

REACH Book Author Contest

Timeline – Deadline March 1, 2024

as of 1/11/24

WEEK 1

Decide and research the type of Disability Awareness you would like to make the topic of your book.
[See Disability Awareness Info Sheet.](#)

WEEK 2

A good story should have:

- A beginning, middle, and end
- Interesting Characters
- Sentences and Paragraphs
- A difficult problem that a character(s) solve
- Adjectives and adverbs to describe things.

Map out your story: *Drawing these out step by step may help*

1. Think of an Idea relating to the theme “Disability Awareness”.
What can you imagine? What can you see? What do you want your story to focus on?
2. Create a Character and a Setting: Who is this story about? Where will the story take place? Where are they going? Take time to draw and describe your characters. What are their names? What are their likes, dislikes, personality traits. Are they human, animal, or a thing?
3. The Beginning: All good children’s stories have a beginning, middle, and an end. Set the opening scene. What’s special or different about their main character?
4. The Conflict: What problem will the character(s) have? How did this happen? Before you character runs into the problem think about the event or events that will cause the problem. Draw the rising action.
5. The Turning Point: The turning point is usually the middle of the story and helps make a story more interesting. It can be a eureka moment, a time where a character discovers a hidden superpower or learns something important, or a surprise that throws the whole story into a spin.
6. The Resolution: A good story doesn’t finish without a final resolution. How will the problem be resolved/solved? Think about linking the conflict with the turning point to create a meaningful resolution. Draw out the Resolution.
7. The End: A satisfying ending is the perfect way to finish a story. What happened to the characters once their conflict became resolved? Were they able to finally achieve something, or did they learn an important lesson as a result?

WEEK 3 – *suggested complete date: January 31, 2024*

Once you have all that planned out you can [download the storyboard templates](#) to get started on your rough draft of your book. It helps to lay out your ideas and sketch an image of your pages before using the Book Template found at sinainc.org/bookcontest.

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WEEK 4 and 5 – suggested complete date: February 17, 2024

1. Decide what book layout you would like to do. There are two sizes: square 8x8, and vertical 8x10. Download the book template found at sinainc.org/bookcontest.
2. Decide which layout option 1 or 2 you would like to do in the size you chose in step 1. Then print out at least 10 copies of the corresponding pages.
3. Have students begin working on the final images for each page.
If working in groups (up to four students), have the authors write out the paragraphs for each page and illustrators begin sketching out their designs. If working as a classroom: Assign a page to groups of students. **Stories may be written in English, Bilingual, and/or Spanish.** You should already have an idea of the images and text from using the storyboard templates in week 3.

Your book needs:

- 10 to 20 pages with 5 lines per page.
The cover, dedication, about the author/illustrator, and back pages do not count toward this number. *We will work on these pages last.*
- Each submission must include one page of art for each page of text.

WEEK 6 and 7 – complete by March 1, 2024

1. All pages should have text and images. Start coloring and finalizing each page.
Typed text is preferred, but not required.
2. Work on the Title and Front Cover Page
 - A design on the front.
 - The title may be added digitally or designed by the student(s).
 - The names of the author(s) and illustrator(s) will be added digitally.
3. Work on the About the Author/ Illustrator Page.
A small description of the student(s). Can include age, school, town they live in, and/or their favorite thing to do. See examples found on the book template document.

Optional Pages:

- Dedication Page
 - Back Cover with book description
4. Number all your pages and corresponding text pages.
 5. Download and complete the **Entry Form** at sinainc.org/bookcontest.
 6. Submit your book with an Entry Form to the Park Street Library by **March 1, 2024**.
If mailing – it must be postmarked on March 1, 2024.

Mail or Drop off to: Hartford Public Library Park Street Branch @ The Lyric 603 Park Street
Hartford, CT 06106