



17<sup>th</sup> Annual

2014

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## Student Library Essay Contest

Sponsored by:

- Friends of the San Diego Public Library • San Diego Public Library
- San Diego Public Library Foundation • KPBS (One Book, One San Diego)
- San Diego Unified School District Library Media Teachers
- Computers 2 SD Kids (C2SDK)

**Open to:** Public and private school students in grades 4, 8 and 10 attending a school served by the San Diego Public Library System.

**Contest Information:** Entry forms & essay topics will be distributed to schools and libraries in October 2013 and posted on sponsor's websites



You too can

# BE A WINNER!

**Pictured are the 2013 top prize-winners!**

If you have questions or need additional information, please call:

Marian Day, (619) 298-1200,

Carleen Hemric, (619) 465-1688,

Wendy or Phil Gay, (619) 697-2024,

OR

The Friends of the Library Office, (619) 542-1724.



**Our \$500 Grand Prize Winner for 2013**

**Students/Teachers:** The **DEADLINE** for receipt of entries is:  
**3:00 PM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2013**



**Four Grand Prize Winners** at each level will be announced during a ceremony

MAY 1, 2014 at the NEW San Diego Central Library

Top prizewinners will each receive a monetary award AND a laptop computer!

**Need help getting started? Contact Wendy Gay, [pahlwen@pacbell.net](mailto:pahlwen@pacbell.net) OR 619-697-2024**



# **ANNOUNCING:**

## **The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Writing for Literacy Library Essay Contest**

### **Sponsored by:**

Friends of the San Diego Public Library  
San Diego Public Library  
San Diego Unified School District Library Media Teachers  
KPBS (One Book, One San Diego)  
Computers 2 SD Kids (C2SDK)

**OPEN TO: all students**, public, private, parochial and home school, in **grades 4, 8 & 10**, who attend a school served by the San Diego Public Library system.

**Suggested topic choices, guidelines for writing your essay and the entry form are included here and will be posted on the Library Foundation web site,\* the San Diego Public Library web site,\*\* the KPBS One Book, One San Diego web site\*\*\* and e-mailed to Schools and Libraries in early October, 2013.**

**Students/Teachers: The DEADLINE for receipt of entries will be:  
3:00 PM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2013**

**SCHOOL WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY, 2014, at their branch library.**

**Four Grand Prize Winners** at each level will be announced during a ceremony on MAY 1, 2014.

at the NEW San Diego Central Library

Top prizewinners will each receive a monetary award AND a laptop computer!

One special prize of \$500  
will be awarded in memory of  
JACK and CAROLYN WINER  
for the best overall essay

\* <http://www.supportmylibrary.org/>

\*\* <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>

\*\*\*One Book, One San Diego <http://www.kpbs.org/one-book/2013/>

**QUESTIONS: Contact Wendy Gay, [pahlwen@pacbell.net](mailto:pahlwen@pacbell.net) OR 619- 697-2024**

Local Branch Library: \_\_\_\_\_

**Students:** Attach this completed entry form to your essay. *Make a copy of your essay and this entry form for your records!*  
Please put your name on all pages of your essay.

## 2014 STUDENT WRITING FOR LITERACY ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

PLEASE PRINT

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

(First)

(Last)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Number

Street

Zip

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

eMAIL address: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL : \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE:(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR ROUND yes\_\_\_\_\_ no\_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC OF ESSAY: \_\_\_\_\_

(Select from topics listed on the reverse of the contest flyer.)

TEACHER FULL NAME (print): \_\_\_\_\_

(First)

(Last)

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Grades 8 & 10 entries **must be typed**; Grade 4 entries may be typed or **written legibly in ink**. All entries will be judged on originality and focus on the selected prompt by a panel of community members.

**Schools submitting 1-10 entries will have one winner, 11-20 entries will have two winners, and above 20 entries will have three winners at the branch library.**

Each branch library will then select and submit a first prize essay at each grade level for Grand Prize judging.

Suggested maximum length:

Grade 4: Suggested Maximum 250 words

Grade 8: Suggested Maximum 500 words; 12 pt. size type

Grade 10: Suggested Maximum 1000 words; 12 pt. size type

SIGNATURES:

We certify that this entry is a new original work and was developed and written by the student.

