

NORTH CAROLINA READING ASSOCIATION, INC.  
**YOUNG AUTHORS 2023**



**THEME:** *Your Voice Matters: Celebrating EVERY Reader's Story*

**IDEAS for RESPONDING to THEME**

Use the following prompts or questions to create your writing and/or art

- Tell the story of where you/your family comes from.
- Tell the story of how you got your name.
- Tell the story of what you stand for.
- Tell the story of a time when you learned something new or important.
- Tell the story of a family memory that has strong emotions for you.
- Tell the story of when you faced a challenge that required you to be brave.

- Tell about a time when you took an unpopular position or used your voice to share an opinion or idea that others might not agree with.
- Tell the story of a family tradition.
- What do you most value?
- What is your best memory?
- Where does your story begin?
- What personal possession is most important to you and why?
- Tell the story of a place that is important to you.
- What “gift” would you like to give to the world?
- What character trait is most important to you?
- Who is your hero?
- How have you used your voice to create change?
- Why do you think some people are reluctant to use their voice?
- When have you used your voice to stand up for someone or something?
- Write a story in which a character uses their voice for change.
- Write a review of a book you have read in which the person or character uses their voice for change or protest.
- Write a poem using the line: I used to think.....but now I know..... Repeat as many times as you need or repeat with variations
- Write a poem using the line starter: I am from.... (see sample poem/video for ideas: [https://youtu.be/ZdnHI\\_yW1dQ](https://youtu.be/ZdnHI_yW1dQ))
- Write a metaphor poem that tells your story by using the framework: I am a; I.... (example: I am a firefly; I light up the world for my friends)
- Write a letter to a living or historical person whose voice has had an impact on you and/or the world.

- How would you like to be remembered?
- What makes you different from others who are your age?
- What advice would you give to the world?
- Why is using your “voice” important?
- What makes using your voice hard?
- Describe a time when you did not speak up. How do you feel about it now?
- How do artists use their voice to create a message?
- What song(s) do you listen to that inspire you to use your voice to send a message?
- Read the poem, “This is my letter to the world” by Emily Dickinson. What is her message? (<https://youtu.be/65fgA2kGrag> ) Write your letter to the world. (high school)
- How has technology changed how humans use their voice?
- What are the positive and negative aspects of using your voice via social media?
- What is your passion? (<https://youtu.be/eqkl3JprDsU> springboard)
- What’s the key to your heart?
- Tell the story of a hard decision that a character has to make. What makes the decision hard?
- How do animals use their voice?