National PTA does not return literature entries.

### Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme.

### Presentation

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- One original and one copy are to be submitted.
- Entries may be handwritten or typed, either on a typewriter or with a computer.

- Number all pages.
- Illustrated entries, including “books,” with pictures drawn by the student are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.
- Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Format:
  - Submit entries on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8½ inches by 11 inches in size.
  - Place the original copy in a plastic sheet protector;** submit the original and one copy in a **10 x 13 envelope** with the Official Entry Form taped to the back of the folder.
  - Do not mount entries.
  - Write the student’s name on the back of each page in case pages become separated.**
- Collections of poems or short stories are not acceptable. A student may submit more than one work, but each one must be submitted separately.

### Assistance

#### Dictation and typing

- Students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- Students who are physically challenged or students in kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.
- **Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work.**

#### Translation

- Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own languages. An interpretive translation must accompany the entry.
- **Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work.**

#### Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions

# 2009–2010 National PTA Reflections Program

## DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY RULES

Theme: “Beauty is...”

**Students must adhere to the general rules as well as the following Dance Choreography Rules.**

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### Description

Dance choreography entries must be original choreographed dance composition works recorded on a VHS videotape or DVD. The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate creativity and interpretation of the theme.

There may be up to three dancers performing the choreography. The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers, but does not have to be. Costumes are not necessary. If costumes are used, however, the choreographer must also create the costumes.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

### Originality

**Each entry must be the original work of one student only.** An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. **Use of copyrighted material other than music is prohibited.**

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas or writings or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

### Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the **Official Entry Form**. Students who have not completely filled out the form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Official Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information in the righthand column).

### Return of Artwork

National PTA does not return dance choreography entries.

### Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme.

### Music

The title, composer, and performer of any background music must be credited and documented on the Official Entry Form.

### Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- All grade divisions must submit a videotape or DVD of a performance of the choreography.
- The choreographer is not required to be the (or one of the) performer(s).
- Submit the videotape or DVD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the videotape/DVD and container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the videotape or DVD in a large envelope.
- Secure the Official Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

### Recommendations for quality recordings

- If recording on videotape, use a *new* high-quality VHS videotape. Rewind to the beginning, record 10 seconds of black, and then begin recording the performance.
- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if filming indoors
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.

### Required Information

On the Official Entry Form, state who performed your choreography and credit the background music.

### Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions