

The Second Annual

“BANTAM CLASSIC SHAKESPEARE SCHOLAR” ESSAY CONTEST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Win a \$2500 Scholarship and two Bantam Classic Libraries!

Here is the perfect opportunity for high school students to prove their knowledge of the Bard and earn valuable awards to help further their education.

Students who write an essay addressing one of two questions below will be eligible to win. Entries will be judged on:

- ♦ overall critical analysis
- ♦ use of language to provide meaning
- ♦ textual detail and historical context
- ♦ vocabulary
- ♦ sentence structure
- ♦ and effective use of rhetoric

Students who wish to enter the essay contest should address one of the questions below.

Three prizes will be awarded. This year's Grand Prize consists of \$2500 plus two sets of a 100-copy Bantam Classic library (including all 22 Shakespeare editions). One set of books is for the winner and the other for donation to a school or other library. In addition, two first prizes will be awarded, consisting of a single aforementioned 100-copy Bantam Classic Library.

To submit an entry, e-mail your essay as text within an e-mail (no attachments please) to bantamdell@randomhouse.com, using the subject line “Shakespeare Scholar.” The deadline for entry is May 1, 2008.

Announcing Two New 2008 Bantam Classic Shakespeare Editions:

On sale 2/26/08: Three Classical Tragedies

On sale 3/25/08: The Late Romances

Each of these new editions will feature:

- ♦ Explanatory notes positioned on the page facing the text of each play so you can understand each play
- ♦ Contemporary explanations of Shakespeare's prose so you can better understand Elizabethan English
- ♦ The most up-to-date scholarship by renowned Shakespeare academicians including introductions that detail major themes, cultural issues, and critical conflicts.

Visit BantamShakespeare.com for more information.

QUESTION 1

Disguise is one of Shakespeare's favorite devices. Disguise can be misleading and dishonest and can contribute to intentional tension and irony among characters. Choose a play from the list below in which disguise plays an important role. Then in a well-written essay, analyze the theme of disguise and show how it contributes to the meaning of the play as a whole.

- ♦ King Lear
- ♦ Twelfth Night
- ♦ Othello
- ♦ Merchant of Venice
- ♦ The Taming of the Shrew

QUESTION 2

Read the passage below, which comes from Shakespeare's play *The Taming of the Shrew*. Then in a well-developed essay discuss the narrator's attitude toward women. Please include your own knowledge of the play to discuss the role of women in *The Taming of the Shrew*.

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW
ACT V, SCENE II, LINES 140-183

KATHARINA:

Fie, fie! Unknit that threatening, unkind brow,
And dart not scornful glances from those eyes
To wound thy lord, thy king, thy governor.
It blots thy beauty as frosts do bite the meads,
Confounds thy fame as whirlwinds shake fair buds,
And in no sense is meet or amiable.
A woman moved is like a fountain troubled,
Muddy, ill-seeming, thick, bereft of beauty;
And while it is so, none so dry or thirsty
Will deign to sip or touch one drop of it.

Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper,
Thy head, thy sovereign; one that cares for thee,
And for thy maintenance commits his body
To painful labor both by sea and land,
To watch the night in storms, the day in cold,
Whilst thou liest warm at home, secure and safe;
And craves no other tribute at thy hands
But love, fair looks, and true obedience—
Too little payment for so great a debt.
Even such a woman oweth to her husband;
And when she is froward, peevish, sullen, sour,
And not obedient to his honest will,
What is she but a foul contending rebel
And graceless traitor to her loving lord?
I am ashamed that women are so simple
To offer war where they should kneel for peace
Or seek for rule, supremacy and sway,
When they are bound to serve, love, and obey.
Why are our bodies soft and weak and smooth,
Unapt to toil and trouble in the world,
But that our soft conditions and our hearts
Should well agree with our external parts?
Come, come, you froward and unable worms!
My mind hath been as big as one of yours,
My heart as great, my reason haply more,
To bandy word for word and frown for frown;
But now I see our lances are but straws,
Our strength as weak, our weakness past compare,
That seeming to be most which we indeed least are.
Then vail your stomachs, for it is no boot,
And place your hands below your husband's foot,
In token of which duty, if he please,
My hand is ready; may it do him ease.

OFFICIAL RULES

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.

1. This Contest runs from January 23, 2008 to May 1, 2008. To be eligible to win, entrants must email their name and complete mailing address; their grade level, school name and school address; and their Bantam Classic Shakespeare Scholar essay to bantamdell@randomhouse.com on or before the entry deadline: 11:59 P.M., Pacific Time, on May 1, 2008. Each essay must be limited to no more than one thousand (1000) words. The e-mail must include the subject line "Shakespeare Scholar." The Sponsor may use the entrant's e-mail address for purposes of prize notification and to request a mailing address to be used for the sole purpose of delivering the prize. Any entries received after the deadline will be ineligible to win. **LIMIT ONE ENTRY PER PERSON and ONE ENTRY PER EMAIL.** Multiple entries from the same person are void. Sponsor is not responsible for entries that are late, misdirected, lost, garbled, or unintelligible, including those due to computer or network malfunction or congestion (including at Random House), and any such entries are ineligible.
2. Prizes are as follows: One (1) Grand Prize: a \$2500 cash prize and two sets of a 100-copy Bantam Classic library, including all 22 Shakespeare editions. One Bantam Classic library will be sent to the prize winner and the other sent directly to the prize winner's high school (for home-schooled students who are prize winners, the second set of books will be awarded to a public library in the prize winner's community). (Approximate Retail Value - \$3,700). Two (2) First Prizes - a 100-copy Bantam Classic library, including all 22 Shakespeare editions (Approximate Retail Value - \$600). No transfer or substitution of the prize will be permitted, except by Bantam Dell Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc. ("Sponsor") in its sole discretion, in which case a prize of equal or greater value will be awarded.
3. On or about May 22, 2008 one (1) Grand Prize and two (2) First Prize winning submissions will be chosen by Sponsor's marketing and editorial departments from all eligible and completed submissions received by the entry deadline. Winners will be notified by email and their mailing address will be used by Sponsor solely for the purpose of delivering the Prize.
4. This Contest is open only to residents of the United States (excluding Puerto Rico) who are high school students, 13 years of age or older. Employees of Random House, Inc., its affiliates and subsidiaries, and their immediate family members and persons living in their households are not eligible to enter. This Contest is subject to all federal, state, and local regulations. Offer void in Puerto Rico and where otherwise restricted or prohibited. All federal and local taxes, if any, are the sole responsibility of the prize winners.
5. Sponsor assumes no responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operation or transmission, communications line failure, theft, destruction, or unauthorized access to the site. Sponsor not responsible for injury or damage to entrants' or to any other person's computer, other equipment, or person relating to or resulting from participation in the sweepstakes, or from downloading materials or accessing the site.
6. All entries become the sole property of Bantam Dell Publishing Group. The winning entries and the names and likenesses of the Winners may be published, posted online or otherwise reproduced in any and all forms and media throughout the world and for any and all publicity or promotional purposes, without obligation or compensation, except where prohibited by law. Entries will not be returned or acknowledged.
7. For the names of the prize winners, available after June 1, 2008, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope, separate from your entry, to Bantam Classic Shakespeare Scholar Essay Contest, Bantam Internet Marketing, Dept. MW, 1745 Broadway, New York, New York, 10019 by August 1, 2008.
8. Sponsor: Bantam Dell Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc., 1745 Broadway, New York, New York, 10019.