

# SAROYAN



## WRITING CONTEST 2023

*Presented by the William Saroyan Society in association with the  
Fresno County Public Library and the Fresno County Office of Education*

### Students

1st - 12th grades may apply

**DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2023**

#### **THEME: HONESTY**

"Most important of all, though, we were famous for our honesty. We had been famous for our honesty for something like eleven centuries, even when we had been the wealthiest family in what we liked to think was the world. We were proud first, honest next, and after that we believed in right and wrong."

"THE SUMMER OF THE BEAUTIFUL WHITE HORSE"  
**WILLIAM SAROYAN**

#### **CONTEST DETAILS**

**HOW TO SUBMIT** | Fill out the entry form and submit your work online at:  
**[williamsaroyansociety.org/writingcontest](http://williamsaroyansociety.org/writingcontest)**

**AWARDS** | First, second and third place will be selected in each grade division (1st-5th, 6th-8th, 9th-12th). Prizes will be awarded at an awards ceremony with reception. Details of ceremony TBA.

**NOTIFICATION** | When judging is concluded, winners and their schools will be notified.

#### **WINNERS**

1st place \$100 each  
2nd place \$75 each  
3rd place \$50 each

#### **3 DIVISIONS**

1st-5th grade  
6th-8th grade  
9th-12th grade

Read the story from My Name is Aram "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse." After reading, locate the prompt that corresponds to your grade level, and write your response according to the instructions.

#### **WRITING PROMPTS**

**1ST - 5TH GRADE** | What does honesty mean to you? Write a paragraph about why honesty is important. You can write about a time when you chose to be honest, or you can write about someone you admire who is honest. You can also draw a picture to go with your paragraph.

**6TH - 8TH GRADE** | Write a narrative essay of at least 300-500 words explaining a time you faced a moral decision in your own life. Use descriptive language to tell what happened, and then reflect on what you learned from the event about your own moral identity and belief system.

**9TH - 12TH GRADE** | Literature often explores the idea of how morality is defined, and many utilize a character who is tempted to make a decision that runs counter to his/her sense of morality, loyalty, social position, or upbringing. In William Saroyan's "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse," Aram is tempted to act against his moral, social or spiritual foundation. In a well-organized essay, discuss what decision the character makes, what factors contribute to his decision, and analyze how the story reflects the question of how we all determine our own moral identity and belief system.

To read "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse" and access educator resources, visit  
**[WILLIAMSAROYANSOCIETY.ORG/WRITINGCONTEST](http://WILLIAMSAROYANSOCIETY.ORG/WRITINGCONTEST)**