



English Creative Writing Competition for Bulgarian Students

The newest version of the Bulgarian Creative Writing Competition will take place in the spring of 2013. The competition is intended to foster creative thinking in Bulgarian students of English, and to encourage the use of the language in a fun way.

During the competition, students are given one hour to write a creative, English-language essay in response to a variety of unusual themes (for example: “What does God do for fun?”; “If you could eliminate one sound from the world, what would it be, and why?”; “What would you do with a million watermelons?”). Students do this **WITHOUT** the use of dictionaries, textbooks, or other resource materials. This is because essays are assessed primarily on imagination and originality, not grammar.

After they are read by a panel of regional judges (specialists and teachers of English, including at least one native speaker), several essays from each grade level are selected to progress to the national level. There, the top three essays from each grade level are selected and awarded prizes.

The competition is open to students who study English at public schools, and who are from 6th to 12th grades. The competition is divided by grade levels, and the essay topics and judging criteria are adjusted depending on the age of the students writing them.

The BCWC first took place in 2011 in conjunction with other Peace Corps countries as part of the “International Writing Olympics”. In 2012, the competition’s second year, Bulgarian students contributed over 800 essays! This year it is a Bulgaria-specific competition administered jointly between Peace Corps and CorPlus.

Preparatory creative writing lessons and materials will be available for interested teachers and schools via the CorPlus website in fall 2012. Registration will begin in December 2012.