



Inspiring Young
Authors...

Writing About
Agriculture!

Write a story about agriculture with the potential to become a real,
published author!

Iowa students in grades 3-8 are welcome to participate in this
competition.

A Bushel of Stories has been made possible as a special project of
the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation with financial support from
the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization and USDA
National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



Iowa Agriculture
Literacy Foundation

www.iowaagliteracy.org

• 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 1
- There are two age divisions: grades 3-5 and grades 6-8
- Associated lesson units for the program are linked below

• Timeline:

- Contest opens: January 1
- Contest submissions due: March 1
- Winners announced: March 23
- Book printing and distribution: May 1

• Prizes per division:

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

• Contest rules:

- Students will be responsible for writing a story about agriculture or food
- 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.)
- Books should show agriculture in a positive light
- Books should not use registered trademarks (avoid brand names and taglines)
- Books should be at least 12 pages long (1-2 sentences on each page) for the elementary division. Books should be at least 16 pages long (1-2 sentences on each page) for the middle school division.
- Stories should be written with correct grammar and spelling
- Story ideas can include:
 - A-B-C Books. These books can reinforce the sounds of the alphabet, and reinforce

- vocabulary of science, social studies, and agriculture.
- Pattern Books. These books can be variations on classics and favorites. They can emphasize specific parts of speech or a rhythm. Part of the challenge is in having students recognize the various aspects to determine how they can create their own version.
 - Fiction Stories. These books can let the students' imaginations run wild. They can invent a world of their own with few or no limits. But the stories will still need to be based on accurate agriculture information and can still help people understand about their food, fiber, and fuel.
 - Life Isn't All Fiction. Non-fiction texts are ideal for student writing. Illustrations and writing will demonstrate the depth of learning and show any gaps they may have in their knowledge.
- Project submission:
 - Please submit each student's projects separately using this online portal: <https://form.jotform.com/IowaAgLiteracyFoundation/a-bushel-of-stories-writing-competi>
 - 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 contact Chrissy Rhodes at crhodes@iowaagliteracy.org or 515-331-4181
- For more Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation information, please visit www.iowaagliteracy.org

