



**Candace McIntyre Gay**

Mike Stoffa. Oil on canvas, 1978.  
Rockport, Massachusetts

**Candace Gay Memorial Awards, established in 1978 by Professors Thomas and Carol Gay in memory of their thirteen-year-old daughter, Candace McIntyre Gay, are given to junior and senior high school students who exhibit distinctive essay writing ability. More than \$2,000 in prizes is distributed each year in this contest.**

## Guidelines For The 2023 Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest

**Prompt:** In 750–1000 total words, respond to the following:

*Leo Tolstoy's classic novel Anna Karenina begins with this statement: "All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." Recalling "unhappy" families from this year's English Festival books, decide if Tolstoy is right. Are unhappy families all unhappy in their own ways, or is there something common to them that explains the unhappiness? In an essay, investigate the causes of familial unhappiness, using examples from at least two 2023 Festival books.*

# CANDACE GAY MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST

You need not register for or participate in the English Festival to participate in this competition, nor do you have to submit an entry to participate in the Festival.

Electronic submission information will appear later on our website. <ysuenglishfestival.org>

### Your entry will be judged by how well you

- ◆ Establish a purpose for your entry.
- ◆ Organize and develop your ideas.
- ◆ Support your discussion with accurate and appropriate details from the book.
- ◆ Use language, including conventional grammar and spelling.

### Your entry will not be considered unless you

- ◆ Submit only one entry.
- ◆ Type your paper, double-spaced on unlined white paper, or handwrite your paper in ink on only one side of lined 8 1/2 x 11" white paper. Leave 1" margins on all sides, and number the pages.
- ◆ Write your paper with no help from your teacher, parents, or anyone else. Use only your own ideas about the book and put those ideas in your own words.
- ◆ Enclose all direct quotations in quotation marks and cite page numbers in your text for those quotations.
- ◆ Limit your entry to 750-1000 words. (Papers that are significantly shorter or longer are disqualified).
- ◆ Create a title page that includes the following information (Do not provide any of this information anywhere else in your essay):
  - The title of your entry. Title may also appear on essay.
  - Your name (no nicknames or shortened forms of first names)
  - Your full address
  - Your email address
  - Your age and grade
  - Your teacher's first and last name
  - Your principal's first and last name

- The full name of your school
- ◆ At the bottom of the title page, write the following statement and sign your name beneath it: *I have received no direct help on this paper from my teachers, parents, or anyone else.*
- ◆ Below the statement printed above on your title page write the following statement and have your teacher sign beneath: *This essay was not written as a class assignment, and I have not directly helped the student with this essay in any way.*

Entries cannot be returned. All entries become the property of YSU. YSU reserves the right to publish any of the entries submitted, with credit given to authors.

# GRAPHIC ESSAY CONTEST

"Haunting" can take many forms. People encounter "ghosts" in literature and in film (in real life?). Ghosts appear to represent regrets, events, problematic ideas or relationships. In a graphic essay, explore the effects of being haunted.

Entries should contain panels (in comic book style), which may further be arranged into tiers (rows of panels like a page from a graphic novel) and may contain both "dialogue or thought bubbles" and captions (commentary by a narrator or other non-dialogue text). Use up to sixteen pages no larger than 8 1/2 x 11 inches.

- ◆ Use original art in your entry, either hand drawn or computer generated.
- ◆ Use writing that complements the art and expresses the idea you are trying to convey.
- ◆ Students may collaborate (e.g., if one student is a writer and one student is an illustrator); however, any monetary prizes will be split among the collaborators.

Don't know what a graphic essay is? Here's an example by Gene Luen Yang: <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/04/01/books/review/28sketchbook-yang.html?ref=todayspaper>

### Your entry will be judged by the following criteria:

- **Originality and idea expressed**
- **Effectiveness of writing and illustrations**
- **Ability to express an idea pertaining to the topic.**

Each entry must be accompanied by a cover sheet indicating student's name (or any other student collaborators), home address, student email address, grade, school, and English teacher.

You may only submit one entry.

We reserve the right to reproduce entries for display on our web page and in our publication with credit to the creator(s).

### Possible tools for use:

- <https://www.makebeliefscomix.com/>
- <https://www.storyboardthat.com/comic-maker>
- <https://www.canva.com/create/comic-strips/>

# FESTIVAL ART CONTEST

All students at schools eligible for the English Festival are invited to enter the Festival Art Contest by submitting two-dimensional artwork.

