



WRITING PROJECT & COMPETITION

Additional information
available at <http://ppld.org>

Get involved...get creative...
get published... win prizes!

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY WRITERS (Novice and experienced) of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry! The **All Pikes Peak Reads Journal** competition for this year will focus on writing inspired by "Tales from the Arabian Nights." This year, Pikes Peak Library District has selected as our main text *The Arabian Nights Entertainments*, edited by Andrew Lang, and published by Dover Publications, Inc. (ISBN 0-486-22289-6) For this year's writing project, the top three original entries in each genre will be included in a publication along with commemorative photos and information about APPR 2005. Prizes will be awarded and additional winners will be recognized at the October 22 final party, The Last Arabian Night: A Party in the Palace, from 5 – 8 p.m. at the East Library, 5550 N. Union Blvd.

NOTE: Writers competition guidelines and submission details can also be found online at ppld.org, click on the APPR icon.

Looking for a Writing Mentor?

Aspiring poetry, fiction, and nonfiction writers can receive assistance from a local professional writer or instructor. Your mentor can help you fine-tune your submission and make sure you are following the contest submission rules.

If you are interested in finding a mentor OR

If you are interested in attending a Saturday afternoon writing workshop at the Downtown Studio of Pikes Peak Community College, please contact Larry Giddings at 719.540.2631 or larry.giddings@ppcc.edu.

---MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS---

All Pikes Peak Reads especially encourages writing from our **sixth through twelfth grade students**. This is an excellent opportunity to help our young writers develop a strong sense of the connections to be made among literature, personal writing, and our rapidly changing world. Please consider asking your students to participate this year, and please contact Larry Giddings for more information about this Writing Project/Contest (larry.giddings@ppcc.edu or 719.540.2631)

Contest Structure

Writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry should select a theme from the section below and create their work around it. *Provided that a minimum of 10 entries are received per genre*, a first, second, and third place winner from each will be selected for inclusion the 2005 All Pikes Peak Reads Journal. Prizes for these and additional winners will be awarded. Winners will be invited to read their entry or an excerpt from it (time permitting) at the APPR final celebration at the East Library on Sat., October 22. Readings will be held in the Community Meeting Room beginning at 5 p.m.

Themes

[For more clarification on themes, please refer to the Discussion Themes for APPR 2005 in the front of the curriculum guides.]

1. Consequences: This is a broad theme that is explored in various ways throughout the *Nights*. Characters who choose to act in ways that are honest or that promote justice seem to encounter different consequences than those characters that are deceitful, unforgiving, or hungry for power.

Fiction: Write your own “Arabian Nights” story exploring how characters experience the consequences of their actions.

Non-Fiction: Write an essay that explores the connections between one or more of the stories from *The Arabian Nights Entertainments* and the kinds of consequences that people encounter in our modern-day world.

Poetry: Write a poem exploring the concept of consequences.

All Genres may also draw upon the following topics for ideas and subject matter:

- A. Honesty and Reward
- B. Justice and Forgiveness
- C. Hope
- D. Power and its abuses
- E. Riches and Wealth
- F. Happiness and Contentment
- G. Greed, Envy, and Jealousy

2. Heroism: Many of Scheherazade’s tales feature heroic and noble actions by various characters.

Fiction: Write your own “Arabian Nights” story that pits characters with heroic qualities (honest, trustworthy, just, etc.) against characters that lack them.

Non-Fiction: Write an essay that explores the connections between one or more of the stories from *The Arabian Nights Entertainments* and the heroes and heroines who populate the world in which we live.

Poetry: Write a poem exploring “Heroism and/or Cowardice” in fantasy and/or in reality.

All Genres may also draw upon the following topics for ideas and subject matter:

- A. Roles of Women
- B. Roles of Men

3. Ingenuity: Ingenuity is central to success in many of the stories from *The Arabian Nights Entertainments*, and ingenuity is often critical for success in life.

Fiction: Write your own “Arabian Nights” story in which ingenuity plays a central role.

Non-Fiction: Write an essay explaining what one or more of the stories from *The Arabian Nights Entertainments* can teach modern people about the role of ingenuity in daily life.

Poetry: Write a poem emphasizing the role of ingenuity in life.

All Genres may also draw upon the following topics for ideas and subject matter:

- A. Endurance
- B. Wisdom
- C. Folly
- D. Intuition

3. Fantastic Elements: Our popular culture (television, film, literature, comic books) seems to be inundated with elements of fantasy and escape. The traditional stories of the *Nights* demonstrate an equal fascination with the fantastic.

