

Instructions for submitting illustrations:

Children's authors attending the Grand Lake Area Literature Festival have written a brief "character sketch" for a new character. These sketches are below. We're asking children to create an illustration based on the character sketch. There are 10 to choose from. A student of any age can participate. The student chooses one or more to illustrate, but each illustration should be based on only one of the sketches.

The illustrations must be on paper no larger than 9" X 12". Please be sure to label the sketch with the corresponding character sketch number. And please be sure the students sign their work! We will hang the illustrations near the authors' tables so the students can look for their work displayed at the festival.

We will be happy to pick up the finished illustrations at schools or ESCs by April 4th. To make arrangements to do so, please email glaliteraturefestival@gmail.com or call 419-394-0707.

The finished illustrations can be mailed or dropped off at Arts Place: Auglaize Mercer Center, 207 E. Spring St., St. Marys, OH 45885. The center is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 12 noon to 6PM. Please deliver the illustrations by April 8th.

If you have questions or suggestions please email glaliteraturefestival@gmail.com or call 419-394-070.

Character Sketches:

1. I'm Sally, the Super Sleepy Sloth. I spend my days lounging around, hiding high up in the trees. Trust me, it's the best seat in the house: the jungle canopy has the best views in all the jungle, is filled with the best leaves and twigs to munch on, and, best of all, is the perfect napping spot. Yes, as my nickname gives away, I love to sleep! In fact, I sleep more than 15 hours every day. Call me crazy, but that's just my style. Even when I am awake, I move lazily. I'm never in a hurry or worried, which can annoy my other jungle friends. But I believe it's always best to go at your own pace.
2. Penny Ann loves to wear her favorite sweater with a great big pocket. Each day she puts something different in her pocket like a candy cane from Granny, extra paint brushes, or her favorite book. On Saturday she wears her sweater with corduroy pants that have a patch on one knee, but her pocket is empty for the first time in days because . . . her dad is taking her to the pet store, and she wants her pocket to be empty and waiting for the perfect pet.
3. Jimmy is Charlie Tractor's best friend. He is an energetic, athletic, friendly 10-year-old boy who loves baseball and playing outside. He loves camping, fishing and hiking. Jimmy is always happy and smiling. He likes to tell jokes and make his friends laugh. Jimmy is Bi-Racial and has dark brown curly hair. Jimmy's Mom is Black and Jimmy's Dad is White. Jimmy is a great friend to Charlie.
4. Casey Morgan is eleven-years-old and in the sixth grade. She's the kind of person who wears holiday-themed tee-shirts even when it's not the holiday. (For example, she wears a shamrock shirt in the fall.) Casey is like a balloon with too much air and will tell you things even if you don't ask. When she's excited about something, she'll call it "brilliant." Casey does yoga and likes to "gather her Zen." She's also in the forensic science club at school and is helping her friend Felix track down the dad he's never met. Casey has an older sister, a younger brother, and a puppy named Pepper, which is short for Peppercorn.

5. Some trees live in Forestville or Mountainside. Some live in Charming Park or Cozy Yard. Not Biloba. Her roots are in Cementland. It's no place for softies. Trucks spritz salt. Buses poof pollution. Icky things get tangled in her branches. Don't even get her started on dogs. Most people pass right by, though some insult her fragrant seeds or mistake her trunk for a bulletin board or use her base for a trash can. But Biloba is no marshmallow! She digs her roots deep and shoots her branches high. Sturdy and steady - that's her motto.

6. Patty loved to read books, lots of books, all kinds of books. Reading sparked her imagination. Patty dreamed of all of the things she would be when she grew up.

Maybe I'll be a code breaker, a spy, or work for the FBI

Perhaps I'll be a circus performer. I could soar through the air on a flying trapeze or balance atop of a sparkly horse.

Or . . .

I could be an astronaut.

Sometimes, when Patty shared her dreams, people laughed. Others said she couldn't be what she wanted to be. Still others said they were jobs more suited for boys than for girls. Patty went from sad to mad. She would prove them wrong, all of them.

Why can't I be what I want to be? It's not like I'm wishing to be a unicorn, even though that would be really fun - after all, unicorns fly. I'll be myself and I'll be unstoppable. Just watch me!

7. Lola was feisty and funny. Her parents often rolled their eyes when they saw what she chose to wear to school.

8. Virginia, Ginny, as her family called her, sat on the roof of the hog barn, the summer's hot sun warming her brown skin. On her lap was her journal, a sacred notebook where she wrote down tales she heard from her family. Stories swirled around her like the fireflies that burned at night.

9. Klakke wandered through the snowy woods. He'd been a mischievous nisse (Danish word for gnome) and he wasn't sure what to do next. If he admitted what he'd done, he'd surely be in trouble with Old Gammel. Maybe he could simply hide out in this winter wonderland and blend in. Then he remembered his red hat and boots. So much for blending in!

10. My name is Ester, and I am a 9-year-old girl. Eliana is my best friend, and I play with her daily. We like to play soccer on our dusty streets, climb trees to pick mangos and play checkers together. When her papa died, my heart was so sad for her. I come from a Muslim family in Burkina Faso, Africa. However, when Eliana's mom met her new friends that helped her start a soap business and talked about the love of Jesus, I felt in my heart that I wanted to know Jesus too. I wondered why someone who loved Jesus would want to help someone like Eliana's mom as they did. I saw Eliana and her family become so happy again and I wanted my family to know that same joy.