

# LICEO SCIENTIFICO e LINGUISTICO STATALE "FEDERICO II DI SVEVIA"



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Altamura, 30/11/2016

Liceo Linguistico e Scientifico "Federico II di Svevia" of Altamura (Bari)

Announces

**the competition of creative writing "Brevity as a writing strategy. Creativity in 140 characters: Twitter". Fourth edition. This year's theme is "Water: Life and Poetry".**

The competition is part of the activities planned for the 'International Week of Youth', which is an annual event organized by Liceo Federico II of Altamura and an occasion when the Institute becomes a reference point for various European schools.

This year the competition has two important novelties: a) participation is allowed both to all Italian High Secondary School students and also to European High School students; b) Tweets can be sent in Italian and English according to the conditions described below (see Art. 3 of this announcement).

The fourth edition of the competition pays specific attention to water, a vital element par excellence. Participants must express their reflections on this subject in a maximum length of 140 characters, bearing in mind the core requirement of the competition, which is to unite fullness of meaning to a form as literary and effective as possible. The limit of 140 characters will remain valid for the competition even if Twitter decides to change the layout with regards to the maximum number of characters allowed for posts. As previously mentioned, the main feature of this competition is "brevitas", that is meaningful, significant synthesis.

The theme chosen is well suited to social economic literary and poetic reflections.

Tweets could pay attention to respect for the environment. In fact, apart from being a source of life, water can also cause death and destruction, such as climate change, natural disasters or man-made water pollution.

On the other hand, the short text might be a reflection characterized by an exquisitely poetic or literary tone. The theme of water calls to mind the words of the poets and writers who dedicated their poems to it. We can think of several examples: the sea voyages of Odysseus and Aeneas; Horace and his famous ode 'Spring of Bandusia'; Catullus who thought that lovers' words are written on water since they are often as fleeting as feelings; Virgil's tale about Hero and Leander's myth where water is its main theme. In more recent times, water has also inspired poets and writers such as Ugo Foscolo ('To Zante'), Umberto Saba ('Ulysses'), Pascoli ('Thunderstorm'), D'Annunzio ('Rain in the Pinewood'), Palazzeschi ('The Sick Fountain'), Ungaretti ('Rivers'), Montale ('Squeaks the Shaft Pulley'), Hikmet ('I Love You as if I Eat Bread'), Hemingway ('The old man and the Sea'), Virginia Woolf ('Mrs. Dalloway' and 'To the Lighthouse'), Apollinaire ('Le pont Mirabeau'), Marquez ('Love at the Times of Cholera'), Saramago ('Water that Returns to Water'), Coleridge ('The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'), Melville, Dickinson, Shakespeare, Baudelaire, Jerome, Jules Verne, Stevenson, Defoe, Murakami, Hermann Hesse, Yourcenar, Neruda, Tagore and many others.

## Art. 1

### Addressees

The competition is open to students of Italian High Secondary Schools and to students of European Secondary Schools, who are interested in reading, in creative writing and in the potential offered to the

latter by technology and social networks, especially by Twitter. The students that wish to participate in the competition can do so only as an individual, not as classes or as schools.

## **Art. 2**

### **Subject**

It is possible to express oneself in an appropriate style by reducing the thought to the essential. It is well known that length does not always ensure the beauty of a text, indeed, the opposite is often true. Brevity, which impresses and goes directly to our heart or mind, has been one of the most appreciated writing techniques and qualities since ancient times. Just think of the fables of Phaedrus or the epigrams of Martial, witty sayings, apologues, 'exempla' and even 'micro-novels' (Giorgio Manganelli, for example, has collected a hundred of them in a book entitled 'Centuria'). Nowadays, technology has changed the way of transmitting knowledge and of communication, but this does not necessarily mean that creativity is neglected. The challenge, here, is using technology in order to write a text that has brevity as its main feature and high literary style as its goal.

Therefore, participants in this competition are required: a) to write a literary text (a 'micro-story' or a 'micro-poem') that does not exceed 140 characters on the topic 'Water: Life and Poetry', chosen as the theme of this fourth edition of the competition; b) to send it through the social network Twitter, which will be the exclusive means through which texts can be sent.

## **Art.3**

### **Conditions of participation**

1. Each participant can send the text only through **Twitter to the account @in\_breve**.
2. Each participant, belonging to an Italian or European school, can choose to send the text in Italian or in English.
3. Each participant can send only one tweet.
4. Each participant is required to state in writing (attachment A) that the text sent for the competition is unpublished and original (see point 5).
5. The text must not exceed 140 characters, including the account @in\_breve and a possible nickname ( see point 9).
6. It is not necessary for each participant to have a twitter account, in particular for under-age students. Submissions can be sent by email using the teacher's account or a new account set up by the school (see point 9)
7. The text will be sent via email along with the participant form (attachment A) to the email address: [concorsotwitter@gmail.com](mailto:concorsotwitter@gmail.com)
8. A participation form must be sent for each student, even if the teacher (or the school) decides to send a number of tweets from the same account.
9. If the teacher (or the school) decides to send the tweets on behalf of more than one participant using only one account, each tweet must be clearly recognizable from the participation card as well as from the different nickname for each student taking part in the competition. The nickname must be added in brackets at the beginning or at the end of the tweet (as the nickname is included within 140 characters, along with the account @in\_breve, it is advisable to choose a short one).
10. Texts sent without the entry form (attachment A), without the signatures required at the end of the above mentioned card or without the nickname ( if a number of tweets are sent using only one account) will be excluded from the competition.
11. The deadline by which texts and membership cards must be sent is Saturday, 18th March 2017.

