

To: English Department Chairs of Wake County High Schools
Subject: 2011-2012 Raleigh Fine Arts Society Literary Contest

This year the Raleigh Fine Arts Society will conduct its thirty-fourth annual Literary Contest, a short story competition open to all Wake County high school students in grades 10-12. The purpose of the Literary Contest is to encourage creative writing and to recognize outstanding young writers in Wake County.

Students will submit their short story manuscripts online. They will access contest rules and submission forms from our website, www.raleighfinearts.org. Teachers will then review and submit students' short stories to Raleigh Fine Arts via the same website. Each manuscript is read by two judges. We have well over 60 judges, as we had 628 eligible entries last year of 806 submitted. We believe our online system offers a student/teacher friendly way to access and enter the contest.

We look forward to the participation of your students this year. The contest dates are October 3, 2011 through January 11, 2012. The teachers will then have until January 19, 2012 to submit their students' short stories to RFAS. Representatives from the Literary Contest Committee will be in touch with the English Department Chairs during the contest period.

In addition to the individual awards for students, the English Department of the First Place winner in each grade and the English Department of the Overall Best Story winner will each be awarded \$100 to be used for materials related to creative writing. The contest will conclude with an Awards Ceremony and workshop for the winners on Monday, April 30, 2012. Their English teachers, parents and principals will be invited guests as will the Raleigh Fine Arts membership and the general public.

The Awards Ceremony will again be held in the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, preceded by a short reception in the Fletcher Lobby prior to the awards ceremony. Following the reception, the awards will be presented in the Fletcher Theater. Author and professor of English, Daniel Wallace (<http://englishcomplit.unc.edu/people/wallaced>) will be the guest speaker. We will hold our traditional writers' workshop, including a light meal, for the participating students prior to the reception and Awards Ceremony.

Please encourage your students and teachers to participate! We look forward to working with your school, and we hope to receive many outstanding short stories from your students.

Elizabeth T. Beam
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Literary Chairman
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