

Great Trees, Great Kids, Great Stories

A group of community partners, known as the "Great Tree Ring", have come together to promote scientific and environmental literacy through the discovery of local trees and the stories that make them "great". The Great Tree Ring seeks to inspire children to be outside experiencing nature in a connected, personal way. Visit www.brit.org to learn more about the Great Tree Project and the Great Tree Ring members.

The Great Tree Ring :

- Botanical Research Institute of Texas
- City of Fort Worth Parks & Community Services Department
 - Forestry Section
 - Botanic Garden
 - Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge
- Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council
- Fort Worth ISD
- Texas Christian University
- Texas Forest Service



You're Invited!

You and your students are cordially invited to participate in our third annual essay contest involving students from the Fort Worth ISD. The Great Tree Story essay contest was developed by the "Great Tree Ring" with the FWISD science, social studies, reading and language arts curriculum in mind.

What better way to integrate your curriculum with math, science, social studies, and language arts than through a favorite tree on your school campus, in the community, or in the hearts of your students.

Contest Details

- Open to all FWISD Third Grade students
 - Essays must be submitted by **5:00 pm** on or before **February 26, 2010**.
- Using FWISD school mail, each campus place all entries together in a single envelope and forward to:**

Kathy Cash, Exploratory Learning Investigation Specialist
FWISD Administration Building
100 N. University
Science Department, SW 210

- Judges will choose one Grand Prize Winner, one Runner Up, and four Honorable Mention essays. The decision of the judges is final. All essays will be returned to the school of origin. The winning essays will be published on BRIT's website: www.brit.org
- Winners will be announced on **March 9, 2010**.


Visit www.brit.org to view the results of 2008 and 2009 essay contests.



Prizes for the winners and their schools include:

*Native tree seedlings * the book *Isabel's House of Butterflies*, by Tony Johnston and Susan Guevara * Certificates for *all* entries * An engraved plaque for the campus of the Grand Prize winning author * and.....

The top two prize winning authors and their classmates will participate in a videoconference to share their stories with audiences across Texas, and a class field trip to The Fort Worth Botanic Gardens to experience an exclusive tour of the...

 *Butterflies in the Garden* 2010



The Great Tree contest is looking for narrative stories that express a connection with a “favorite” or “special” tree. These stories are not scientific research, but rather are expressions of feelings and attachments to nature. Scientific facts are encouraged but the essay should not be a simple report of a tree’s facts.

Entries must:

- Have a title
- Center around a real tree (identifying the tree is encouraged, but not required).
- Be submitted on the template provided, and be no longer than what can be written on the two lined pages of the template
- Must be no less than three paragraphs
- Be handwritten by the student
- Include the coversheet with completed information about the student and the school

The author’s ability to inform, persuade and/or entertain is the primary focus of the contest. Creativity is encouraged! Entries will be judged on content, expression, and mechanics as shown in the following score card:

Content – 55 points
Expression – 35 points
Mechanics – 10 point
Total Score – 100 points

Writing Prompts:

- Does (or did) the tree play an important role in your community?
- Does (or did) the tree play an important role in your home or family?
- Why do (or did) you love your chosen tree?
- Why is your chosen tree important?
- Was your tree planted for a special reason? For example, was it planted in honor of a special someone or event?
- Is (or was) your tree useful for an important reason?
- Does (or did) your tree have a unique family or community story or legend attached to it?

Helpful Hints:

- We would like students to be creative, but we encourage accuracy.
- Encourage students to include dates and identify places in their stories where appropriate.
- Help students research stories of Famous trees of Fort Worth or Texas on the internet – go to <http://www.brit.org/education/great-trees/> or <http://txforestservice.tamu.edu> for resources
- Inspire students with a walk around campus to locate trees, or write outdoors *under* a tree.
- Have students interview their parents or neighbors. They can share someone else’s tree story that could be a potential winner!

All contest details and a complete teacher packet can be downloaded from our website at WWW.BRIT.ORG. If you have more questions you may call or email:

Kathy Scott – 817 332-4441, ext. 237, kscott@brit.org

Pam Chamberlain – 817 332-4441, ext. 231, pchamberlain@brit.org



The 2010 Great Tree Story Essay Contest

Cover Sheet

Title

Author

Teacher

School Name and Number

