

## Alabama regions participating in the state-wide Big Read:

To make The Big Read project more manageable, the state was divided into nine regions, as shown in the map below.



## The Alabama Big Read Statewide Community Read February – April 2010 What is The Big Read?

The Big Read is an initiative of The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.

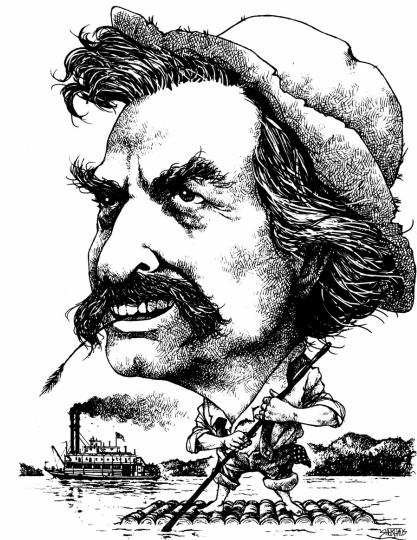
The Alabama Statewide Big Read effort is a partnership between the public libraries in the state along with the Alabama Public Library Service (i.e., The State Library) and the Alabama Center for the Book. **The NEA has been very impressed with the activities from the State of Alabama and has asked that Alabama serve as a pilot program for how other states can take The Big Read to a statewide level.**

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.



## THE BIG READ: ALABAMA READS *THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER* BY MARK TWAIN

### STUDENT POETRY CONTEST



To celebrate the first-ever state-wide **Big Read**, Alabama's public libraries are sponsoring a poetry contest for middle-school students.



## WHO:

ENTRANTS MUST BE MIDDLE-SCHOOL STUDENTS (GRADES 5-8) ENROLLED IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS OR HOMESCHOOLED IN JEFFERSON COUNTY.

## HOW:

EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL WILL HOLD ITS OWN CONTEST AND SELECT THE TOP THREE POEMS FOR EACH DIVISION (JUNIOR: 5-6 GRADES AND SENIOR: 7-8 GRADES).

By JANUARY 15, 2010, the designated school contact for the contest will call 226-3670 or e-mail [hm@bham.lib.al.us](mailto:hm@bham.lib.al.us) to sign up your school to participate.

- ◆ Each entrant may submit only one poem, which must be original, unpublished, and must not have won a previous award.

- ◆ Poem may be any form **with a maximum length of 50 lines**.

- ◆ Poem must be inspired by *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain or anything in your life or your imagination that resembles what Tom Sawyer or one of the characters in the book experienced. For example, you may write a poem about how you make work seem like fun or how someone tricked you (or you tricked them) into doing what you want. You may write about a scary person (like Injun Joe) or situation (like being in the cave or the graveyard). You may write about first love or misunderstandings with a loved one. *Briefly state your inspiration or connection to the book.*

- ◆ Entries must be typed or computer-generated. Poems that take up more than one

page must be stapled. No artwork, graphics, or unusual type fonts. E-mail submissions will not be accepted.

- ◆ All work must be original, unpublished and by the student entrant only, without editing by parents, teachers or others. Joint submissions (2 or more authors) is not permitted.

**THE DESIGNATED SCHOOL CONTACT FOR THE CONTEST WILL MAIL OR HAND-DELIVER THE TOP THREE WINNING POEMS FROM EACH DIVISION (JR. AND SR.) BY February 24, 2010 TO:**

Big Read Poetry Contest  
Arts/Literature/Sports Department  
Birmingham Public Library  
2100 Park Place  
Birmingham, AL 35203

### SUBMIT TWO COPIES OF EACH POEM:

- On the first copy, put the contest division "Junior" (5-6 grades) or "Senior" (7-8 grades) at top. **DO NOT INCLUDE NAME OR SCHOOL ON THIS COPY**

- On the second copy, put the contest division, the student's name, grade, teacher, and name and address of school.

- Also on the second copy the student **MUST COPY AND SIGN THIS STATEMENT:**

*"This is my original work and has not been copied in whole or part from any other author's work, including poems or songs posted on the Internet."*

- **HOMESCHOOLERS**, please mail or deliver your poems directly to the above address **by February 24, 2010**.

**PLEASE FOLLOW ALL RULES. FAILURE TO FOLLOW RULES WILL DISQUALIFY ENTRY WITHOUT NOTICE TO STUDENT OR SCHOOL.**

**The winners for Jefferson County (Region 4) will be announced on March 12, 2010. The top three winners for both divisions (Jr. and Sr.) will be awarded cash prizes:**

**1ST PLACE: \$50**

**2RD PLACE: \$35**

**3RD PLACE: \$25**

## STATE-WIDE CONTEST

The six winning poems from each region will be submitted to the judge for the state-wide contest.

State-wide winners (top 3 for each division, Junior and Senior) will be announced on April 7, 2010. They will be invited to read their poems at the Alabama Book Festival in Montgomery on April 17.

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners for the Junior and Senior divisions will be announced on April 17, 2010 at the Alabama Book Festival in Montgomery. The winners will read their poems at the festival.

**CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS OF BOTH JR. & SR. DIVISIONS:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE: \$100**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE: \$75**

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE: \$50**

**For information, call 226-3670 or e-mail [hm@bham.lib.al.us](mailto:hm@bham.lib.al.us).**

**Big Read Poetry Contest website:**

**[www.iclc.org/services/poetry](http://www.iclc.org/services/poetry)**

*Adapted from the Alabama State Poetry Society Student Contest Guidelines for 2009.*