BETWEEN THE LINES: PEACE & THE WRITING EXPERIENCE

When:

Session 1
Russian/Arabic Session
June 25-July 9, 2016

Session 2
Silk Routes
July 16-July 30, 2016

What: Between the Lines is a two-week summer program designed to bring together young writers aged 16-19 from the United States and selected regions, including in 2016: Russia and Arabic-speaking countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa for Session 1 and Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic for Session 2. The program—now in its ninth year—is hosted by the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa and sponsored in part by grants from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA) 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 afternoon writing workshops. 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 in university dormitories with a matched roommate from another country. Dorms are gender-separated by floor and supervised by BTL counselors, who are also writers. American students do not need to know a foreign language to participate as English is the primary language of the program.

Who: 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 for Session 1 or by July 16, 2016 for Session 2; Able to engage and thrive in an atmosphere that brings together different kinds of people and worldviews.

Application requirements:

• 6-8 pages of creative work in English. School essays will not be accepted.
• 2-5 pages of creative work in response to one (1) of the following writing prompts:
  o 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.
  o 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) describing why creative writing is important in your life, and what you hope to learn at our program in Iowa.
• A copy of the student’s most recent transcript.
• A letter of recommendation from a teacher or other individual who knows the student’s work.

Cost: There is no cost to apply. Tuition for the two-week program is $1800, which includes room and board, instructor and material fees, printing, and local transportation. The IWP offers a limited number of full and partial need-based scholarships!

The online application opens December 1, 2015 and closes April 1, 2016.

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