BETWEEN THE LINES: PEACE & THE WRITING EXPERIENCE

Russian/Arabic Session
June 25-July 9, 2016
Ages 16-19

Between the Lines is a two-week summer program designed to bring together young writers from Russia, Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa, and the United States. The program—now in its ninth year—is hosted by the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa and sponsored by grants from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. State Department. The University of Iowa is located in Iowa City, the only UNESCO Creative City of Literature in North America, as well as home to the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. This creative environment inspires students to grow as writers while also providing them opportunities for cultural exchange and dialogues on creative writing and literature.

Selected participants attend courses each day that are designed to both increase knowledge of world literatures and improve their craft, including an English-language literature seminar and a language-specific writing workshop according to a student’s native language, either Russian, Arabic, or English. Classes are taught by prize-winning poets and writers from the U.S. and abroad, who are also experienced creative writing teachers. Extracurricular events and nightly activities allow students to expand their understanding of other students and cultures while also giving them the opportunity to explore the local community and its people. Participants live with a matched roommate from a different country in University of Iowa dormitories that are gender-separated according to floor. Dormitories are supervised by BTL counselors, who are also writers, and ensure a safe and fun dorm experience. International applicants must be proficient in English in all forms (reading, writing, and speaking), but participants are selected based on their creative writing in their native language, not in English. If granted entry into the program, all travel, lodging, and meals are provided.

We are looking for talented, curious, and enthusiastic writers of fiction and/or poetry who meet the following criteria:

- Will be 16 – 19 years old as of June 25, 2016.
- Able to engage and thrive in an atmosphere that brings together different kinds of people and worldviews.

Once the application cycle is open, you should contact the Cultural Affairs Office at the American Embassy in your country for information on how to apply. The application cycle is typically open from January-April 1, 2016.

Application requirements:

- 6-8 pages of creative work in your native language: Russian or Arabic.
- 6-8 pages of creative work in English. School essays will not be accepted.
- 2-5 pages of creative work in Arabic, Russian, or English in response to ONE of the following writing prompts:
  - During breakfast you are startled by a heavy knock at the door. It is someone who demands something from you. Who is it, what does he/she need, and what happens next? Write a short story or poem.
  - Write a short story or poem that contains three (3) of the following objects and one (1) place:
    - Objects: old bicycle, uncomfortable couch, leaking canoe, sleeping puppy, love note, truth serum
    - Places: cruise ship, forest with a lake, empty street at dawn, deserted dance club
- A statement of purpose (250 words maximum, in English) describing why creative writing is important in your life, and what you hope to learn at our program in Iowa.

For questions and more information, please visit our website or contact Program Coordinator Lisa Daily:

Web site: http://iwp.uiowa.edu/programs/between-the-lines
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