Fiction: Write your own “Arabian Nights” story featuring fantastic elements like magic, enchantments, and genies.

Non-Fiction: Write an essay that explores the connections between one or more of the stories from *The Arabian Nights Entertainments*, and modern society’s interest in the “Fantastic.”

Poetry: Write a fantasy poem.

All Genres may also draw upon the following topics for ideas and subject matter:

- A. Comparisons with Harry Potter and other contemporary literature
- B. Genies and Bottles
- C. Magic and Metamorphosis

4. Connections Between East and West: What are the intersections and parallels in Western and Eastern cultural tales and their morals? What are the commonalities between Eastern and Western cultures?

Fiction: Write your own story that connects Eastern and Western cultures through characters and events. Consider utilizing a nested structure of storytelling, retelling an Eastern fairy tale (like those in the *Nights*), or using another narrative technique used in the tales.

Non-Fiction: Write an essay exploring the intersections, parallels, and/or divergences between Eastern culture and Western culture.

Poetry: Write a poem explaining, exploring, and/or connecting Eastern values and Western values.

All Genres may also draw upon the following topics for ideas and subject matter:

- A. Stories within stories (nested structure)
- B. Multi-faith societies
- C. History of Region
- D. What kind of civilizations produced these stories?
- E. Slavery
- F. How do the movies compare with the books?
- G. What is the American pop culture take on the *Nights*?
- H. What do the morals of the stories tell us about the time in which the *Nights* were written? What do our stories tell us about our own culture?

5. Human Nature: Whether it is a struggle between various aspects of good and evil, the content and the greedy, or the rich and the needy, the stories from *The Arabian Nights Entertainments* are filled with examples of varied characteristics of human nature.

Fiction: Write your own “Arabian Nights” story demonstrating some aspect of human nature in your characters’ lives.

Non-Fiction: Write an essay that explains what modern-day readers can learn about human nature from one or more of the stories from *The Arabian Nights Entertainments*.

Poetry: Write a poem exploring human nature.

All Genres may also draw upon the following topics for ideas and subject matter:

- A. Good vs. Evil
- B. Greed, Envy, Jealousy
- C. Selfishness and Generosity
- D. Roles of Women
- E. Roles of Men

Submission Information

This year’s Writing Project is divided into TWO age groupings—STUDENT and ADULT. The “Student” category is for writers born in 1987 or later; “Adult” category writers were born in 1986 or before.

Contest submissions (by email) must be received no later than 6 p.m. on Monday, October 3. All electronic submissions should be sent to Larry.Giddings@ppcc.edu. If necessary, print versions may be submitted no later than 6 p.m. Monday, October 3 at any Pikes Peak Library District facility, or by mail to: All Pikes Peak Reads, East Library, 5550 N. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80918.

Contest submissions will be subject to the following parameters:

Poetry

A single submission not to exceed 250 words

Fiction

Short story, not to exceed 2,500 words

Non-Fiction

Personal or short essay, commentary, memoir not to exceed 2,500 words

Electronic Submissions:

Submit your manuscript double-spaced in 12-point Courier Font. Include a title page specifying title of work, genre, theme chosen, and writer's contact information including name, phone number, street address, and email address. Each page of the actual text must specify the genre, title, and page number in the upper left-hand corner.

Print (Hard Copy) Submissions:

Submit two copies, on 8 ½" x 11" white paper, typed & double spaced in 12-point Courier Font. Include a title page specifying title of work, genre, theme chosen, and writer's contact information including name, phone number, street address, and email address. Each page of the actual text must specify the genre, title, and page number in the upper left-hand corner.

Judging Criteria

All submissions will be screened for adherence to the above guidelines. Those in compliance will then be assigned a number and entered into the judging process. Each submission will be read by a pair of judges who will then assign a point value to the submission based on the following criteria:

1-5 points for **Treatment of Theme**: How well is the author's chosen theme evident and developed throughout the work?

1-15 points for **Connection Between Writer and Reader**. How well has the author engaged the reader through subject, technique, and the norms of the chosen genre? Character development, detail, humor, imagination, irony, message, organization, originality/uniqueness, perspective, purpose, rhythm/meter, story, structure, and word play will all be considered.

The total value possible per entry is 20 points.

Contact Information:

If you have questions regarding the APPR Writing Project and Competition, please email Larry.Giddings@ppcc.edu or call leave a voice message at 540-2631.