


SAROYAN



WRITING CONTEST 2024

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

Students

K - 12th grades may apply

DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2024

THEME

"In the time of your life, live-so that in that good time there shall be no ugliness or death for yourself or for any life your life touches. Seek goodness everywhere, and when it is found, bring it out of its hiding-place and let it be free and unashamed ... Despise evil and ungodliness, but not men of ungodliness or evil... In the time of your life, live-so that in that wondrous time you shall not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite delight and mystery of it."

"THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE"
WILLIAM SAROYAN

CONTEST DETAILS

HOW TO SUBMIT | Fill out the entry form and submit your work online at:

williamsaroyansociety.org/writingcontest

AWARDS | First, second and third place will be selected in each grade division (K-2nd, 3rd-4th, 5th-6th, 7th-8th, 9th-12th). Prizes will be awarded at an awards ceremony with reception.

Ceremony details: Thursday, May 16, 5:30pm,
Workentine Performing Arts Center,
Fresno Pacific University

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

5 DIVISIONS

K-2nd grade
3rd-4th grade
5th-6th grade
7th-8th grade
9th-12th grade

Read the story "The Time of Your Life".
After reading, locate the prompt that corresponds to your grade level, and write your response according to the instructions.

K - 4TH GRADE | How can kindness affect someone else or change a situation? Draw a picture or write a paragraph about a time when you were kind to someone or when someone was kind to you, and how the situation or relationship changed because of kindness.

5TH - 8TH GRADE | In this quote, William Saroyan suggests that approaching things with a positive attitude and acting with kindness toward others can change the world. Can our attitude and actions really affect what we experience in our lives? Write a 2-3 paragraph narrative on a time when your actions or attitude changed the outcome of a situation or had a positive impact on someone else.

9TH - 12TH GRADE | In this quote from his play "The Time of Your Life" William Saroyan explores the idea that our actions, expectations, and intentions can have a profound effect not only on our own happiness and success, but can also have the power to positively impact the world around us. How much can our actions and expectations affect the way we experience the world, and how much can these actions and expectations influence the behavior of others? Can kindness really change a world that can at times be divisive, violent, and hopeless? In a narrative essay of at least 750 words, describe how our actions, attitudes, and beliefs can influence the outcome of a situation or could have a positive impact on someone else. You can choose to reflect on a personal experience, or you can explore how the essence of Saroyan's words could apply to a situation you have witnessed in the world today.

To read "The Time of Your Life" and access educator resources, visit

WILLIAMSAROYANSOCIETY.ORG/WRITINGCONTEST