



The 2010 Big Write, A youth writing contest!

It all began when I got that text message.

Official Contest Guidelines

The Big Read Festival, St. Louis Writers Guild, and No Waste Publishing invite students in grades 4-8 (in Fall 2010) to participate in the fifth annual youth writing contest, The Big Write! **The contest officially opens on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 and will close on Friday, September 3, 2010. Entry(ies) must be postmark dated on or before September 3, 2010.**

The Prizes!

There will be six winners--three in each of the two grade level categories for (1) Grades 4 & 5, and (2) Grades 6-8. Winners will receive cash prizes of \$100 for 1st place, \$50 for 2nd place, and \$25 for 3rd place, an Award Certificate, and an invitation to read their winning entries before a live audience at The Big Read Festival on Saturday, October 9, 2010. The winning stories will also be published on The Big Read website at: www.culturalfestivals.com and all students that submit qualified entries will receive a special commemorative bookmark from The Big Read.

The Contest Rules!

Write an original story that begins with the sentence: "**It all began when I got that text message.**" The story may be scary, adventurous, humorous, or just plain fun. Judging will be based on originality, cohesiveness, spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Please use standard English. No text message slang.

Your entry must meet the following guidelines to be eligible to win:

1. You may submit more than one entry, but the Official Contest Entry Form (See other side of this document) must be stapled, not paper-clipped, to the front of each story you submit. A missing entry form for any story will disqualify that story. You may copy this form.
2. Each entry may not contain less than 250 words or more than 500 words (Title doesn't count).
3. Each entry must begin with the exact sentence: "It all began when I got that text message." It must be placed below your story title, to begin the first paragraph.
4. Each entry should be typed or neatly hand-printed on plain white paper. If you type, you must use a standard 12-point black font. No fancy fonts or colored paper! Use black ink if you hand-print your entry. Print neatly.
5. An original title is required on each entry.
6. Do not include pictures with your entry.
7. Do not write your name or include any identifiable marks on the story pages.

See other side >>>.

Announcement of Finalists

The names of all finalists will be posted on The Big Read website prior to the festival. All entrants are invited to attend to the Award Ceremony at The Big Read Festival where the winners will be announced. See www.culturalfestivals.com for finalists' names and festival details.

It all began when I got that text message.

Official Contest Entry Form

Follow all Official Contest Guidelines on the other side of this form.

A separate contest entry form must be attached to every story you send us. You may photocopy this form or print additional copies off of The Big Read website at: www.culturalfestivals.com. Copies will also be available at St. Louis City Libraries, St. Louis County Libraries, Jefferson County Libraries, St. Charles City Libraries, and St. Charles County Libraries. For more information, visit: www.culturalfestivals.com or call 314-863-0278.

Mail your entry(ies) with postmark dated on or before Friday, September 3, 2010 to:

Cultural Festivals
Attention: The Big Write Contest
7818 Forsyth, Suite 210
St. Louis, MO. 63105

****Entries will not be returned, so keep copies before mailing.**

SHOW THIS PART TO YOUR PARENTS: If your entry wins an award, The Big Read and St. Louis Writers Guild may make light editing changes to your story to improve its readability for publication online.

PRINT NEATLY and be sure to fill out this form completely!

Name of Young Author _____ Age _____

Grade in Fall of 2010 (Home schoolers, indicate customary grade for age): _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Young Author's Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Teacher's/Sponsor's Name (if applicable): _____

School/Organization Name: _____

School/Organization Phone Number with area code: _____

I have read all the Official Contest rules and followed them. I promise that the attached story is my own fictional work and contains my own original ideas.

Young Author's Signature

