

The Big Read Regional Project Poetry Contest Coordinators:

REGION 1 – Beth Wheeler-Dean
(Guntersville, Director)

Phone: (256) 571-7596

bethdean@guntersvillelibrary.org

Counties include: Blount Colbert; Cullman; Lauderdale; Lawrence; Limestone; Marshall; Morgan; St. Clair

REGION 2 – Tiffany Vaughn, (Marion-Perry County, Director)

Phone: (334) 683-6411

librar_p@bellsouth.net

Counties include: Fayette; Franklin; Greene; Hale; Lamar; Marion; Perry; Pickens; Tuscaloosa; Walker; Winston

REGION 3 – Bonnie Seymour,
(Anniston-Calhoun County, Director)

Phone : (256) 237-8501

bseymour@publiclibrary.cc

Counties include: Calhoun, Cherokee; Clay; Cleburne; DeKalb; Etowah; Jackson; Randolph; Talladega

REGION 4 – Haruyo Miyagawa

(Birmingham Public Library, Head, Arts/Literature/Sports Dept.) Phone: (205) 226-3671

hm@bham.lib.al.us

Counties include: Jefferson

REGION 5 –Barbara Roberts
(Harrison Regional/Pelham, Director)

Phone: (205) 620-6418

broberts@pelhamonline.com

Counties include: Autauga; Bibb; Bullock; Chambers; Chilton; Coosa; Elmore; Lee; Macon; Russell; Shelby; Tallapoosa

REGION 6 – Kelley Tarpley
(Demopolis Public Library)

Phone: (334) 289--1595

kelley.tarpley@demopolisal.gov

Counties include: Baldwin; Choctaw; Clarke; Conecuh; Dallas; Escambia; Marengo; Mobile; Monroe; Sumter; Washington; Wilcox

REGION 7 – Timothy Berry (MCCPL)

Phone: (334) 240-4999

tberry@mccpl.lib.al.us

Counties include: Montgomery

REGION 8 – Kathryn Brown
(Daleville, Director)

Phone: (334) 503-9119

read@daleville.k12.al.us

Counties include: Barbour; Butler; Coffee; Covington; Crenshaw; Dale; Geneva; Henry; Houston; Lowndes; Pike

REGION 9 -- Sara Sledge
(Huntsville-Madison County)

Phone: (256) 461-0046

ssledge@hpl.lib.al.us

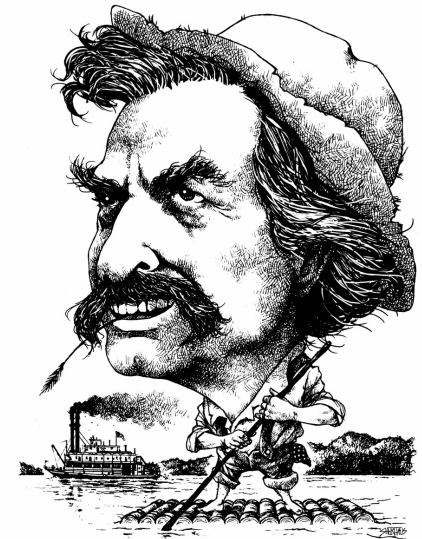
Counties include: Madison

Big Read Poetry Contest website:
www.jclc.org/services/poetry

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

**THE BIG READ:
ALABAMA READS
THE ADVENTURES OF
TOM SAWYER
BY MARK TWAIN**

STUDENT POETRY CONTEST



To celebrate the first-ever state-wide **Big Read**, Alabama's public libraries are sponsoring a poetry contest for middle-school students.



WHO:

ENTRANTS MUST BE MIDDLE-SCHOOL STUDENTS (GRADES 5-8) ENROLLED IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS OR HOMESCHOOLED IN ALABAMA.

HOW:

EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL WILL HOLD ITS OWN CONTEST AND SELECT THE TOP THREE POEMS FOR EACH DIVISION (JUNIOR: 5-6 GRADES AND SENIOR: 7-8 GRADES).

The designated school contact for the contest will contact your Regional Project Coordinator (see list on back cover) by JANUARY 15, 2010 to sign up your school to participate.

- ◆ Each entrant may submit only one poem, which must be original, unpublished, and must not have won a previous award.

- ◆ Poem may be any form **with a maximum length of 50 lines**.

- ◆ Poem must be inspired by *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain or anything in your life or your imagination that resembles what Tom Sawyer or one of the characters in the book experienced. For example, you may write a poem about how you make work seem like fun or how someone tricked you (or you tricked them) into doing what you want. You may write about a scary person (like Injun Joe) or situation (like being in the cave or the graveyard). You may write about first love or misunderstandings with a loved one. *Briefly state your inspiration or connection to the book.*

- ◆ Entries must be typed or computer-generated. Poems that take up more than one page must be stapled. No artwork, graphics, or

unusual type fonts. E-mail submissions will not be accepted.

- ◆ All work must be original, unpublished and by the student entrant only, without editing by parents, teachers or others. Joint submissions (2 or more authors) is not permitted.

THE DESIGNATED SCHOOL CONTACT FOR THE CONTEST WILL MAIL OR HAND-DELIVER THE TOP THREE WINNING POEMS FROM EACH DIVISION (JR. AND SR.) BY February 24, 2010 TO:

The Big Read Regional Coordinator for your area (see list on back cover).

SUBMIT TWO COPIES OF EACH POEM:

- On the first copy, put the contest division "Junior" (5-6 grades) or "Senior" (7-8 grades) at top. **DO NOT INCLUDE NAME OR SCHOOL ON THIS COPY**

- On the second copy, put the contest division, the student's name, grade, teacher, and name and address of school.

- Also on the second copy the student **MUST COPY AND SIGN THIS STATEMENT:**

"This is my original work and has not been copied in whole or part from any other author's work, including poems or songs posted on the Internet."

- **HOMESCHOOLERS**, please mail or deliver your poems directly to the above address by **February 24, 2010**.

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL RULES. FAILURE TO FOLLOW RULES WILL DISQUALIFY ENTRY WITHOUT NOTICE TO STUDENT OR SCHOOL.

The winners for each Big Read Region will be announced on March 12, 2010. The top three winners for both divisions (Jr. and Sr.) will be awarded prizes decided by that region.

STATE-WIDE CONTEST

The six winning poems from each region will be submitted to the judges for the state-wide contest.

State-wide winners (top 3 for each division, Junior and Senior) will be announced on April 7, 2010. They will be invited to read their poems at the Alabama Book Festival in Montgomery on April 17.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for the Junior and Senior divisions will be announced on April 17, 2010 at the Alabama Book Festival in Montgomery. The winners will read their poems at the festival.

CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS OF BOTH JR. & SR. DIVISIONS

1ST PLACE: \$100
2ND PLACE: \$75
3RD PLACE: \$50

For information, call or e-mail the Regional Coordinator for your area, or visit the contest website: www.jclc.org/services/poetry

Adapted from the Alabama State Poetry Society Student Contest Guidelines for 2009.