## **Art.4**

### **Selection of texts**

The best texts will be selected by a Committee made up of the Principal of *Liceo Scientifico e Linguistico F. II di Svevia*, some school teachers and/or local professionals pertaining to the field of culture and communication.

The judgment of the Committee is unquestionable. The following criteria will be considered in the selection of the best texts: 1. conformity to the selected theme; 2. grammatical and orthographic correctness; 3. appropriate form and style; 4. conformity to the distinguishing principles of *brevitas* ( maximum meaningfulness along with expressive effectiveness and stylistic accuracy).

There will be **only one winner** for the section “Schools of Europe” and three winners, placed first, second and third, for the section “Schools of Italy”.

Along with the certificates of attendance, the participants will be given the following prizes:

**Section “Schools of Europe”**

1. A tablet for the student placed first

**Section “Schools of Italy”**

1. A tablet for the student placed first
2. An e-book reader for the student placed second
3. A book voucher for the student placed third

Furthermore, the Committee can express *Honourable Mentions* for those texts which, although not included among the best ones, will be praised for their formal accuracy and the value of their content. The authors of these texts will receive a certificate of attendance the Competition.

The names of the winners who receive Honorable Mentions will be communicated during the prize-giving Ceremony, which will be held in Altamura (Bari) at “Liceo Federico II di Svevia”, in April 2017, during the “International Youth Week”. The exact date of the ceremony will be communicated through the Twitter account of the Competition, @in\_breve, and via fax or email, directly to the schools of the winners. The names of the winners and students who receive Honorable Mentions will be communicated after the Ceremony also through the Twitter account mentioned before and through the mass media, in order to highlight the best texts and their authors. Further information and press releases will be given through the twitter account @in\_breve and also through the web-site [www.concorsotwitter.wordpress.com](http://www.concorsotwitter.wordpress.com) on the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/InBreve](http://www.facebook.com/InBreve)

**Art. 5**

**Quittance and privacy**

Each participant engages in writing to guarantee (attachment A) that the text sent for the competition is unpublished and original , relieving this school from any responsibility in the event of royalty violation and/or plagiarism.

The texts sent will be at the disposal of the school organizing the Competition, (the Liceo), which reserves the right to use the contribution (for educational purposes without any reward or payment to the authors. The texts will be posted on the school website and may also be used for didactic and educational initiatives

On submitting the text, the applicant implies possession of the royalties of the same text relieving the school from any responsibility, costs and charges, which may be incurred due to the content of the text. The texts produced will be sent including consent to the personal data processing according to Law 30 of June 2003, no.196 (attachment A).

Participation in the Competition implies that participants accept the regulations outlined in this announcement.

Altamura, 30th November 2016

F.to  
The Principal  
Prof.ssa Giovanna Cancellara

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COMPETITION PARTICIPATION FORM

Attachment A

To the Principal  
of Liceo Scientifico e Linguistico "Federico II di Svevia"  
ALTAMURA (BA)

**"Brevity as a writing strategy. Creativity in 140 characters: Twitter". Fourth edition.** Theme: **"Water : Life and Poetry"**.

To be sent as attachment to: [concorsotwitter@gmail.com](mailto:concorsotwitter@gmail.com)

Last name and first name of the participant	
Birthplace and date of birth	
Class/school year:	
Membership School: name, town, province, postal code, address	
School address: tel. number, Fax, e-mail	
Teacher	
Twitter account from which the text/tweet has been sent	
<i>Nickname</i> ( for a number of Tweets sent from the school or teacher's account)	
Text sent:	

I declare the text sent to be unpublished and original and that it does not violate copyright and nor is it the result of plagiarism. I relieve the school from any responsibility, costs and charges which may be incurred due to the content of the text. The participation in the competition implies the membership school possesses the copyrights of the same text, and it reserves the right to produce educational material with the contributions sent, without reward or payment to authors. The texts may be published on the school website, and also used for initiatives for educational purposes. In accordance with the law 675/96 and with reference to DL. 196/2003. I furthermore declare to be informed about the purposes and the terms of the use of personal data, consciously mentioned in this card and I authorize the archiving of the text submitted in the membership school database.

In this card, I also declare to have examined the Announcement of the competition **"Brevity as a writing strategy. Creativity in 140 characters: Twitter"**, fourth edition and to accept the regulations.

Date

Participant's Signature

Parent or guardian's signature  
(for underage students)

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Principal's signature

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