



The SOLANO READER

SCRA Student Writing Contest Information Inside!

Questions: Contact Kathy Bergman, Fairmont School, 453-6240 or at KBergman@vacavilleusd.org
or Barb Debevec, 453-6162, BarbaraD@vacavilleusd.org

~ ATTENTION ALL EDUCATORS ~ WIN A NIGHT OUT FOR TWO! ~ 10th Annual SCRA Writing Contest for Teachers

Write a piece starting with this first line from Charles Dicken's Tale of Two Cities and
win a night out for two!



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." - Opening line of A Tale of Two Cities

Top **two** winners will receive a night out at the movies and dinner for two either in Vacaville at Merchant and Main or in Fairfield at the Vintage Café. Runners up will receive a gift certificate to a local bookstore. All winning pieces will be published in local newspapers and also be published on the SCRA web site, www.solanoreaders.org. Submit your entry via the web. Entries should be 800 words or less.

All Entries Due: Wednesday, March 4, 2009
Awards Ceremony: Wednesday, April 29, 2009, 7-8 p.m.
Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre, Vacaville

To submit your entry, log on to our Web site: www.solanoreaders.org. You may also submit your entry via email to Denise Fracchia, denise@fracchia.com. Please be sure to include your name, school, district and phone number.

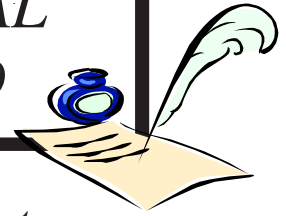
~ ~ ~ Upcoming SCRA Events ~ ~ ~

- Jan 24** **Rebekah Caplan**, Author, Topic: Reading and Writing Fluency through Text; Location: Nelda Mundy School, 580 Vintage Valley Dr., Fairfield, CA; Time: 8:30-4 p.m. (registration begins at 8 a.m.); Cost: \$35 for members/\$45 Non-members/\$65 with new membership (includes continental breakfast and full lunch); Make checks payable to SCRA and mail to J. Albright, 143 Hunters Glen Ct, Vacaville, CA 95687; SCRA/CCRA cosponsored event. You **MUST** register and prepay to hold your spot by January 20th!
- March 4** **SCRA Writing Contest Deadline.**
- March 5** **Elisa Kleven**, Author & Illustrator; Topic: TBA; Location: TBA; Time: 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- March 10 & 17** - **Writing Contest Judging**, Location: Fairmont Elementary School; Times: 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- April 29** **SCRA Writing Contest Awards**; Location: Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre, Vacaville, Time: 7-8 p.m.

*Please visit our website at www.solanoreaders.org
for up-to-date information and to sign up for events.*



SOLANO COUNTY 34th ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST - 2008-09



For Public and Private Schools of Solano County

Story

Kindergarten

Poetry and Story

Grades 1 - 4

Poetry, Story, and Expository

Grades 5 - 12

All Entries Due: Wednesday, March 4, 2009

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Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre, Vacaville

Writing Contest Guidelines

A WINNING PIECE WILL

- ✓ be focused.
- ✓ reflect voice/personal connection.
- ✓ engage the reader from the beginning and move to a satisfying conclusion.
- ✓ contain features unique to the type of writing.

Expository (Nonfiction)

- ◆ Presents a hypothesis
- ◆ Develops through a logical sequence of examples or data
- ◆ Voices the writer's convictions
- ◆ Reaches a conclusion
- ◆ No research papers

Story (Fiction) and Personal Narrative (True)

- ◆ Beginning (lead), middle, and end
- ◆ Problem/situation is presented
- ◆ Properly sequenced events lead to a conclusion that shows a solution/insight
- ◆ Characters are well-developed
- ◆ Dialogue, as appropriate
- ◆ Vivid details

Poetry

- ◆ Original use of figurative language
- ◆ Evokes an emotional response from the reader
- ◆ May reflect the style or tone of another published author that has been studied

