



THE ELAINE WETTERAUER WRITING CONTEST

Writers in the Schools (A Program of Seattle Arts & Lectures)

Seattle Arts & Lectures' Writers in the Schools (WITS) program announces a writing contest open to students grades K-12 who attend WITS partner schools in the 2020/21 school year, and classroom teachers who partner with a WITS Writer in Residence during the 2020/21 school year. Editors will choose two finalists and one winner for the student contest, as well as two finalists and one winner for the teacher contest. The winning pieces of writing will appear on SAL's blog, be published in the **2021 Elaine Wetterauer Contest eChapbook**. Student winners may also have the possibility of reading on stage at a future Seattle Arts & Lectures public program.

THE THEME: "On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous"

Students and teachers are invited to submit an original poem, comic, story, or essay of 1000 words maximum, based on the title of SAL author Ocean Vuong's novel, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*. *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is written in the form of a letter, written by a Vietnamese son to his mother who cannot read, covering familial history, personal revelation, unconditional love, and the exploration of race, class, and masculinity. This year's contest invites applicants to use Vuong's work, its intimacy, honesty, and vulnerability, as point of inspiration for their own creation. Submissions are welcome in all genres, and editors will choose winners based on originality, use of language, and impact of the piece.

HOW TO SUBMIT WORK

- Limit one original poem, comic, story or essay per applicant (please limit prose submissions to under 1000 words).
- Save the work in a Word document, in 12-point font (comics may be scanned and sent as a PDF), with the following information in the upper right-hand corner:

For Students:

Student's name
School & grade
Parent's name
Parent's contact info (email and/or phone)

For Teachers:

Teacher's Name
School & grade taught
WITS Writer
Preferred Contact Info (email and/or phone)

Save the Word file as **First Name Last Name.WITSContest.doc**
(e.g. Bre'AnnaGirdy.WITSContest.doc).

Email the submission as an attached document to wits@lectures.org with subject "WITS Contest."

****CONTEST SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY 5 P.M. ON Friday, May 14th ****