2019 Korean Literature Essay Contest Guideline (1/2)

Mission:
GW Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS) aims to introduce Korean culture through literature to students enrolled in higher education.

Eligibility:
The contest is open to undergraduate or graduate students who are enrolled in colleges or universities in Washington D.C. metropolitan area for the Fall 2019 semester. Registrations must be submitted by May 24, 2019.

How to participate:
1. Find the book: You may purchase the book from online (publisher’s website or the Amazon.com website).

2. Write the essay: After reading the book, you will write an essay based on the judging criteria listed below. The essay has to be a format of critical essay and must not exceed 1,200 words.

3. Submit your essay: Email your final essay to gwiks@gwu.edu by August 16, 2019. At the top of your essay, please include: your name, school, degree level (i.e. Bachelors, Masters, etc.), year of program (i.e. sophomore, 2nd year PhD, etc.), and your e-mail address.

Subject of Essay:
Recitation by Suah Bae
The meeting between a group of emigrants and a mysterious, wandering actress in an empty train station sets the stage for Bae Suah’s fragmentary yet lyrical meditation on language, travel, and memory. As the actress recounts the fascinating story of her stateless existence, an unreliable narrator and the interruptions of her audience challenge traditional notions of storytelling and identity.

Author Information:
Bae Suah (b. 1965) is a highly acclaimed contemporary Korean author, and has been described as “one of the most radical and experimental writers working in Korea today.” After making her literary debut in 1993 with the short story “The Dark Room of Nineteen Eighty-Eight”, she went on to pen several novels and short story collections, and has translated numerous books from German, including works by W.G. Sebald, Franz Kafka, and Jenny Erpenbeck. She received the Hanguk Ilbo literary prize in 2003, and the Tongseo literary prize in 2004. Her novel, Nowhere to be Found, was one of her first books to appear in English, and was longlisted for a PEN Translation Prize and the Best Translated Book Award. (Retrieved from https://deepvellum.org/authors/bae-suah/)
2019 Korean Literature Essay Contest Guideline (2/2)

Judging Criteria:

- Writer demonstrates close reading and critical thinking.
- Writer addresses the central theme of the story revealed through plot, setting, characters, symbols, dialogue, and visual elements.
- Writer demonstrates clear understanding of main ideas of the novel.
- Writer demonstrates clear understanding of author's use of language in developing the story.
- Writer describes author's tone and style of writing.
- Writer demonstrates clear understanding of the novel's structure.
- Writer demonstrates clear understanding of the literary and historical context of the novel.
- Writer's essay demonstrates clarity, structure, spelling, grammar, and usage.

Rules:

- Essays must not exceed 1,200 words in length.
- Essays should be word processed in 12-point Times New Roman fonts, and double spaced.
- One entry per contestant is permitted.
- All entries must be written in English.
- We reserve the right to use all submitted pieces in future publications of the GWIKS with no compensation to the authors.
- Winners are announced by mid-October. The time to announce the winners is subject to change depending on the number of total entries received.

Prizes:

- First Place (1): Samsung Notebook Pro 9
- Second Place (1): Samsung Galaxy S10
- Third Place (2): Samsung Galaxy Tab S4

Registration Deadline: 11:59 PM EST, May 24, 2019

Submission Deadline: 11:59 PM EST, August 16, 2019