

First Nations' LANGUAGE KEEPERS CONFERENCE



Book Writing Contest *for students*

tānisi (Cree), Anīn Šikwa (Nakawē), Edlānét'e (Dene),
Hau, Koda (Dakota), Hau, Kona (Nakota), Hau, Kola (Lakota)

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre promotes First Nations' language development, revitalization and retention. To encourage First Nation children to write in First Nations' languages, SICC has launched an annual book writing contest.

- Open to students from Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Create a book in a First Nations' language (an English translation must be provided as well)
- Submissions must be received by Wednesday, November 16, 2011, by 5:00 p.m.
- Up to five books will be selected to win
- The winner(s) will receive \$500 and 20 copies of the published book.

Entries will be reviewed and judged by the First Nations' Language Keepers Book Writing Contest Committee. The Committee will select the winning book(s) based on creativity and originality. The book may contain illustrations but this is not necessary. Illustrations will be provided for the winning stories selected.

The winner(s) of the contest will be announced at the First Nations' Language Keepers Conference on December 1, 2011.



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First Nations' LANGUAGE KEEPERS CONFERENCE



Language Keepers Book Writing Contest for Students

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre promotes First Nations' language development, revitalization and retention. In an attempt to get First Nation's children in using their First Nations languages has launched a book writing contest for school children.

To enter the Students' Book Writing Contest, children need to create stories in a First Nations language.

Entries will be reviewed and judged by the Language Keepers Book Writing Contest Committee. The Committee will select the winning book(s) based on its creativity and originality. The book may contain illustrations but is not necessary. However, illustrations will be provided for the winning stories that are published as a book.

The winner(s) of the contest will be announced at the Language Keepers Conference, on December 1, 2011. The winner(s) will receive \$500; 20 free copies of the winning story, published as a book, for the author(s) to share with classmates, friends and family.

The Book Writing Contest will be an annual competition open to Grades 1 – 12 and is designed to encourage students to use their reading and writing skills in a First Nation's language to create their own books.

Under the guidance of their First Nations language teacher, children may work individually or in groups of two or more students to write and illustrate their own book. The creative process of working in teams helps provide a natural environment to practice editing, teamwork, and the communication skills necessary for future success. All students involved get a sense of pride and accomplishment from submitting the team project.

Two to Five winning books will be published, depending on the number of entries received and the quality of the writing: The winning books will be published by the

Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre and will be available for sale, the cost of publishing, in the SICC distribution/retail centre.

Note For Language Teachers/Instructors:

To get this book writing contest started in your classroom, you may follow these steps to establish excitement and enthusiasm for the writing/book-making project.

Introduce the Program

- Read other First Nations' language books.
- Explain the book writing contest to the students as a concluding activity to a unit on First Nations stories or legends or as part of a unit on teaching the elements of story writing.

Form Groups to determine interest level of students

- Will you involve the whole class?
- Will you select students or let them form their own teams?
- Will it be an individual writing project?

Focus on Books

- Read books by a variety of authors and illustrators.
- Compare and contrast their different styles.
- Introduce elements of story writing (plot, theme, characters).
- Which style of writing appeals to them most?
- Which art medium most intrigues them?

Idea Starters – Use questions to get your students thinking about ideas for their story.

Who? Discuss possible characters to include in the story/legends.

Where? In what setting does the story take place? Are there a variety of settings involved?

When? What is the time period of your story: present day, the future, the past or a combination?

What? What is going to happen in their story? What is the problem or conflict?

Why? What is the purpose of the story: to educate and inform, to entertain, or a combination? What response do you want from the reader: to make them laugh, cry, understand a different view point or opinion?

How? How is the problem or conflict resolved?