

## THE OLD CREAMERY THEATRE'S 2012 WRITING CONTEST



### REQUIREMENTS

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#### All entries must:

- Be an original work from the imagination of students in grades 1 - 6.
- Be in the form of a story, poem, or song.
- Be kept to a maximum of five typewritten pages.
- Focus on a character or characters that are striving to do their personal best.

**"How can I be a better me today than I was yesterday?" The Old Creamery Theatre would like to hear your answer!**

Many people use the Six Pillars of Character (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship) as a guideline to do their personal best every day. They may try to be as respectful as they can be to their teachers at school, find the fairest way to play a game at recess, or take their responsibilities seriously in order to make sure a job gets done right. These are just a few examples of ways some people try to be their "Very Best Me."

For this year's writing contest The Old Creamery Theatre would like to hear your creative original story about a character or characters that strive to do their personal best by using one or more of the Six Pillars of Character. Use your imagination... the possibilities are endless! Who knows, maybe your story will help someone else learn to become their "Very Best Me."

### STORY WRITING TIPS

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#### A good story:

- Has a beginning, middle and end.
- Is creative (and comes solely from the student's imagination).
- Has interesting characters that can be people, animals, objects - anything!
- Tells the reader where the story takes place.
- Deals with a conflict (or problem) that is resolved within the story.
- Teaches a lesson or has a moral.
- Explains how the characters have changed or been affected by events in the story.

Encourage students to be creative with their story's conflict and resolution. Maybe a character doesn't know what doing your personal best means and is taught by example. Maybe a character doesn't care about doing their personal best and another character shows them why they should always try to be their "Very Best Me." There are so many parts of life where doing your personal best is important, so encourage students to use their imaginations and think outside the box!

## Don't forget!

- Students are free to work on stories individually, in pairs, small groups, or as a class project.
- Teachers are encouraged to check entries to make sure the requirements are met and to provide basic feedback associated with any creative writing project.
- Each individual story must be labeled with the entrant's name(s), grade, teacher's name, school, and school address.
- No entries will be returned and all works become property of The Old Creamery Theatre.

## HOW TO ENTER

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### MAIL ALL ENTRIES TO:

The Old Creamery Theatre Company  
2012 Writing Contest  
39 38<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Amana, IA 52203



All entries must be postmarked no later than January 14, 2012. Early submissions are encouraged! Each entry will be read and evaluated and the final selection of winners will be made by February 27, 2012. Winning story titles will be posted on The Old Creamery's website.

## WINNING ENTRIES

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Prizes will be awarded in the form of bookstore gift cards. In the event that a winning entry is the result of a team effort, The Old Creamery will divide the prize equally. In the case of a larger group, the prize will be given to the group's supervisor to distribute as he or she sees fit.

1 Grand Prize:        \$100 Gift Card  
3 First Prizes:        \$75 Gift Card  
5 Second Prizes:      \$50 Gift Card  
10 Third Prizes:      \$25 Gift Card

**Please Note:** Entries submitted to the 2012 Writing Contest may be freely adapted by The Old Creamery Theatre Company. While remaining faithful to the idea, purpose, and intent of the young writer, we reserve the right to use their work in any manner that is consistent with our mission of bringing a high-quality, live, professional theatrical experience to our young audiences. This includes editing for length, creating new dialogue, adding music, and making changes in the material if such changes enhance the dramatic or entertainment value of the piece. Also understand that not all prize-winning stories will be performed and some material used in the final production may receive a special recognition rather than a monetary award.