

# The Bernice L. Fox Classics Writing Contest 2024

Sponsored by the Department of Classics at Monmouth College

## Topic: Olympians as Olympians, Achieving in Unconventional Ways

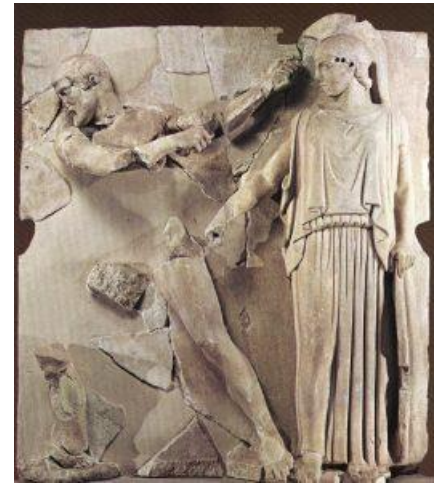
2024 is an Olympic year, which brings into many people's minds not just the athletes from around the modern world who compete against one another at the highest level, but also the original Olympians, the various immortal dwellers on Greece's Mt. Olympus. One of the things that makes the modern Olympics interesting is the highlighting of athletes and sports that do not normally receive the most coverage on networks like ESPN, and on skills that make people great that do not always bring them great acclaim.



This year's Fox Contest asks you to think of dwellers on Mt. Olympus, including not just those labeled "Olympian gods," but also those (like Heracles) who are apotheosized, those (like Hebe or Ganymede) who do important jobs for the Olympians, and others who are purported to reside at least part-time on Olympus, such as the Muses. It wants you to think about them using skills that are

attested in extant depictions from the ancient world, but that are DIFFERENT from the first ones of which people are likely to think. That is, please steer away from depictions of Zeus as a thrower of projectiles, Athena as a general, Artemis as an archer, etc.

Focus, instead, on these Olympians' secondary or complementary skills that extant myths attest, and create a tale of eventual achievement of these individuals (either in their own characters or in characters recognizably adapted from them) based on such skills. Place your focal figure(s) in the midst of a situation (ancient or modern) in which a secondary or complementary skill of theirs contributes to their overcoming an obstacle and achieving notably in some way. This achievement may be athletic, but it does not need to be. There WILL, though, need to be recognizable reference to the story/stories in which the secondary/complementary skill(s) is/are apparent in ancient sources.



### Contest Guidelines

- Entries must fit the theme of this year's contest and must be in English.
- Entries must be typed and should be submitted electronically (in Google Doc or Microsoft Word format) by a teacher or other adult (as explained below). Please ensure that the document is able to be edited by the organizers (i.e., no PDFs, please).
- There is no minimum or maximum length.
- The entrant's name and school must not appear on pages on which the text of the

### Contest Parameters and Judging

This contest is open to any student enrolled full-time in high school anywhere in the world during the current school year. An award of **\$250** will be given to the author of the best entry, which may take the form of a short story, essay, play, poem, or original literary work of any other sort.

Entries will be judged on accuracy to ancient sources (as relevant to this project), appropriate use of those sources, originality, quality of material, thematic development, English style, and effectiveness of presentation.

entry is printed. Instead, contestants should place a personal identification code (a randomly selected nine-character series) on the top left-hand corner of every page of the entry and include with their submission a separate document containing the following information:

- author's name, date of birth, and personal identification code
- school name, mailing address, and phone number
- teacher's name and email address
- No more than ten entries will be accepted from any individual school, and only one entry per student will be accepted.
- Students who wish to enter the contest without school sponsorship (i.e., if they are homeschooled or at a school that is not taking part in the contest) must have a parent or other adult submit their work, and must include on their information page an explanation for their independent submission.
- Failure to follow these guidelines will result in disqualification.
- Every entrant will receive a certificate of participation from Monmouth College.
- The winner will be announced on or close to April 15, 2023, on the Monmouth College Classics Department Facebook page and/or on the Fox Contest website.
- Send all entries and any questions to Prof. Robert Holschuh Simmons at [rsimmons@monmouthcollege.edu](mailto:rsimmons@monmouthcollege.edu).
- For further information, including a list of previous winners, please consult the contest website at <http://department.monm.edu/classics/Department/FoxContest/>. For information about our department, please visit <https://monmouthcollege.edu/academics/classics> and <https://www.facebook.com/MonmouthCollegeClassics>.

**All entries must be sent via email no later than March 15, 2024**

#### **About Bernice L. Fox**

The Fox Classics Writing contest was established in 1985 by Dr. Tom Sienkewicz and the Department of Classics at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois, to honor Bernice L. Fox, to promote the study of Latin and the Classics in high schools, and to recognize the good work of high school students. Bernice L. Fox taught courses in English, Latin and Greek at Monmouth College from 1947 to 1981, and served as chair of the Department of Classics from 1970 until her retirement in 1981. Throughout her long and dynamic career, she worked tirelessly to promote the Classics in Illinois high schools and colleges. She is also the author of *Tela Charlottae*, the Latin translation of E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web*. In 1991, Monmouth College conferred on her the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. She passed away in 2003.

