



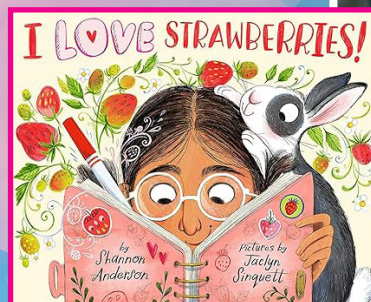
Meet Author Shannon Anderson

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM
at the Community Learning Center**

Every student who participates in the 28th Annual Kleiman Creative Writing Contest—along with their teacher—is automatically invited to the Awards Ceremony!

This year's keynote speaker will be Shannon Anderson—award-winning children's book author, professor, TEDx speaker, and certified brain coach. Shannon taught for 25 years, from first grade through college, and was honored in 2019 as one of the Today Show's "10 Teachers Who Awed and Inspired!"

Her picture book *I Love Strawberries!* was named the Top-Rated 2022 Picture Book by Good Housekeeping and National Book of the Year by the Farm Bureau Foundation. For more information about the author scan the QR code.





Dear 4th, 5th or 6th Grade Teacher,

We hope you'll join us this year for the 28th annual Kleiman Creative Writing Contest!

Presented by the Kendallville Public Library and open to all 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students, this is the opportunity your students have to make their writing shine!

Many of you have completed this contest a number of times, and are familiar with the rules, while others may be new to the game. Here are the rules and some things to look for or look forward to!

1. You DO NOT need to do a special piece or writing JUST for this contest—have students pull a current work out of their writing folders to develop, edit, and revise.
2. Books can be created electronically, using the program of your choice, but remind students that neatness still counts. Books need to be printed, scanned or emailed and turned in by the deadline.
3. The contest can be used as a class project (meeting a LARGE number of standards in one project!) incorporating the writing, editing, and illustrating of the books into the curriculum. Classes with 100% participation receive a special PRIZE for your classroom.
4. Please include a class list with your class entries. This will help us check spelling of names.
5. Every participant and teacher is invited to an awards ceremony on Tuesday, April 14 2026 from 5:30-7:30 at the Community Learning Center.

Want to know more? I have enclosed the rules and entry form. If you'd like a copy of the information packet for each of your students, or would like to schedule classroom visits, I encourage you to call 260-343-2022 or send me an email at mgraber@kendallvillelibrary.org.

All books are due March 6, 2026 at the Kendallville Public Library or Limberlost Branch. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary Graber'.

Mary Graber
Youth Services Manager
Kendallville Public Library



Open to Students in the 4th, 5th and 6th Grades

Sponsored by the Kendallville Public Library

Contest Rules:

- Students write and illustrate their own original book.
- The book must include:
 - Front cover (illustration, title, student's name) Please use a pen or markers. No Pencil.
 - Title page (illustration, title, student's name, date)
 - Back cover (free choice, just can't be blank)
 - Story pages with page numbers on each page (no minimum or maximum required pages.) *see page layout illustration.
- Books should be made using 8 ½" by 11" sheets of paper. Text should be set within 1" margins
- Typed text needs to be at least 12 point font and written text needs to be clear and easy to read. Be creative with your text, play with size and color. Please do not color over text. Ink is encouraged for all text.
- **Story and art must be original, but can be created using a computer or tablet. Please do not use clipart or google images as they are not allowed. Drawing art and importing it into a computer or tablet program is encouraged. Please include platform used for art if using a tablet or computer.**
- Please turn in a paper, scanned or email copy of your book: Put the book together in the correct order with the **required entry form** on top. Use a **paper clip** to hold the book together. ****Your teacher may print the entire classes books and turn in to the library. Entries may also be scanned and emailed to: kleiman@kendallvillelibrary.org.**
- **The deadline for all entries is March 6.** They must be received by closing time (5pm) and may be delivered to either the Kendallville Public Library or its Limberlost Branch.
- Entries will be displayed and picked up at the Awards Ceremony.
- See attached sheets for more information.

Awards that can be won:

- 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in each grade level for each category.
- Special awards may be awarded for: Best Cover, Best Artwork, Best Creativity, etc.



Teacher Entry Form Kendallville Public Library

Teacher Name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Number of students in your class: _____

Did you have 100% participation?

Yes No

Please include a copy of my class's winning books for our school library.

Yes No

*** Please attach a typed list of all participants to this packet.**



Student Entry Form

Kendallville Public Library

Please type or print legibly.

Title of Book: _____

Name of Student: _____

Fourth Grade Fifth Grade Sixth Grade

Category for Judging:

Poetry Non-fiction Alphabet Book
 Graphic Novel Fiction Story Book Chapter Book

Teacher: _____ School: _____

If you are home schooled, please provide your address to receive an invite to the awards ceremony.

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

We certify that this entry is an original work and was developed and constructed by the student named above. If this book is found not to be the work of the student named above any prize will be forfeited.

Author/Illustrator Signature

Parent's or Teacher's Signature

For Staff Use Only:

Scanned Entered in Excel



Sample Book Layout

***Page layouts may be vertical or horizontal depending on how you want to design the book.**

Book Cover

Must Include:
Title
Student's Name
Illustration (optional)

11 in

or

Book Cover

Must Include:
Title
Student's Name
Illustration (optional)

8.5 in

11 in

8.5 in

<p>Back of Front Cover</p> <p>Blank</p>	<p>Title Page</p> <p>Must Include: Title Student's Name Date Illustration (optional)</p>
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11 in

or

Back of Front Cover

Blank

8.5 in

Title Page

Must Include:
Title
Student's Name
Date
Illustration (optional)

8.5 in

8.5 in

8.5 in

1

11 in

1

Story continues...

Back Cover

Must Include:
Photo
Illustration (optional)
Info about book
Info about author

11 in

or

Back Cover

Must Include:
Photo
Illustration (optional)
Info about book
Info about author

8.5 in

11 in

8.5 in



Title of Book: _____

Student's Name: _____

	Excellent 5 points	Superior 4 points	Good 3 points	Average 2 points	Needs Improvement 1 point	Not Applicable
Story Line Creativity						
Theme - Stays Focused on Topic						
Appears to Use Original Character and Storyline						
Characters are Appropriate to the Story						
Organization						
Has Clear Order						
Thorough and Complete Ideas and Information						
Style						
Word Usage						
Fluent and Easy to Read						
Strong Sense of Audience						
Accurate Grammar and Punctuation						
Overall Presentation						
Neatness						
Spelling						
TOTAL						
Illustrations*						
Story is a balance of information and images						
Illustrations do not distract from the story						
Cover is colorful and eye catching						
TOTAL						

*Illustrations are encouraged but not required to win. Special awards will be given for those receiving the highest mark in the illustration category.

Comments:

Judge Initials: _____
Round 1
Round 2
Round 3

Presented by the



Scan the QR code for more information.

