

2020-2021 Korean Literature Essay Contest Guideline (1/2)

Mission:

GW Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS) aims to introduce Korean culture through literature to students enrolled in higher education.

Eligibility:

The contest is open to undergraduate or graduate students who are enrolled in colleges or universities for the Fall 2020 semester. Registrations must be submitted by November 15, 2020.

How to participate:

1. Find the book: You may purchase the book from online ([the Amazon.com website](https://www.amazon.com)). George Washington University (GWU) Students are able to access a digital copy of the book to read from the Gelman Library. Note that a maximum of three students can read the digital copy online at the same time.

2. Write the essay: After reading the book, you will write an essay based on the judging criteria listed below. The essay has to be a format of critical essay and must not exceed 1,200 words.

3. Submit your essay: Submit your final essay to go.gwu.edu/2020app by January 31, 2021. At the top of your essay, please include: your name, school, degree level (i.e. Bachelors, Masters, etc.), year of program (i.e. sophomore, 2nd year PhD, etc.), and your e-mail address.

Subject of Essay:

Kim JiYoung, Born 1982, by Cho Nam-Joo

Kim Ji Young, Born 1982 follows one woman's psychic deterioration in the face of rampant misogyny. In a tidy apartment on the outskirts of Seoul, millennial "everywoman" Kim Jiyoung spends her days caring for her infant daughter. But strange symptoms appear: Jiyoung begins to impersonate the voices of other women, dead and alive. As she plunges deeper into this psychosis, her concerned husband sends her to a psychiatrist. Jiyoung narrates her story to this doctor--from her birth to parents who expected a son to elementary school teachers who policed girls' outfits to male coworkers who installed hidden cameras in women's restrooms. But can her psychiatrist cure her, or even discover what truly ails her?

Author Information:

Cho Nam-Joo (b. 1978) is a former television scriptwriter whose novel *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* became a hotly debated bestseller in South Korea when it was published in 2016, coinciding with the country's #MeToo movement. Now published in English, Cho's book uses the story of one woman to reveal gender inequality in all parts of South Korean society, from the privileging of male children to workplace discrimination and harassment. (Despite having the world's 12th largest economy, a recent gender gap report ranks South Korea 108 out of 153.) Cho lives with her family in Seoul.

(Retrieved from [The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com))

2020-2021 Korean Literature Essay Contest Guideline (2/2)

Judging Criteria:

- Writer demonstrates close reading and critical thinking.
- Writer addresses the central theme of the story revealed through plot, setting, characters, symbols, dialogue, and visual elements.
- Writer demonstrates clear understanding of main ideas of the novel.
- Writer demonstrates clear understanding of author's use of language in developing the story.
- Writer describes author's tone and style of writing.
- Writer demonstrates clear understanding of the novel's structure.
- Writer demonstrates clear understanding of the literary and historical context of the novel.
- Writer's essay demonstrates clarity, structure, spelling, grammar, and usage.

Rules:

- Essays must not exceed 1,200 words in length.
- Essays should be word processed in 12-point Times New Roman fonts, and double spaced.
- One entry per contestant is permitted.
- All entries must be written in English.
- We reserve the right to use all submitted pieces in future publications of the GWIKS with no compensation to the authors.
- Winners are announced by mid-March. The time to announce the winners is subject to change depending on the number of total entries received. The award ceremony will be held Friday, April 2, 2021.

Prizes:

- First Place (1): Samsung Notebook Pro 9
- Second Place (1): Samsung Galaxy S20
- Third Place (2): Samsung Galaxy Tab S7

Registration Deadline: 11:59 PM EST, November 15, 2020

Submission Deadline: 11:59 PM EST, January 31, 2021