



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

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Mystery Writers of America Holds Third Annual Short Story Contest Open to Second Through Tenth Grade Students

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December 19, 2007—New York — MWA:Reads, Mystery Writers of America's youth literacy program that encourages children and teens to read mysteries by joining authors with students, parents, teachers, and librarians, will hold its third annual Joan Lowery Nixon Award mystery writing contest in 2008. The announcement was made today by MWA:Reads National Chairperson Chris Freeburn and Daniel J. Hale, Executive Vice President of Mystery Writers of America. Since its inception nine years ago, MWA:Reads (formerly Kids Love a Mystery) has involved thousands of students and scores of authors all across the United States.

The Joan Lowery Nixon Award mystery writing contest encourages students to use their language arts skills along with their imagination to create their own unique mystery story. The contest is named after the prolific American writer of historical fiction and mysteries for children and young adults, Joan Lowery Nixon. She is the founder of MWA:Reads, as well as the only person ever to win the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar® Award for Best Juvenile Mystery four times. Lowery passed away in 2003.

Contest details:

The Joan Lowery Nixon Award mystery writing contest is open to students from the second through the tenth grades. There are two age categories: Grades 2-5 and Grades 6-10. Only one story per student may be submitted, as specified in the contest rules. The entries will be judged in the area of creativity and proper use of the English language. The winner of each category will receive a \$250 cash prize.

Submissions for the contest will be accepted beginning February 3, 2008 (Joan Lowery Nixon's birthday) but no later than February 28, 2008. Students in public and private schools, as well as home-schooled students, are encouraged to participate.

Visit <http://www.mysterywriters.org/MWAreads> for complete submission guidelines and contest rules. The winners will be posted on Mystery Writers of America's website

About Mystery Writers of America

Mystery Writers of America (MWA) is the premier organization for mystery writers, professionals allied to the crime writing field, aspiring crime writers, and those who are devoted to the genre. MWA is dedicated to promoting higher regard for crime writing and recognition and respect for those who write within the genre. The organization provides scholarships for writers, sponsors MWA:Reads (our youth literacy program), sponsors symposia and conferences, presents the Edgar® Awards, and conducts other activities to further a better appreciation and higher regard for crime writing. With 11 chapters covering the 50 states, membership is open to the public, and you need not reside in the U.S. to join. MWA is a nonprofit organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. www.mysterywriters.org

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