



Inspiring Young  
Authors...

Writing About  
Agriculture!

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2023 - 2024 Contest Theme:

**Innovation in Agriculture**

- Overview:

- A Bushel of Stories is an agriculture writing contest for students grades 3-8 to write a story book about agriculture or food
- Submissions will be accepted until **March 22**
- There are two age divisions: grades 3-5 and grades 6-8
- Associated lesson units for the program are linked below

- 2023 - 2024 Theme: **Innovation in Agriculture**

Innovation can be described as coming up with new, creative ideas, solutions, or inventions to solve problems or make things easier. This year's A Bushel of Stories competition encourages students to write about past, present, and/or future innovations. Stories could focus on one era of innovation or a combination of eras.

Past innovations are those that occurred before the year 2000. George Washington Carver is a great example of past innovation in agriculture. Carver developed over 300 alternative uses for peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans.

Present innovations are those that have occurred from the year 2000 until now. Maria Andrade is a present-day agriculture innovator. She has developed 9 drought-tolerant sweet potato varieties for farmers in Mozambique.

Future innovations are those that answer the question, "where will agriculture go?". Students choose something that exists today and predict how it could change or be used in the future. For example, wind energy is used today, but where could it go? What could happen?

Not sure what to write about? Help jumpstart your writing with these ideas!

- Timeline:

- Contest submissions due: **March 22**
- Winners announced: **April 15**
- Book printing and distribution: Late summer

- Prizes per division:

- **1<sup>st</sup> place**
  - Book to be illustrated professionally, printed, and made available by IALF to educators free of charge
  - \$100 cash prize
  - Plaque for student
  - Certificate and prize for teacher
- **2<sup>nd</sup> place**
  - Name and book title noted on 1<sup>st</sup> place book
  - \$75 cash prize
  - Plaque for student
  - Certificate and prize for teacher
- **3<sup>rd</sup> place**
  - Name and book title noted on 1<sup>st</sup> place book
  - \$50 cash prize
  - Plaque for student
  - Certificate and prize for teacher

- Contest rules:
  - Students will be responsible for writing a story fitting this year's theme
  - Stories can be fiction or nonfiction
  - Though fiction stories may have unrealistic plotlines or characters, the agricultural concepts should still be accurate (for example, a personified ear of corn can give a tour of a corn farm, but the farm should be depicted with accurate corn growth stages, crop care, etc.)
  - Stories should show agriculture in a positive light
  - Stories should not use registered trademarks (avoid brand names and taglines)
  - Winning stories may be asked to make revisions for content, grammar, and spelling
- Project submission:
  - Please submit each student's projects separately using this online portal: <https://form.jotform.com/220335817559158>
- Resources:
  - 3-5 lesson unit
    - [Lesson 1—Book Basics](#)
    - [Lesson 2—Publication Production](#)
    - [Lesson 3—Real Writing](#)
  - 6-8 lesson unit
    - [Lesson 1—Book Basics](#)
    - [Lesson 2—Publication Production](#)
    - [Lesson 3—Real Writing](#)
  - [Author Chat! Video](#)
  - [Lending Library books](#)

- Contact information:
  - For all contest questions, please email [info@iowaagliteracy.org](mailto:info@iowaagliteracy.org) with the subject line "Bushel of Stories" or call 515-331-4181
  - For more Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation information, please visit [www.iowaagliteracy.org](http://www.iowaagliteracy.org)

