

FOCAL (Friends of Children and Literature)

Essay Contest

for Students in Grades 3-8

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 2019 award goes to:

Chef Roy Choi and The Street Food Remix

(Bellevue, Washington: Readers to Eaters, 2017)

by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and June Jo Lee

(call number: X 92 545Ma)

Three essay winners will be invited to the FOCAL Award Luncheon on December 14, 2019, where they will read their essays, receive a copy of the autographed award book and meet the authors and illustrator. Their teacher and a parent will receive a complimentary ticket to the award luncheon.

To enter the Essay Contest:

Read the book, available at your school library, public library or bookstore.

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 on white paper, 8 1/2" x 11" using 12 point font.

- No title is required.
- Check spelling, punctuation, and grammar carefully. Mistakes will disqualify the entry.
- Attach the completed Contest Entry Form (below and on our website: http://focalcentral.org/_documents/FOCAL-EssayContest2019.pdf) to the essay.

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

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

Individual students may each submit their own entry.

Only one entry per student is allowed.

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

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

Mailed entries: postmarked by November 8, 2019

Online entries: submitted by November 8, 2019 by 11:59 p.m. at this link

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

The FOCAL Judges will choose three essays. Each winner will be notified by November 18, 2019.



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Entry Form Number of Words: _____

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 8, 2019, to:

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

Entry forms can also be found at
www.focalcentral.org

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.