

For Immediate Release
September 1, 2011

KWF announces finalists of its *Think You Can Write?* High School Writing Contest
-- *WritersFest recognizes and fosters youth writing talent in the Kingston community* --

Kingston, ON. Kingston WritersFest (www.kingstonwritersfest.ca), the community's hottest cultural festival, has selected three finalists for its *Think You Can Write?* High School Writing Contest. The contest, which is sponsored by Freedom 55 Financial, asked young writers to use the words *luminous*, *melody*, *dawn*, *ocean* and *inspire* in a 750-word story, poem, essay, or memoir. The writing competition is part of Kingston WritersFest Youth Events, a staple of this year's Festival running September 22–25, and an initiative aimed at offering high school students the opportunity to be inspired by some of Canada's best thinkers and writers.

And the winners are...

In its second year, the contest received 116 entries from 11 Limestone District High Schools and two Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District High Schools. The three finalists are Hannah Ascough, now in Grade 11 at LCVI for *The Angel on the Bicycle*, Javen Wilson, now in Grade 12 at LCVI for *Clear Blue Sky* and Miriam Rutledge, now in Grade 12 at Sydenham for *The Cellist*. The winner of the contest will be announced September 22 onstage at the Grand Theatre as the kick-off to the International Marquee, featuring Nobel Laureate J.M. Coetzee in conversation with Paul Auster on The winner will receive the top prize of \$300.00. Two runner-ups will each receive a prize of \$100.00.

All of the 116 entries were reviewed and judged by Kingston WritersFest. The entries were reviewed by local poet Joanne Page, young-adult novelist Leanne Liebermann, and memoirist Ian Reid. The finalists were judged by notable Kingston author, Helen Humphreys, who is participating at KWF 2011 with a reading from her new novel, *The Reinvention of Love* on Sunday September 25 as part of *Afternoon Delight: Tea and*

Literary Treats, sharing the stage with luminaries including Elizabeth Hay, Madeleine Thien and fellow Kingston author, Cynthia Holz.

KWF speaks to youth

As part of their commitment to youth, Kingston WritersFest has designed Festival Field Trips, a morning of five events geared especially to high school students. Sponsored by TD Canada Trust, the Festival Field Trips take place Thursday, September 22 from 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM. The lineup includes five stimulating, thought-provoking events designed for students Grades 9 – 12, featuring nationally and internationally renowned authors chosen for their ability to connect with teenagers. Sessions are aimed at students and teachers of all courses including English and Writer’s Craft, Science, Drama, Geography, History, World Issues, Anthropology or Sociology and are designed to encourage conversation and interaction between authors and students that connect and relate to classroom discussions. For a list of the events, visit <http://www.kingstonwritersfest.ca/youth-project.php>. Tickets are available at special Festival Field Trip discount rates from the Grand Theatre Box Office by phone at 613-530-2050 or in person at 218 Princess.

About Kingston WritersFest

Kingston WritersFest, committed to promoting awareness and appreciation of the literary arts in all their forms and nurturing literary expression within the Kingston community, was launched in 2006 by a core group of dedicated and hardworking volunteers under the auspices of Kingston Frontenac Public Library and Kingston Literacy. Since then it has grown with the support of authors and publishers, Kingston's independent and chain bookstores, and local businesses and media. In 2009 the festival was expanded and revamped to bring the widest range and most exciting programming possible to its community of readers.

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To arrange an interview, for accreditation to the Festival or for more information, please contact Danika Lochhead at Kingston WritersFest. Tel: 613-542-1447. E-mail: communications@kingstonwritersfest.ca.