

“In the Village”: Elizabeth Bishop Centenary Writing Competition, 2011

GUIDELINES

“In the Village”: The Elizabeth Bishop Centenary Writing Competition, 2011, is a one-time, short prose writing competition sponsored by the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia to celebrate her 100th birthday. Inspired by her story “In the Village,” this competition asks participants to write about their own sense of place and identity, to tap experience, memory and imagination, the sources of art.

Entries can be autobiographical or fictional prose stories. The idea is for each writer to explore or describe feelings, things, people or events about home and family, place and time, which have affected your life and connect you to the world.

Writing Competition begins on **15 September 2010**. Competition closes on **15 March 2011**. Judging will take place in April and May 2011. Winners will be announced on **15 June 2011** and posted on the EBSNS website. Only winners will be notified. Awards will be presented at the **Elizabeth Bishop Centenary Writers’ Festival 19-21 August 2011**. Winners are responsible for their own travel and accommodation. If winners are unable to attend, prizes will be shipped.

Categories:

Elementary (Grades 4-6) – 500 words maximum
Junior High (Grades 7-9) – 1000 words maximum
Senior High (Grades 10-12) – 1500 words maximum
Post-Secondary – 2000 words maximum
Open (19 and over) – 2000 words maximum

Eligibility:

Elementary, Junior High and Senior High categories: The focus is primarily on students attending school in Nova Scotia. The competition is open to all schools and teachers are asked to pre-select for submission the top three entries (and honorable mentions) in each class at each grade level and submit them under the appropriate category. The EBSNS acknowledges that there are some children home-schooled in the province and that there may be students outside of Nova Scotia who wish to enter. Submissions from these groups will also be accepted. First, second and third places (and possible honorable mentions) will be chosen in each category from **all** the grade levels designated in each category.

Post-Secondary category: For any student attending a post-secondary institution anywhere in the world.

Open category: For adults, 19 years and older, anywhere in the world, who are not attending an educational institution.

Rules & Regulations:

Only one submission per individual. Each entry must be accompanied by an entry form. Submissions must be original, unpublished work. Copyright remains with the author. English language only. Author's name should not appear on submission, but only on accompanying entry form.

Email submissions not accepted. Submissions will not be returned.

Winners only will be contacted and will receive their prizes at a Writers' Festival in August 2011 and read their submissions. All entrants are warmly invited to attend the festival.

Prizes:

First place: "In the Village" – Framed serigraph by painter Joy Laking (value \$450)

Second place: Framed reproduction water-colour by painter Joy Laking (value \$300)

Third place: TBA

Honorable mention: TBA

The Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia intends to publish all winners in a chapbook. Details of this publication will be posted on the EBSNS website as they become available.

Format of manuscripts:

Author's name should not appear on the manuscript, but on the accompanying entry form.

Manuscripts must be typed on plain (unlined) white (8 ½ x 11 inch) paper, single-sided, double-spaced, flush left and with at least a one inch margin on all sides. Pages must be numbered in order in the upper right-hand corner. A single tab should be used to indicate a new paragraph.

Deadline:

Submissions postmarked no later than **15 March 2011** will be accepted.

Submissions mailed to:

Elizabeth Bishop Centenary Writing Competition

178 Parkwood South

Truro Heights, Nova Scotia

B6L 1P3

For more information contact Laurie Gunn at ebwritingcomp@gmail.com or Sandra Barry at sbarry@ns.sympatico.ca **The Writing Competition Committee encourages inquiries about this competition.**

The Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia reserves the right to interpret these guidelines. The judges decisions are final. The judging will be anonymous.