

# 2022 Georgia National Fair Fair Bear Writing Competition for Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades



## Story Theme: "Fair Bear Plants a Garden"

Fair Bear went to the Georgia National Fair and saw the new Starbuck Learning Farm. He was amazed by the different fruits and vegetables that can be grown in Georgia. There were blueberries, oranges, figs, and other fruits as well as rows and rows of vegetables like corn, cabbage, collards, carrots and beans. He went home and decided to plant a garden for his family and to help out in the community. He wants to grow some of his favorite foods and plant a little extra that he can donate to the local food bank.

Students write a story about Fair Bear and his garden. What did he see on his trip to the fair? Did he ask anyone for help? What is he planting in his garden? Was he successful in growing his fruits and/or vegetables?



**Postmark Deadline**  
February 20, 2022

# The “Bear” Facts

You are invited to write a story about a very special American black bear who lived from about 1980 to 1993 in middle Georgia near the Georgia National Fairgrounds. The bear was seen off and on by people who lived in the area. None of the people who saw the bear could believe it was really a bear at first! Once, the black bear was seen in a neighborhood subdivision located in a wooded area across the interstate from the Fairgrounds. Another year the bear was seen on a nearby road south of the Fairgrounds, paws on the top wire of a fence, watching the cars go by. In June 1993, the last reported encounter was described by a Perry resident who was jogging through the Fairgrounds just before dark. “I heard tractor-trailer trucks putting on brakes on the interstate and I looked to see why they were slowing down. I saw a large black animal standing by the fence near the west gate entrance to the Fairgrounds. I stopped jogging to get a better look at the animal and realized it was a black bear. The bear was standing with its paws on the fence watching me. Then the bear climbed over the fence and again stood on its back feet to get a better look at me. I didn’t try to get a better look at the bear; I ran!” The bear’s path often crossed I-75 near the Fairgrounds, which is a very busy interstate. “Fair Bear” has become the Georgia National Fair mascot.

Fair Bear has been the subject of the Georgia National Fair writing competition for 4th, 5th and 6th graders since 1994.

## **2021 Winners:**

### FOURTH GRADE

#### First Place

Joy Anna Hellman  
Tiftarea Academy, Chula  
Independent School System  
Teacher: Mrs. Rhonda Sumner

#### Second Place

Wesley Walker  
Riverside Elementary School, Evanss  
Columbia County School District  
Teacher: Mrs. Jennifer Allen

#### Third Place

Raylee Alvarez  
Center Elementary School, Waycross  
Ware County Schools  
Teacher: Ms. Jenna Corley

### FIFTH GRADE

#### First Place

Malone Poole  
Northwest Laurens Elementary School, Dublin  
Laurens County Schools  
Teacher: Mrs. Laura Sanders

#### Second Place

Alan Laughman  
Center Elementary School, Waycross  
Ware County Schools  
Teacher: Mrs. Shirley Nettles

#### Third Place

Ava Mares  
Thomas County Middle School, Thomasville  
Thomas County Schools  
Teacher: Mrs. Gail Trotter

### SIXTH GRADE

#### First Place

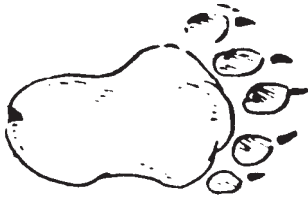
Lydia Kate Garnto  
Johnson County Middle School, Wrightsville  
Johnson County School System  
Teacher: Mrs. Angela Tanner

#### Second Place

Emma Reeves  
Thomas County Middle School, Thomasville  
Thomas County Schools  
Teacher: Mrs. Laurel Johnson

#### Third Place

Ellery McClain  
Armuchee Middle School, Armuchee  
Floyd County Schools  
Teacher: Mrs. Hailey Burns



## FAIR BEAR CONTEST RULES



**Suggested Time Line:** *Classroom winners determined by December 10, 2021*  
*School-wide winners determined by January 14, 2022*  
*System-wide winners determined by February 18, 2022*

*Questions? call 478-988-6555*  
*or email [skusuda@gnfa.com](mailto:skusuda@gnfa.com)*

**Entry Deadline:** *System winners must be mailed to the Georgia National Fair by February 20, 2022.*

### **WHAT TEACHERS NEED TO DO:**

1. This writing competition is open to all 4th, 5th and 6th grade students currently enrolled in Georgia public schools and private schools accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission, and must reflect the theme, “**Fair Bear Plants a Garden**”
2. Students who entered last year (including winners) may enter this year.
3. Writing entries must be between **200 and 500 words**. Entries submitted must be original and must have been written by the student under a teacher’s supervision and may be completed as part of the regular classroom writing program. Each entry must be prepared by the student. The essay must be **neatly handwritten on standard ruled note paper**. Students must use one side of the paper only. Students must rewrite their essays after teachers correct their first efforts. Spelling/grammar errors will result in point deductions. **The corrected copy** must be the one submitted for the competition. **Typed or computer generated work will be disqualified!**
4. Please put the name of the school and the student’s name on the **BACK** of each page of the student’s paper. A completed official entry form must be attached to each entry. An entry number will be assigned by the Georgia National Fair for judging purposes.
5. Winning entries may be used in future publications of the Georgia National Fair. All entries become the property of the Georgia National Fair. Entries will not be returned. Please make copies prior to submitting students’ work.
6. **Determine classroom winners by: December 10, 2021; Determine school winners by January 14, 2022.**
7. **Mail school winners to system office by January 14, 2022. Teachers: your school system Curriculum Coordinator/ Language Arts Coordinator must sign the entry forms even though there may not have been a system-wide competition.**
8. **Please mail or email “Total Entries By School” form to Georgia National Fair.**