**The submission may be no larger than 14 inches x 18 inches. Any submission of a 3-dimensional object will be disqualified. Students may submit only one entry.**

The entry must be the student's original work, an artistic response to one of the current Festival books, which could be used by the publisher as a book cover or as promotional art. The student may not submit a piece of art that was created prior to reading the book named as inspiration from the current festival's book list.

Each entry must be an original drawing, painting, or photograph, in any style, and may be vertical or horizontal in format. The entry cannot be copied from other artwork or photographs unless the photograph is one taken by the student (please tape to back of entry).

◆ Entries will be judged on originality, artistic merit, and appropriateness to the book being illustrated.

If the intent is to produce a book cover, the student may preserve the original image by placing the book's title and author's name on an overlay.

Entry must be accompanied by a separate sheet attached to the back of the artwork that states the student's name, home address, email address, grade, school, and book being illustrated. Additionally,

each student must attach an artist statement of no more than 250 words that explains how the artwork is inspired by (or reflective of) characters, settings, events, situations, themes, and/or moods of a book on this year's English Festival reading list. **The statement should explain stylistic intentions, compositional elements, and chosen media.**

We reserve the right to copy artwork for display on our web page or in our publications, with credit to the artist.

## JEREMY SALVNER MEMORIAL MUSIC AWARD

**The Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Award, established by Gary, Kathy, and Matthew Salvner in memory of their late**

**son and brother Jeremy, invites students to create original musical compositions (vocal or instrumental) inspired by books on the current English Festival list. No professional musicians, including music teachers, may**



**Jeremy Salvner  
(1976–2005)**

**participate in the creation or production of a composition, including its musical accompaniment.**

Original musical compositions may be submitted by individuals or by groups of no more than five (who will then share in any prize awarded to the group). Compositions may be either vocal or instrumental and must be no more than ten minutes long.

Vocal compositions must be recorded (accompanied by any instrumentation) and submitted on CD, and should be accompanied by written lyrics of the composition.

Instrumental compositions must be recorded using solo or ensemble instruments (any instruments are allowed) and submitted on CD. Musical scores and/or chord progressions are invited, but not required.

All entries must be titled, and each submitted CD must be labeled with the musical work's title, names of book(s) that inspired the work, and the names, grades, and schools of composers/performers written onto the CD.

Each entry must also be accompanied by a statement of no more than 250 words that explains how the composition is inspired by (or reflective of) characters, settings, events, situations, themes, and/or moods of a particular book or books on this year's English Festival reading list.

This statement must also contain the title of the work and names, grades, and schools of composers/performers. Entries will be judged by a committee of YSU Dana School of Music faculty, other music professionals, and at least one member of the English Festival Committee. Separate prizes are given at the junior-high and senior-high levels.

**Entries will be judged according to the following criteria:**

- ◆ Originality in composition and production.
- ◆ Craftsmanship and Expressivity.
- ◆ Quality of performance.
- ◆ Artistic Intention (effectiveness in capturing events, situations, characters, themes, or moods in a Festival book or books).

Entries to the Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Awards may not be returned. We reserve the right to use excerpts of winning compositions on our website and in other English Festival publicity, with credit given to the artist(s).

*\* Visit our website <[ysuenglishfestival.org](http://ysuenglishfestival.org)> for electronic submission information.*

## PRE-FESTIVAL CONTESTS



\* The Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest, English Festival Art Contest, Graphic Essay Contest, and Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Award are pre-Festival competitions.

Students read the books and write essays, create wonderful art works, or stirring musical pieces. These are submitted by the deadline below and judged before the Festival.

You'll see that you have to know the books to do well, but you need not attend the Festival to be part of these competitions.

We hope you'll come, however, so you can be part of the best student activity in the area.

## WHERE AND WHEN?

*Submit by February 24, 2023, to*

**English Festival  
Department of English and  
World Languages  
Youngstown State University  
One University Plaza  
Youngstown, Ohio 44555**

## QUESTIONS?

*E-mail us at:*

**[info@ysuenglishfestival.org](mailto:info@ysuenglishfestival.org)**

*Or check our website at:*

**<http://www.ysuenglishfestival.org>**

**45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL YSU ENGLISH FESTIVAL**

# Pre-Festival Activities

**YSU  
ENGLISH  
FESTIVAL**  
*founded in 1978* **2023**

**Candace Gay  
Memorial Essay Contest**

**English Festival  
Graphic Essay Contest**

**English Festival  
Art Contest**

**Jeremy Salvner  
Memorial Music Award**



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STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

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