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## 2008 Writing Contest



On April 7, 2008, F.S. Key will hold its 3rd annual writing contest. Students from kindergarten through 5th grade participate in this school-wide literary event.

The prompt for this year's contest is inspired by famous first lines. We all know the power of great openers—"Call me Ishmael" (Melville) or "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" (Dickens) come to mind. In the hands of a master, the words that follow seem somehow inevitable (even as they may delight with surprise), drawing the reader into the story. But it is the marvel of literature that the same handful of words can lead in ten different directions in the hands of ten writers—or the same writer refining her work. This year, students will adopt a famous first line and finish the story their own way—who knows where the writing adventure will take them!

This year's contest events put a special emphasis on process. Planning and revision are cornerstones of the writing process. Planning what you are going to write can help crystallize your thoughts and can even release writer's block. Virtually all writers revise their work—it can be the difference between good and exceptional writing. To support their writing process, students will have the opportunity to use graphic organizers to plan their writing and class winners will be invited to a writing workshop later in April to revise their work.

Class and grade level winners will be published in an anthology (past years' anthologies: 2006 and

2007) which is distributed to each classroom and the library. Certificates will be awarded to the 72 finalists at the year-end Awards Assembly which features readings by grade level winners. Awards ceremony date and 2008 anthology will be posted here as they become available.

Good luck to all our budding writers!

— Editor



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