



April 1, 2026

Dear Student and Tutor,

It's that time again! The 2026 Project Read Writing Contest is underway. You don't have to be a Beatles fan to "take a sad song and make it better." Sometimes life feels cloudy or difficult. We may face challenges, feel afraid, or doubt ourselves. But the sun rises each morning and hope can return. This year's theme, "Here Comes the Sun," is about hope, support, and new beginnings. We invite you to write about the light in your life—the people, moments, and experiences that help you keep going and move forward.

Tutors, please assist your student in completing and submitting at least one entry. This will give your student an opportunity to practice writing, share it with others, and potentially gain recognition for their work. Please read the attached document to your student at your next tutoring session and discuss and choose which prompt(s) they would like to respond to.

The ideas for the responses must originate with the student, but you may assist them with grammar, appropriate sentence sequence, spelling, etc. so that your student can submit the best representation of their work. Your student is also encouraged to attend our Literacy Labs to receive help with writing and editing.

All entries must be submitted to the Project Read Office no later than Friday, June 5, 2026, to be considered. Electronic entries are preferred, but both hard and electronic copies will be accepted. Please forward entries to Aleah at aleah@projectreadutah.org. Winners will be announced at our Annual Recognition Event on June 16th (Salt Lake County) and June 18th (Utah County). All submissions will be published in a writing contest booklet and our student anthology, *Readers Write*, with student's permission.

Thanks in advance for using this opportunity to build confidence and writing skills!

Sincerely,

Shauna K. Brown, Director

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Executive Director, Project Read





Project Read Writing Contest 2026: Here Comes the Sun

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Students may submit any writing they have done this year about any topic. Additionally, here are six writing prompts to inspire creativity and reflection—while listening to the Beatles!

1. "Here Comes the Sun" – Finding Hope: *"Here comes the sun, and I say, it's all right."*

Think about a time in your life that felt dark or difficult. Then something changed and gave you hope. In your writing, try to include the following parts:

- A description of the difficult time
- How you felt during that period
- What changed or improved
- Who or what brought "sunshine" into your life
- What you learned about hope

2. "With a Little Help From My Friends" – The Power of Support: *"I get by with a little help from my friends."*

Think about a time when someone helped you through a challenge. In your writing, try to include the following parts:

- The challenge you were facing
- Who helped you
- What they did or said
- How their support changed the situation
- Why support and friendship matter in life

3. "Let It Be" – Finding Peace: *"Let it be."*

Think about a time when you had to accept something you could not control. In your writing, try to include the following details:



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- The situation you were facing
- Why it was difficult to accept
- Your thoughts and emotions at the time
- How you learned to let go or find peace
- What this experience taught you

4. **"Blackbird"** – Learning to Fly: *"Take these broken wings and learn to fly."*

Think about a challenge that made you stronger. In your writing, try to include the following details:

- The obstacle you faced
- How you felt at the beginning
- What steps you took to move forward
- Who or what helped you
- How you are stronger or more confident now

5. **"In My Life"** – Looking Back: *"There are places I'll remember all my life."*

Think about an important memory that shaped who you are today. In your writing, try to include the following details:

- What happened and when
- Who was involved
- Why this memory is important
- How it influenced your life
- What it means to you now

6. **"All You Need Is Love"** – Love and Kindness: *"All you need is love. Love is all you need."*

Think about how love or kindness has made a difference in your life. In your writing, try to include the following details:

- A time when someone showed you love or compassion
- How it made you feel
- Why that moment was important
- How love can change people or situations
- How you try to show kindness to others