*We give permission for the writer's essay and picture to be reproduced for promotional purposes including publication in the news media.* We understand that the objective of this contest is student recognition and that there is no compensation beyond the prizes mentioned.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

To be officially entered, all signatures must be complete when the entry is received.

The DEADLINE for receipt of entries at your branch library is:

**3:00 PM FRIDAY DECEMBER 20, 2013**

QUESTIONS CALL: Marian Day/Carleen Hemric, Friends of the Library, (619) 542-1724

Wendy Gay, San Diego Unified School District, Librarian, Retired, (619) 697-2024

This contest supports

***THE CALIFORNIA CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR LITERACY***

Thanks to Copy-it ([www.copy-it.com](http://www.copy-it.com)) for printing assistance

## ESSAY IDEAS and GUIDELINES FOR THE 2014 STUDENT CONTEST

Choose and discuss one of the four topics listed below:

**(1) In support of the 2013 “One Book, One San Diego” book titled *CALEB’S CROSSING* by Geraldine Brooks, focus your essay on early American History (1600’s) and the struggles of Native Americans and women during this time period. This book, inspired by a true story and narrated by Bethia, captures the triumphs and turmoil of two brave young spirits who risk everything in a search for knowledge at a time of superstition and ignorance.**

Bethia Mayfield, the 12-year-old daughter of a minister, is a child in the mid 1600’s on a beautiful, wild island that would later be named Martha’s Vineyard. She’s not allowed to study like her brothers even though she is smarter than they are. She sees how the settlers treat the local Indians, the Wampanoag, and the disdain with which they viewed this tribe’s religion. When she becomes a woman in this early American society, Bethia isn’t treated much better; she must submit to the authority of the men who dominated puritan life and certainly never speak her mind.

Girls could not be schooled, but Bethia learns Latin, history, and the Wampanoag language on her own by eavesdropping as the boys are taught. While exploring the island on her horse one day, she meets a young Wampanoag boy named Caleb. He teaches her about his world. She helps him understand her world. Bethia’s family is unaware of the friendship between Bethia and Caleb as the two grow up side by side. Their bond is based on friendship, not flirtation. The novel’s title refers to Caleb’s journey from his world into Bethia’s, but it is really a story about both of them.

Geraldine Brooks based this novel on several historical facts, including the founding of Harvard College in 1636; the purchase of Martha’s Vineyard by Puritans in the early 1640s; and the graduation from Harvard in 1665 of Caleb Cheeshahteumauk. Because few written items, especially by women of the 1600’s, survive, the process of creating the narrator’s voice became a challenge for Geraldine Brooks. While writing *Caleb’s Crossing* she had to invent a kind of 1600’s “language” for Bethia to “speak”.

Using narrative techniques, write an essay that tells how you feel about the historical hardships faced by native Americans and women and how they have fought to gain respect, success and leadership roles throughout our history.

**Follow the guidelines for size, spacing, font, etc. as outlined on the entry form.**

KPBS “One Book, One San Diego” also selected, for 2013, *JINGLE DANCER* by Cynthia Leitich Smith. The main character in this story, Jenna, is a modern Muscogee (Creek) young Native American girl in Oklahoma.

Jenna wants to honor a family tradition by Jingle Dancing at the next powwow. This simple story of culture, tradition and love in a modern American Indian family is delightful and will appeal to all ages.

Previous Year’s “One Book, One San Diego” title selections included modern issues such as immigration, religious differences, culture ‘clash’, parental discord, consequences of war, sorrow, grief and friendship. Listed below are some of those titles that you might enjoy:

**2012:** *Sky of Red Poppies*, Ghahremani; *Moloka’i*. Brennert; *Into the Beautiful North*, Urrea; **2011:** *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*, le thi diem thuy; **2010:** *Outcasts United*, St. John; **2009:** *The Zookeeper’s Wife*, Ackerman; **2008:** *Three Cups of Tea*, Mortenson & Relin; **2007:** *Enrique’s Journey*, Nazario.