### **WHAT SYSTEM COORDINATORS NEED TO DO:**

1. Receive and judge fourth, fifth and sixth grade entries from all schools in system. Choose a first place winner from each grade level.
2. Each school system is asked to submit **only one entry for each grade level!** Stories will **not** be accepted **directly from individual schools** within a system. Each story submitted must have a completed entry form attached.
3. **Deadline: Postmarked by February 20, 2022.** System winners should be mailed to: Fair Bear Writing Competition, Georgia National Fair, 401 Larry Walker Parkway, Perry, GA 31069.

## JUDGING

Procedures for Classroom Judging, School-Wide Judging and System-Wide Judging: It is recommended that the procedures listed in the Official Rules Booklet of “The Young Georgia Authors’ Exposition and Recognition” (found at: <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/English-Language-Arts-Program.aspx>) be used as a guide for selecting the system winners in the three levels of the “Fair Bear” Creative Writing Competition.

Procedures for final judging at the Georgia National Fairgrounds:

1. Entries for the final judging will be scored using the guidelines on the following page, and in addition should show evidence of creativity and use of theme -“**Fair Bear Plants a Garden**”.
2. Judges for the final phase of the competition will be selected from language arts professionals in Georgia. A panel will be chosen for each grade level of competition.
3. The judges will not have access to each other’s scores while judging nor shall they know the writer’s name or school system.
4. The writing entry with the highest score at each grade level will be the first-place winner; next highest score at each grade level will receive second place; and the third highest score at each grade level will receive third place.
5. The first-place winners from the three levels will be read by a panel of judges to determine the Grand Prize Winner. The Grand Prize Winner will receive grand prize awards in addition to the first-place awards.
6. A list of winners will be posted online by April 15, 2022. Winning principals, teachers and students will be notified by mail by April 20, 2019.
7. Awards will be presented during a special ceremony at the 32nd annual Georgia National Fair on Saturday, October 8, 2022.

### Fair Bear Competition Judging Guidelines:

**Content and Organization** (maximum 30 points)  
(Response to assigned task (**see rule 1**), clearly established controlling idea, relevant and clearly developed supporting ideas, sense of order, flow of ideas, sense of completeness)

**Sentence Formation** (maximum 20 points)  
(Appropriate end punctuation, complete sentences, appropriate coordination and subordination)

**Conventions of Written Language** (maximum 20 points)  
(appropriate usage and mechanics)

**Style** (maximum 20 points)  
(Effective diction, varied and effective sentence structure, tone consistent with topic and purpose, sense of audience)

**Creativity** (maximum 10 points)

**Total** (maximum 100 points)



#### SCHOOLS

GRAND PRIZE: \$250

#### Final winners in each grade level will receive:

First Place: \$150  
Certificate

Second Place: \$100  
Certificate

Third Place: \$75  
Certificate

#### STUDENTS

\$250

\$100  
Certificate  
\*Trip for winner and family to 2022 GNF and Fair Souvenir package

\$75  
Certificate  
\*Trip for winner and family to 2022 GNF and Fair Souvenir package

\$50  
Certificate  
\*Trip for winner and family to 2022 GNF and Fair Souvenir package

All entries submitted in compliance with the rules and accepted for final competition will receive a certificate from the Georgia National Fair.

\*\$50 in Georgia National Fair Food Coupons, four gate passes & two sheets of advance ride coupons good for 12 to 20 rides.

# 2022 GEORGIA NATIONAL "FAIR BEAR" Creative Writing Competition Official Entry Form

## COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION

\*Unsigned and/or incomplete forms will not be considered for judging.

\*ATTACH THIS FORM TO ALL ENTRIES.

\*After system judging, mail winners to: Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter,  
Fair Bear Competition, 401 Larry Walker Parkway, Perry, GA 31069

**DEADLINE - February 20, 2022**

***Please type or print***



Student's Grade Level

\_\_\_ 4th \_\_\_ 5th \_\_\_ 6th

ENTRY NO.

(To be completed by GNF)

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name

Last Name

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

School (Full Name): \_\_\_\_\_ School System: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ School System

Language Arts/Contest Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Full Name: Mr. - Mrs. - Ms. - Miss - Dr. (Circle One): \_\_\_\_\_

Type or Print

Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Type or Print

This entry is my own original work and represents my best writing efforts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

We are familiar with this student's writing. We have read this entry. We are satisfied it is his or her own original idea and work and represents his or her best writing efforts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local System Writing Coordinator's Signature

# 2022 Georgia National Fair Fair Bear Writing Competition Total Number of Entries By School

In an effort to take a true measure of participation in the competition, we are trying to collect data on the total number of participants. Please fill out this form at the school level and return it to the Georgia National Fair "Fair Bear" Program.

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

4th Grade - Total Number Participants \_\_\_\_\_

5th Grade - Total Number Participants \_\_\_\_\_

6th Grade - Total Number Participants \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Georgia National Fair, 401 Larry Walker Pkwy., Perry, GA 31069, or fax to 478-988-6514.