The Academy at HBU announces The Nature of Imagination:

The Inklings Essay Contest

GRAND PRIZE: \$250 + autographed book from an HBU author

Plus: additional prizes, including grade-level specific prizes, AND an invitation for essay participants and their families to attend an Awards Ceremony featuring a lecture by Dr. Louis Markos, Professor in English and Scholar in Residence at HBU.

Essay Guidelines:

Eligibility

The essay contest is open to any Houston-area student in sixth through ninth grades.

<u>Format</u>

Font:	Times New Roman, 12pt
Spacing:	Double
Margins:	1" all around
References/citation style:	MLA
Length:	500-800 words
Page Numbers:	Upper right corner

Submission Details

Submissions will be accepted beginning on December 15, 2018. **The deadline for submissions is <u>5 pm on January 15, 2019</u>**.

Submissions should be emailed as an attachment (.doc or .pdf) to <u>TheAcademy@hbu.edu</u> with "The Inklings Essay Contest" in the subject line.

Essay Theme

The novels, poems, translations and literary scholarship of the "Inklings" (C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Dorothy Sayers, Charles Williams and Owen Barfield) left an indelible imprint upon the Western literary tradition. Their friendships with one another gave rise to imaginative projects that have become part of the Western canon. Their writings have inspired a wide array of fiction writers, literary scholars, historians, philosophers, theologians, and artists. Each of the Inklings, in his or her own way, explored the "nature of imagination," what it is, how it is expressed, and what are its limitations.

The essay contest invites any Houston-area student in sixth through ninth grades to write and submit an original essay addressing some aspect of the Inklings' use of or analysis of imagination. Topics could include (but are not limited to):

- Sources for the Inklings—what authors/works inspired them
- Imagination in the life of an Inkling—how life experiences shape an Inkling's imagination
- Arthurian themes in the Inklings
- Fantasy worlds in the Inklings
- Scholarship and Imagination
- Morality and Imagination
- Original characters/themes in fiction
- Less well-known works such as Dorothy Sayers, *The Man Born to Be King*; C.S. Lewis, *Out of the Silent Planet*; J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Silmarillion*; Charles Williams, *War in Heaven*; or Owen Barfield, *Saving the Appearances*

Cover Sheet

The cover page should include the following information:

Full Name

Email address

Home address

Grade in school

Name of school, if applicable (please indicate if homeschooled)

Word Count (exclude the cover sheet, title, and citations in determining word count)

Title of Essay (centered on page)

First Page of the Essay

The *first page* of the essay should repeat the essay title but should not include any other identifying information. The text of the essay should begin 2" down the page.

Include *page numbering* on the upper right corner. *Do not include your name* on the first page or any subsequent page of the essay.

Judging Criteria

In reviewing the essays, a panel of university faculty will take into consideration the following:

- 1) Conformity to Requirements (explained above)
- 2) Clarity and Originality of Argument
- 3) Coherence of Organization, Style, Grammar, and Mechanics

The judges reserve the right to disqualify essays that do not meet the basic requirements as explained above.

[COVER SHEET SAMPLE]

Full Name

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Name of school, if applicable (if homeschooled, please indicate)

Word Count (exclude the cover sheet, title, and citations in determining word count)

Title of Essay (centered on page)

[FIRST PAGE SAMPLE]

Title of essay (must match title on cover sheet)

[Begin text of the essay here.]