



The First Annual Esther Malka ע"ה National Writing Contest

MACHON MENORAS HACHOCHMAH is proud to present the "First Annual Esther Malka Weissmann ע"ה Writing Contest". Esther Malka Weissmann (1929-2001) was born in Sobrance, Czechoslovakia. After surviving both Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, she immigrated to the United States where she devoted herself to raising a Torah family in which instilling middos tovos stood at the center of every lesson she passed on to her children and grandchildren. Her family has sponsored this Writing Contest as an enduring legacy of her desire to ensure that Jewish youth are able to achieve academic excellence within a Torah environment, through a hashkafically sound curriculum, and grow in their mitzvos ben adom l'chaveiro.

PROMPT:

Using one of Rabbi Yisroel Salanter's thirteen middos, write a short story in which the main character struggles with a middah and experiences a nisayon. Throughout the story, the protagonist will begin to overcome his challenge and integrate the proper middah into his life. The story should be creative yet show the reader an understanding of the basic concept surrounding the chosen middah.

GUIDELINES:

- ✓ Only students in participating Machon schools may participate.
- ✓ All entries must be between 750-1,000 words in length.
- ✓ The story must relate to the provided prompt and be an original work.
- ✓ Any plagiarism will be disqualified and reported to the writer's school.
- ✓ Conventional formatting is required (Times New Roman, 12pt font, double spaced, 1-inch margins, black ink).
- ✓ Entries must be received by January 17, 2020 and emailed to the Machon by a student's Language Arts teacher. Name and grade level must be indicated.

SCORING:

- ✓ All entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges outside of the Machon staff.
- ✓ The judges will complete an assessment for all entries. Please see the below chart for details.
- ✓ Final decisions will be announced on February 21, 2020.

PRIZES:

The winner of each category will receive the prize money in the form of a gift card of his choice.

- Best 9th/10th Grade Submission:\$300**
- Best 11th/12th Grade Submission:\$300**
- Runner Up for Best Overall Story:\$200**
- Runner Up for Best Integration of a Middah into a Story:\$200**

- אמת** – שלא להוציא מן הפה דבר שאין הלב מעיד על אמיתתו
- זריזות** – שלא לבטל רגע לבטלה; כן לעשות מה שדרוש לעשות
- חריצות** – לעשות מה שהוחלט לעשות בשקידה וברגש
- כבוד** – להזהר בכבוד כל אדם, ואפילו עם זה שאיננו עמו תמים דעה
- מנוחה** – מנוחת הנפש, לבלי היות מבוהל, ולעשות כל דבר במנוחה
- נחת** – דברי חכמים בנחת נשמעים, לכן תשתדל לדבר כן
- נקיון** – נקיון וטהרה, בגופו ובבגדיו
- סבלנות** – לסבול במנוחה כל מקרה וכל פגע בחיים
- סדר** – לעשות כל מעשה ועניין בסדר ובמשטר
- ענוה** – להכיר חסרונות עצמו ולהסיח דעת ממומי חברו
- צדק** – כפשוטו וכדרשתו: ותר משלך (חולין קל"ד).
- קמוץ** – שלא להוציא פרוטה שלא לצורך
- שתיקה** – יחשוב את התועלת שבדבריו קודם שידבר

COMPONENT	REQUIREMENT
Ideas and Content	The story includes a clearly presented central idea with well-developed characters, situation/plot, setting, and conflict.
Story Structure	The story utilizes an effective climax, a sound beginning, and transitions that allow for an organized story that engages the reader.
Connection to Middah	The story presents a situation that relates to the chosen middah and is in line with Torah hashkafos.
Creativity	The story contains numerous creative details and descriptions that encourage the audience to be engaged.
Spelling and Punctuation	The entry contains properly spelled words and correct punctuation.
Adherence to Contest Rules	The entry is written in accordance with the guidelines laid out for the contest.