

FOCAL (Friends of Children and Literature)

Essay Contest

for Students in Grades 4-8

The FOCAL Award is presented annually to an author for a creative work that enriches a child's appreciation for and understanding of California.

This year the 2017 award goes to—

Chasing Secrets (Penguin Random House, 2015)
by Gennifer Choldenko (call number: X)

Three essay winners will be invited to the FOCAL Award Luncheon on December 9, 2017 and receive a copy of the autographed award winning book and meet the author. Their teacher and a parent will also receive a complimentary ticket to the award luncheon where the winners will read their essays.

To enter the Essay Contest:

Read the book, available at your school library or nearby Los Angeles Public Library branch library.

Compose an essay of no more than 300 words using three separate paragraphs explaining:

1. Your reactions to the book as a whole.
2. Your thoughts about a character or scene that stuck with you.
3. What it would mean for you to meet the author.

Type the essay using 12 point font and print on 8 ½" x 11" paper.

- **Type total word count at end, on a separate line.**
- Check spelling, punctuation, and grammar carefully. Mistakes will disqualify the entry.
- Attach the completed Contest Entry Form (below) to the essay.

Online option: Use this link: <http://focalcentral.org/focalesay.php>

- Complete the contest entry information and submit the essay following the instructions given above.

Individual students may each submit their own entry.

Teachers may select the 3 most original entries per classroom to submit by mail.

Only one entry per student is allowed.

Each essay entry must be sent with the completed Contest Entry Form (below).

Mailed entries: postmarked by November 3, 2017

Online entries: submitted by November 3, 2017 by 11:59 p.m. at this link:

<http://focalcentral.org/focalesay.php>

The FOCAL Judges will choose three essays. Each winner will be notified by November 20, 2017.

FOCAL is the Friends support group
for the Children's Literature Department of Los Angeles Public Library, Central Library

Find us at www.focalcentral.org.

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Entry Form

Student's First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Student's Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Student Email: _____

Teacher's Name & Class: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

Mail in your entry, postmarked by November 3, 2017, to:

Caroline Gill, 4335 Marina City Drive #534, Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Or sent by email on the address **provided on the form.**

Entry forms can also be found at

www.focalcentral.org

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