

November 2005



# WRITE ON!

## writing contest

Contest #2 - Sponsored by Stargazer Publishing Company and Barnes & Noble

### Prizes

**First Prize:** \$30 Barnes & Noble Gift Certificate. With each winner's permission, winning entries will be published on Stargazer Publishing's website, [www.stargazerpub.com](http://www.stargazerpub.com).

**Second Prize:** \$20 Barnes & Noble Gift Certificate

**Third Prize:** Free kids' mystery from Stargazer Publishing Company

Note: Separate first, second, and third prizes will be given for Fiction Short Stories, Nonfiction Articles, and Essays (a total of nine prizes).

## for Grades 6-8!

### Rules

1

Students in grades 6-8 in the Corona-Norco area are eligible.

2

Three Categories:  
• Fiction Short Stories  
• Nonfiction Articles  
• Essays

3

Length: 500 - 1,500 words

4

Deadline:  
December 15, 2005

5

Bring entry and application to Melissa Foley, Barnes & Noble, 2470 Tuscany Street, Corona, CA 92881

Even if you haven't mastered spelling, grammar, or punctuation, give this contest a try! We are looking for good stories, articles, or essays. Remember: Even the best writer in the world can't tell your stories! Here's what the judges will be looking for:

- ✓ Message of the entry
- ✓ Creativity and originality
- ✓ Style (consistent throughout)
- ✓ Clarity (the meaning is clear)
- ✓ Fiction short stories should be written in the voice of a character using first- or third-person viewpoints.
- ✓ Nonfiction articles should be written using the third person viewpoint. If quotes are used, sources should be cited (title, author, publisher, publication date, page number), as in a research paper.
- ✓ Essays should be written in the first person viewpoint.

The judges will overlook *minor* errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar as long as they do not detract from the readability of the entry. The judges strongly recommend, however, that you have someone review your work before submitting it to minimize errors.

# What shall I write about?

## Here are some ideas!



Choose any writing topic you like or try one of the ideas below.

### Ideas for a Fiction Short Story or Nonfiction Article

Touched by an act

Conversations with....

Beyond words (describe an experience, place, or person who is beyond words)

Being different

The town's best kept secret

If the town had a museum, what should be in it?

If Interstate 5 could take your character anywhere, he/she/it would journey to....

Your character would rather be doing...

Beyond these hills....

The beauty of....

Describe two people or characters by comparing their similarities and differences

What the town will be like 10 years from now

The shortest or longest (minute, hour, day)....

Local unsolved mysteries

Jealousy, pure and simple! (Or choose another emotion such as love, hate, greed, envy, etc.)

A local hero or role model who should be well-known (or famous)

### Ideas for an Essay

A face, event, expression, story, lesson, or advice I will never forget

Where do I turn for answers?

Lessons I learned alone

If my town's museum had a room dedicated to me, what should be in it?

What I overheard that rocked my world

Skeletons in our closet

If I believed I could make a difference in the world, I would....

### Cover the basics

■ Who

■ What

■ Where

■ When

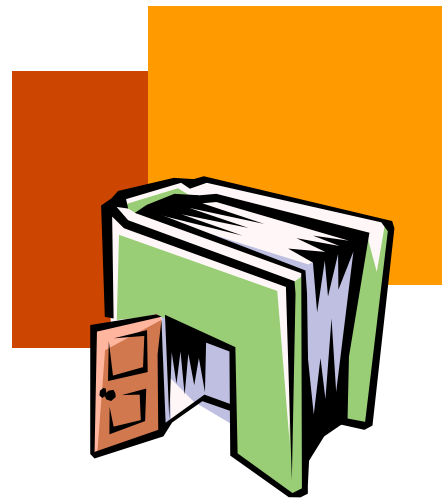
■ Why

■ How



# Entry Format

- Typed on 8 ½" x 11" paper
- Double-spaced
- Arial or Courier, 12-pt. Font
- 1-inch margins all around the page (top, bottom, and sides)
- Your contact information on the first page, top left corner:
  - Name
  - Address
  - Phone number
- Center the title beneath your contact information



Unlock your writing talent!

## Application Form

Name:

Street: Address:

City, State, Zipcode:

Phone Number:

School:

Teacher's Name:

Grade:

Category (check one):  Fiction Story  Nonfiction Article  Essay

Put your entry and application in a manila envelope marked as follows:

Your Name  
Write On! Writing Contest #2

Bring to:

Melissa Foley, Community Relations Manager  
Barnes and Noble Booksellers  
2470 Tuscany Street  
Corona, CA 92881

Deadline: December 15, 2005  
Winners announced January 30, 2006

## Tips

### for a winning entry

- ✓ Write from your heart about something that really matters to you.
- ✓ Each entry should have a beginning, middle, and end.
- ✓ Start off with a bang!
- ✓ End with punch!
- ✓ Does your entry evoke feelings in the reader? Good writing does.
- ✓ Write your entry, put it aside for a day, then come back and read it again--*out loud*. Does it convey what you meant to say? Is your meaning clear?
- ✓ Take the time to re-write once, twice, or as often as necessary to work out the bugs, improve clarity, and add polish to your work (that is, with well-chosen words and phrases).