



# National PTA® Reflections



## **Outstanding Interpretation Award:**

1 per arts category and accessible arts division

- \$800 Young Artist Scholarship
- \$200 Prize for Local PTA Unit
- Gold Medal
- Certificate of Outstanding Interpretation
- Work featured in the virtual exhibition

## **Award of Excellence:**

3 per division of each arts category and 1 accessible arts of each arts area

- \$200 Young Artist Scholarship
- Silver Medal
- Certificate of Excellence
- Work featured in the virtual exhibition

## **Merit Award:**

5 per grade division of each arts category

- Bronze Medal
- Certificate of Merit
- Work featured in the traveling exhibition

Each year, students in Pre-K through Grade 12 are invited to create and submit original works of art in the areas of Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography and Visual Arts. Based on State PTA rules and guidelines, these works of art may be submitted for state and national level awards and recognition opportunities. Of the national-level submissions, over 200 student Reflections participants will receive awards, prizes and recognition from National PTA.

### **Selection Criteria**

Student entries submitted to the national level go through two rounds of review by arts professionals from across the country. During the evaluation process, judges will consider the following criteria:

1. Interpretation: How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the work itself and the artist statement.
2. Creativity: How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.
3. Technique: The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area.

Judges strongly consider the interpretation of the Reflections theme during the evaluation process. It is suggested that students give their submissions a title that stands out and describes how the piece relates to the student's personal interpretation of the theme. The following guiding questions can be useful when developing a title and artist statement:

1. Why did you choose to create your piece in the specific arts category you selected?
2. How does your work specifically relate to the theme?
3. Explore metaphors or allusions in your artwork to highlight complex or critical parts of your work.
4. What is your connection to the theme? What/who was your inspiration? How is this shown in your art?
5. Explain the creative decisions you made so your work would be unique to your interpretation of the theme.
6. What tools, materials and methods did you use to create your work (e.g., supplies, technology, instrumentation, props, etc.)? What made you choose those items?

National PTA celebrates the national Reflections winners and their artwork starting May 1 through the following calendar year. We feature our Outstanding Interpretation winners during National PTA's Convention in June and select featured artists at the Reflections Student Arts Virtual Showcase in January.