**Or you may want to choose another title: see the attached list of similar titles. (Several for younger students)**

### **2014 Traditional Topics you might decide to write about:**

**(2) A book that inspired me to help save the earth I will inherit is...Why?**

*California Literacy Standard: 2.2 - Response to Literature (Grades 4, 8, 10)*

**(3) If all the books in the world were about to disappear, but I could save one, what would it be? ...Why?**

*California Literacy Standard: 2.3 - Information Report (Grades 4, 8, 10)*

**(4) What resources are available to me at my San Diego Public Library relating to my personal interests, such as my favorite sport, hobby, etc.?...Describe.**

*California Literacy Standards: 2.3 - Information Report (Grade 4, 8, 10)  
2.4 - Persuasive Composition (Grades 8 & 10)*

For more information about “One Book, One San Diego” go to <http://www.kpbs.org/one-book/>

## Additional Titles for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Essay Contest

Dalglish, Alice, *The Courage of Sarah Noble*. Scribner and Sons, 1954. 64 pages. 1955 Newbery Honor Title. Grade level 4

In 1707, young Sarah Noble and her father traveled through the wilderness to find a place to build a new home for their family. "Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble," her mother had said, but Sarah found that it was not always easy to feel brave inside. The dark woods were full of animals and Indians and Sarah was only eight! The true story of Sarah's journey is inspiring. And as she cares for her father and befriends her Indian neighbors, she learns that to be afraid and to still be brave is the greatest courage of all.

Duble, Kathleen Benner, *The Sacrifice*, Margaret K. McElderry Books 2007. 211 pages. Grade level 4-8.

In 1692 in a small Massachusetts town the first "witch" is hanged. The whole town is going wild accusing people of being witches. 10 year old Abigail and her sister are arrested for witchcraft. This novel describes one family's experiences with the Salem witchcraft hysteria and a brave young girl who speaks out about the evil of false accusations. This story captures the effects of fear and how everyone can get caught up in it.

Fraustino, Lisa Rowe. *I Walk in Dread: The Diary of Deliverance Trembley, Witness to the Salem Witch Trials, Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1691*, Scholastic Inc. 2004. Dear America Series. 231 pages. Grade level 4-8.

Deliverance Trembley lives in Salem Village, where she must take care of her sickly sister, Mem, and where she does her daily chores in fear of her cruel uncle's angry temper. But when four young girls from the village accuse some of the local women of being witches, Deliverance finds herself caught up in the ensuing drama of the trials. And life in Salem is never the same.

Fritz, Jean, *The Double Life of Pocahontas*. C.P. Putnam, 1983. 128 pages. Grade level 4-8.

This award-winning book by Jean Fritz provides an account of the life of Pocahontas, the favored daughter of Chief Powhatan, and removes some of the "romantic notions" from the Pocahontas legend, turning history into engrossing reality. Eleven-year-old Pocahontas found herself torn between two worlds when the British settlers came to Jamestown. She became a link between the two diverse cultures. In a move engineered to save the life of Captain John Smith, Pocahontas performed a ritual that made Smith her kinsman. She was used as a pawn by both sides, and in 1614 she married English colonist John Rolfe. Pocahontas left no written record, so much of the information about her is from other writings of the time.

Jackson, Neta and Dave, *The Mayflower Secret*. Bethany House, 1998. 160 pages. Grade level 4-8.

Elizabeth Tilley's parents did not survive the Mayflower's trip to America. This is the story of 13-year-old Elizabeth Tilley and her experiences as she comes to New England on the Mayflower in 1620. Along the way, we are introduced to Governor William Bradford and learn many interesting details about the early years of the Plymouth colony. It is also a nicely depicted story of the Pilgrims and how they survived those early years. There are records indicating that an actual Elizabeth Tilley was on the Mayflower, became orphaned that first winter; and married John Howland when she was 16, in 1623.

Lenski, Lois, *Indian Captive: The Story of Mary Jemison*, Harper Collins, 1941. 320 pages. Grade level 4-8.

In this classic frontier adventure, Lois Lenski reconstructs the real life story of Mary Jemison, who was captured as young girl during a Seneca raid on her family's farm and raised among the Seneca Indians. Meticulously researched and illustrated with many detailed drawings, this novel offers an exceptionally vivid and personal portrait of Native American life and customs. After about two years with the Seneca, Mary learns that her family is dead, and she must make a choice to stay with the Indians or return to the world of white men. She chooses to stay with the Seneca, who have shown her much love and kindness, and whose ways she has grown to understand and respect.

