

2009-2010 *To Kill a Mockingbird* Essay Contest

The Honors College at The University of Alabama is pleased to announce the ninth annual *To Kill a Mockingbird* Essay Contest. The Honors College at The University of Alabama inaugurated this contest on the occasion of Ms. Lee's 2001 induction into the Alabama Academy of Honor. Its success has led to this ninth annual statewide essay contest, which is open to 9-12th graders throughout Alabama.

To Kill a Mockingbird is one of America's best-loved novels. It captures the ambiance and conflicts of small-town life in the Deep South during the Depression. Its author, Monroeville, Alabama, native Harper Lee, is one of the most important contributors to the canon of literature of the American South, which is known and appreciated worldwide.

The year 2010 marks the 50th year since the publication of Nelle Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and an even longer time from the era that novel presents. Since then, this country has advanced technologically, legally, and socially, but Lee's book remains the iconic work of American fiction. What is it in *To Kill a Mockingbird* which still speaks powerfully to us today?

The essay should be typed, double-spaced, and 3 pages (600-750 words) in length. Teachers are urged to assist the winning essay writer at their schools by editing the papers for spelling errors, errors of fact (eg., *To Kill a Mockingbird* is not set in the 1950s), and basic grammar. The content of the paper must come directly from the student, but teachers are asked to help the student correct clearly technical errors.

Each participating school shall choose a winning entry, and a monetary prize will be given to each of these winners. The statewide student winner as judged by The Honors College will receive \$500 and \$500 will also go that student's school. The deadline for submissions is **December 11, 2009**. The winner will be announced in early 2010 at an awards ceremony for all participating contestants. Please refer to the enclosed entry form for further details regarding essay submissions.

For further information, contact Dr. Fran Oneal in The Honors College by telephone at (205) 348-5554, or by email at foneal@ua.edu.

Enclosure

2009-2010 *To Kill A Mockingbird* Essay Contest

The Honors College
University of Alabama

- This entry form is to be used for the winning essay from each school.
- Please print or type.
- The deadline for submissions to be *received* by mail or fax is December 11, 2009.

Student's Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail address _____

Student's Grade in school (9-12) _____

Name of School _____

Address of School _____

Telephone number _____ FAX _____

Name of supervising/sponsoring teacher _____

Teacher's e-mail address _____

Teacher's signature certifying
this as the school's winning entry _____

Please attach essay to this entry form and mail or fax to:

The Honors College
Box 870169
The University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
Attn: Fran ONeal

FAX (205) 348-5501

The student's name should not appear on the essay itself to preserve anonymity during judging. The deadline for essays to be *received* is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2009.