

Dear Third Grade Teachers,

Thank you so much for participating in the Young Reader One Book project and for sharing information with your students about the Young Writers 3rd Grade Writing Contest. This exciting contest runs from September 15 to October 15 and is open to all third graders in the Black Hills region. It is held in conjunction with the 2025 Young Reader One Book selection, *Wings of an Eagle: The Gold Medal Dreams of Billy Mills*.

We are inviting students to submit one of the following:

- A short story (maximum 300 words)
- An illustrated comic or graphic novel (maximum 300 words)
- A poem

Each submission should be based on one of these themes:

- What gives you strength “like an eagle”?
- How does the artwork in this story inspire you?

To help students succeed, here are the judging criteria:

Short Stories -

- Clear main idea and focus
- Plot and narrative structure
- Organization
- Voice
- Proper spelling, grammar, and proofreading

Comics/Graphic Novels -

- Basic elements (title, completed panels, backgrounds, characters)
- Clarity and organization
- Visual appeal and graphics
- Dialogue/text
- Proper spelling, grammar, and proofreading

Poems -

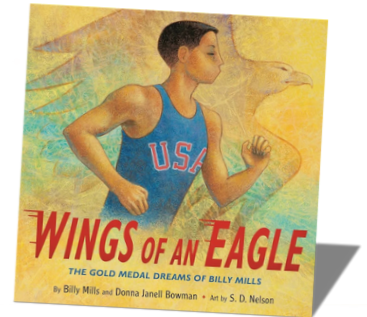
- Clear topic focus
- Creativity and originality
- Title
- Imagery
- Proper spelling, grammar, and proofreading

Thank you again for your support in encouraging young writers. We're excited to see what your students create!



Young Readers One Book

2025



See complete details and rules at
www.unitedwayblackhills.org/write

