



2011 Fall Essay Contest
The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates
by Wes Moore

About the Program

Vision: *Bring together the diverse peoples of the Waco community in open dialogue.*

Mission Statement: Impact the Waco area through a county-wide program that promotes reading and thoughtful discussion, with activities and events focused on encouraging community participation.

The One Book, One Waco Essay Contest is open to any high school student enrolled in a McLennan County high school. All essays will be judged by the One Book, One Waco steering committee and are subject to the following criteria:

Expectations:

- 1) Write an original essay – 450 to 600 words – on **one** of the two essay topics. (Students **may not** enter in more than one topical category.)
- 2) All essays should be grammatically correct, and follow proper formatting guidelines including font size, margins, spacing, and page numbers.
- 3) Students must demonstrate a clear understanding of the book, the vision, and mission statement of One Book, One Waco.
- 4) Essays should include the student's name, school, grade, teacher, and contact information on a title page only.

Themes to Consider

Choices * Personal Responsibility * Mentors * Family Role * Fate vs. Free Will * Community

Topics:

1. The author says to the other Wes, "I guess it is hard sometimes to distinguish between second chances and last chances." What do you think he means? How have you ever dealt with a "last chance"? Using examples from the author, your experience, and your community, discuss the difference between chance and choice and the balance between personal responsibility and circumstance.

2. Discuss the interrelationship between poverty, education and community. Consider the education levels of the Wes's families, how far each man got in his education, and the opportunities they gained or lost as a result of their education. Explain how poverty can influence education and what role support systems can play in combating poverty within McLennan County.

6 winners (three from each topic category) will be selected. Essay contest winners will be notified in late October. Winners will recognized and prizes awarded on November 17th at the Author Lecture at First Baptist Waco, 7:00 PM. Winners will have dinner with the author on November 17th at 5:00 PM.

Final Submission Deadline: October 11, 2011 by 5:00 p.m. to onebookonewaco@gmail.com or via mail: P.O. Box 1220, Waco, TX 76703

All questions should be sent to Alexis Weaver, director of community affairs at the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce – (254)757-5630 or aweaver@wacochamber.com