O'Dell, Scott, *The Serpent Never Sleeps: A Novel of Jamestown and Pocahontas*. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1987. 227 pages. Grade level 6-9.

In the early 17th century, Serena Lynn, an English castle maid, follows a nobleman she has loved since childhood to the New World. She soon comes to know the hardships of early colonial life. O'Dell transports readers from a lavish 17th century English castle to a shipwreck off Bermuda and finally to the struggling early settlement at Jamestown. When her nobleman is killed, Serena wants to return to England but decides that her life is in America. A stream of dramatic incidents makes this story compelling. Pocahontas, befriends Serena. This novel provides a view of history by highlighting key events like: the arrival of King James's English translation of the Bible in Jamestown; the near-constant debate of settlers as to whether to face a hazardous journey back to England; or the bleak-looking future in the New World.

Otis, Carol Hurst and Rebecca Otis, *A Killing in Plymouth Colony*. HMH Books for Young Readers, 2003. 160 pages. Grade level 8 and up.

There had never been a murder in Plymouth colony. The very idea was unthinkable, but John Newcomen had been shot and killed by someone. When Governor William Bradford suspects John Billington, an outsider whose public drunkenness makes him an easy scapegoat, his own son rushes to the man's defense. Twelve-year-old John Bradford understands what it's like to live outside of his father's good graces. It seems to him that every little mistake earns a reprimand; nothing he ever did won his father's approval. This historical novel brings together the drama of a murder mystery and the complexities of the relationship with a father and provides a glimpse of what life might have been like growing up in the young colony as it too struggled to determine its course and its identity.

Richter, Conrad, *The Light in the Forest*. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1953. 180 pages. Grade level 8-10.

When John Cameron Butler was a child, he was captured in a raid on the Pennsylvania frontier and adopted by the great warrior Cuyloga. Renamed True Son, he came to think of himself as fully Indian. But eleven years later his tribe, the Lenni Lenape, has signed a treaty with the white men and agreed to return their captives, including fifteen-year-old True Son. Now he must go back to the family he has forgotten, whose language is no longer his, and whose ways of dress and behavior are as strange to him as the ways of the forest are to them. A beautifully written, sensitively told story of a white boy brought up by Indians, this is a beloved American classic.

Speare, Elizabeth George, *Witch of Blackbird Pond*. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1958. 249 pages. Newbery Award-winner 1959. Grade level 8 and up.

Orphaned Kit Tyler knows, as she gazes for the first time at the cold, bleak shores of Connecticut Colony in 1687, that her new home will never be like the shimmering Caribbean island she left behind. In the stern Puritan community, she feels like a tropical bird that has flown to the wrong part of the world, a bird that is now caged and lonely. The only place where Kit feels completely free is in the meadows, where she enjoys the company of the old Quaker woman known as the Witch of Blackbird Pond, and on occasion, a young sailor friend Nat. But when Kit's friendship with the "witch" is discovered, Kit is faced with suspicion, fear, and anger. She herself is accused of witchcraft! But there is hope. As with today's legal system, success depends on getting the right advocate! Will the townspeople stand up for her and denounce the witch-hunts, or will she be tortured by religious hysteria?

Weyn, Suzanne, *Invisible World*. Scholastic Press, 2012. 240 pages. Grade 8 and up.

Elsabeth James has some powers that she isn't altogether sure about. Is she a witch or is she merely a psychic? She isn't certain. But surely having powers can't make you evil, can it? Her father has been experimenting with her powers since she was young. He believes her abilities are explained by science, and he intends to prove it with research and statistics. Her governess, Bronwyn, told her stories about how her grandmother and great grandmother were persecuted for being witches. Bronwyn warns her to be careful, so she doesn't end up in a similar situation. When a famous scientist offers a research opportunity for Elsabeth and her father, the family sets off on a months long journey to America. Elsabeth's journey has several scary detours. Her life is threatened and she must dig deep to find the courage to survive. This book has a mix of history, romance, and the supernatural. Elsabeth can hear people's thoughts and sometimes see what they see. She has supernatural gifts, but not evil ones.