

2022 SEJONG WRITING COMPETITION

DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2022 (11:59 PM CDT)

MISSION: The Sejong Writing Competition aims to introduce young adults to Korean culture through literature and poetry.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to all residents of the US and Canada regardless of ethnic background

SIJO POETRY PRE-COLLEGE DIVISION (AGE 18 & YOUNGER) & SIJO ADULT DIVISION (AGE 19 & OLDER)

The sijo is a traditional three-line Korean poetic form organized technically and thematically by line and syllable count. Using the sijo form, write one poem in English on a topic of your choice. For examples of sijo, more information, and teaching materials – including teaching guides for sijo, please visit our website. *Only one entry per applicant is permitted.

ESSAY ADULT DIVISION (AGE 19 -30 YEARS)

Topic: “*Symbiosis theory*” (2019) by Kim Choyeop

Prompt: This is a story in which the ideas serve as the action and weave the early mysteries into thematic questions at the end. What are some of the questions that this story presents and how do they weave together to further the theme? Since the story itself is speculative (SF stands for “speculative fiction” as well as “science fiction”), feel free to be speculative in your essay, but be sure to make concrete reference to specific details in the story in your discussion.

ESSAY SENIOR DIVISION (GRADE 9TH - 12TH)

Topic: “*The Girl in the Cylinder*” (2019) by Kim Choyeop

Prompt: The story might be classified as dystopian, but it is also a story of an unlikely friendship. As the plot unfolds, it concretely illustrates many abstract ideas, as Kim says. What are some of these abstract ideas that get dramatized? How does Kim deliver a thematic message through the drama of this story? Is there a particular message to be found in the story, or is it more a matter of emotion and tone?

ESSAY JUNIOR DIVISION (GRADE 8TH GRADE & YOUNGER)

Korea has a rich tradition of storytelling and its folk tales reflect important aspects of its history and culture.

Topics (Choose one): each topic refers to the list of Korean folktales found on our website.

- Write an interpretation of a folk tale of your choice. Why do you think it was created? Which character do you relate to best?
- If you could change one of these folk tales, what would you change and why?

PRIZES: Winning entries may be published in the Korea Times Chicago, the Korean Quarterly, or Azalea: A Journal of Korean Literature and Culture, published by the Korea Institute at Harvard University.

- Adult sijo division: First (\$1,000) Second (\$750) Third (\$500)
- Pre-college sijo division: First (\$500) Second (\$400) Third (\$300)
- Adult essay division: First (\$1,000) Second (\$750) Third (\$500)
- Senior essay division: First (\$500) Second (\$400) Third (\$300)
- Junior essay division: First (\$300) Second (\$200) Third (\$100)
- Friends of Pacific Rim Award for selected essays and sijo (\$50 each)

GUIDELINES: all entries must be written in English and only one essay and one sijo per applicant are permitted. A full list of guidelines and rules can be found on our website.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 31, 2022. 11:59pm CDT. Applications and entries must be submitted through our online submission system.

The Sejong Cultural Society Program is in part supported by grants from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Please visit our website at www.sejongculturalsociety.org/writing or email us at writing@sejongculturalsociety.org.