



2012 Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books Century Fence Company Middle & High School Student Essay Contest

This contest is open to all middle school and high school students in Waukesha County.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be chosen from both the middle school and high school categories.

Prizes:

1st place - \$250 2nd place - \$175 3rd place - \$75

Official presentation of the awards will be made at the authors' reception the evening of Friday, June 15. Winners must be able to appear at the authors' reception to accept their awards. In addition, first place winners must be available to read their essays at the 2012 Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books on Saturday, June 16.

Theme:

"Fiction depends for its life on place." –Eudora Welty

Place, or setting, is the container into which writers might be said to pour their characters and stories. It can be a real geographical place (the city of New York) or an imagined futuristic world. It can occur in the past, present or future. The wherever and whenever an author selects is critical to the action, theme and feeling of the story. It provides atmosphere and mood as well as support or resistance for main characters. Without place characters would be moving across a vacant landscape like figures drawn on a white board. In some novels, place is so important it functions very much like a major character.

Choose One:

Imagine yourself or a good friend as a character in a short story or novel you will be writing. What place or setting would you choose? Is it a real place or fictional? When is it – past, present or future? Describe it. How does it look, feel, smell? Be specific. Tell how your choice reflects something important about the character and the story you would want to tell.

Or

Tell us about a novel you've read in which the place or setting was so powerful it functioned for you like another character in the story. Provide specific detail about the plot of the novel and the elements of the place or setting that gave it personality and brought it to life.



Contest Guidelines

1. We are looking for thoughtful, well written essays of 600-750 words on the assigned topic for high school students and up to 400-500 words for middle school students. Entries should be single spaced and may be typed or legibly hand written.
2. Submissions must be of unpublished original work. We will not accept essays that have won a contest elsewhere.
3. We are interested in your words and ideas, but if you choose to quote an outside source or author as support you must give credit to that source by citing the author, publication, title and date. Plagiarism will be considered cause for elimination.
4. To be eligible, each entry must be accompanied by the official Festival Contest Entry Form. This form must be filled out completely and signed both by the student and a parent or guardian. By completing and signing the entry form you certify that this is your own work. Please submit only one essay. Multiple entries will not be considered.
5. All entries must be received by April 15, 2012. Entries should be mailed as follows:

Festival Essays

Attn: SEWI Festival of Books Coordinator

UW-Waukesha Foundation, Inc.

1500 N. University Dr.

Waukesha, WI 53188



Entry Form
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Student Name: _____

School Attended: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

Home schooled

Address or email to be used for notification:

By signing this form, I certify that this is my own original work and that it has not been previously published or awarded as part of another contest.

(Student Signature) (Date)

(Signature of Parent or Guardian) (Date)