

'Books Make a Difference' contest for students has March 1 deadline

The Tallahassee Writers Association is sponsoring a "Books Make a Difference" writing contest for students of all ages.

Entrants should write a paragraph about a book that has made a difference in their lives. The paragraph should give the title and author, summarize the book in a sentence or two, and tell what the student liked about it or how the book influenced them.

The postmark deadline for entries is March 1.

Winners in several age categories will be invited to read their essays at the Tallahassee Festival of Books and Writers Conference Saturday, March 20. The festival will take place at the FSU Turnbull Center on Pensacola St. next to the Civic Center.

Each entry should have a heading with the student's name, English teacher's name, school name, and a phone number so that winners can be contacted.

Entries should be emailed to meredithds@comcast.net with "Books Make a Difference Contest" as the subject line. Or legible handwritten or typed copies may be mailed to TWA Contest, P.O. Box 2438, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3428.

The book festival is free and open to the public. Highlights of the children's portion include magicians from Orlando, a puppet show, children's authors, and vendors. Jessica Burkhart, the 22-year-old author of eight novels for tweens, is coming from New York City to speak. Children's events take place from 9-11 a.m.

Events for adults will include speakers on water quality in Florida, Seminole history and culture, and historical conflicts. Authors represented include a Time magazine senior correspondent, three New York Times bestsellers, a Pulitzer Prize winner, and a Civil Rights leader from Jacksonville. Over thirty authors from New York, Maryland, and all over Florida will speak.