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SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN FESTIVAL OF BOOKS ANNOUNCES
ESSAY CONTEST

High school and middle school students eligible to win prized up to \$250

Waukesha, Wis. – May 24, 2017 – The Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books committee announces its 2017 Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books Century Fence Middle & High School Student Essay Contest. The contest is open to all middle school and high school students in Waukesha County. To be eligible for the cash prizes, students must submit an original essay based on the Festival theme of reflections. All entries must be received by October 2.

First, second and third place winners will be selected from both the middle school and high school categories. First place winners will receive \$250. The second place prize is \$175, and those in third place will receive \$75.

“This year’s theme is reflections,” said Event Co-chairman Drew Blanchard, University of Wisconsin-Waukesha assistant English professor. “We’re announcing the contest before this school year ends to give students a chance to ‘reflect’ on the theme and write their essays over the summer.”

Students are being asked to identify an author or book and detail in their essays how that author/book caused them, upon reflection, to enter a world of self-discovery.

Official presentation of the awards will be made at the Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books during the Cabaret & Essay Contest Awards Celebration at 11:30 a.m. on November 4. Winners must be present during the awards celebration to receive their prizes, and first place winners must be available to read their essays at the event.

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“Contest entries should be thoughtful, well-written essays of 600-750 words for high school students and up to 400-500 words for middle school students,” explained Event Co-chairman Duane Stein, retired Waukesha School District educator. “Additional contest guidelines can be found on the Festival of Books website at sewibookfest.com.”

The Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books is an annual community celebration of literacy and the arts, where local and national authors and readers of all ages come together to enjoy presentations, performances, creativity and conversation.

This year’s Festival of Books will be held November 3-4 on the University of Waukesha campus at 1500 N. University Drive, Waukesha, Wisconsin. This is the eighth year for this community-wide event, which is organized by the UW-Waukesha Foundation in cooperation with partners in the community.

Partners committed to date include: All Writers’ Workplace & Workshop, Books & Company, Century Fence Company, Country Springs Hotel, Friends of Waukesha Public Library, Greater Waukesha Literacy, UW-Waukesha Lecture & Fine Arts Committee, UW-Waukesha Theatre Department, Waukesha Community Foundation/Mihi Cura Futuri Fund, Waukesha Reads!, Wisconsin Public Radio, Waukesha State Bank, and Z2.

A Writer’s Marketplace is also available for authors and organizations to promote their work for a small fee. Volunteers are needed for the event.

Visit sewibookfest.com or email sewibookfest@uwc.edu with questions, inquiries or information about volunteering.

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