Please send your student's best writing to the district representative listed below:

Dixon: Elaine Naggi, Anderson

Fairfield: Jackie Albright, Dan O. Root

Vacaville or private schools:

Kathy Bergman, Fairmont School

1355 Marshall Road, Vacaville 95687

Travis: Donna Rose, Cambridge

Vallejo: Marybeth Quig-Hartman, Wardlaw

Benicia: Barbara Sanders, Matthew Turner

Davis: Martha Beetley, North Davis

--- RULES OF CONTEST ---

The goal for the annual SCRA Anthology is to publish the best authentic student writing in Solano County. With access to technology dramatically increasing, SCRA will again require that entries be submitted ready to publish as received.

Here are the strict guidelines:

1. **Please edit** your student's submissions carefully. Submit in ready-to-publish form. Each winning entry will be printed exactly as is.
2. **Margins:** Left & Right – 1.25 inches. / Top and Bottom – 1 inch.
3. **Font:** Times New Roman, Comic Sans, or Arial.
4. **Size:** Text – 12 pt. Title: Centered at top of entry – 14 pt. Bold.
5. **Spacing:** Single spaced - **Limit 3 pages**.
6. **Identification:** Centered at the END of your submission:
Name: 14 pt Bold. / Other info: 12 pt. Not bold. [An example follows.]



John Smith

Grade 9, Forest High School
Mrs. Ann Bell, Which Unified School District

1. **Entries WILL NOT be returned.** All winners will be notified by mail in March.
2. Each entry must have a fully completed SCRA cover sheet stapled on top.
3. The entry must be the student's own original work.
4. Non-English entries--and Kindergarten entries-- must include a translation.
5. No more than three entries per student will be judged.
6. Please don't submit a class set or large selection of the same type of poem or prose!!!!

Teachers: We look forward to reading your best student writing !!

Anthology Editors:

Kathy Bergman, Fairmont School, Vacaville USD. Kbergman@VacavilleUSD.org
Barbara Debevec, District Office, Vacaville USD. BarbaraD@VacavilleUSD.org

34th Annual Solano County Writing Contest Judges Needed!

Teachers (active or retired) and other citizens interested in young people and their writing -- we encourage you to join us in helping to select the winners for this year's writing contest. This is a great opportunity to evaluate student work and become more familiar with the six traits of writing. Judges work with partners using a simple rubric. **Credit available for most districts--check with your district office.** *Come for any part of the judging.*

Two days of judging: **Tue. March 10**, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Fairmont School

1355 Marshall Road, Vacaville - Complimentary dinner.

Tue. March 17, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Fairmont Elementary School

1355 Marshall Road, Vacaville - Complimentary dinner.

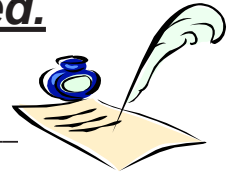


Please let us know if you plan to come and judge by calling Kathy Bergman, Fairmont School, 707-453-6240 or sign up on the web at www.solanoreaders.org.

SCRA WRITING CONTEST, 2008-2009

Please attach this Cover Sheet to each entry.

Please note - Entries WILL NOT be returned.



Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____ School: _____

District: _____

*Teacher's Name: _____
First Name Last Name

Teacher's phone # or email: _____

Title of Composition: _____

Category (check one):

- KINDERGARTEN
- POETRY
- SHORT STORY or
PERSONAL NARRATIVE
- EXPOSITORY (Grades 5-12 only)

Grade Level (check one):

- 1st or 2nd Grade
- 3rd or 4th Grade
- 5th or 6th Grade
- 7th or 8th Grade
- 9th through 12th Grade

*Winners will be notified in March. Cover sheet is also available on the web at:
www.solanoreaders.org. Questions? Contact Kathy Bergman, KBergman@vacavilleusd.org

If you teach at a year-round school and would like to be notified at your home or by home email, write this information below.

If you are submitting from a private school, please write your school address below.
