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## Youth Ink 2011 A middle-school writing contest to support literary arts

*Submitted by Lisa Rodriguez*

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (Orinda Juniors) is pleased to announce details for Youth Ink 2011, the annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda. The Youth Ink 2011 theme, But if You Really Knew Me, was chosen because it encourages highly personal writing and lends well to open style choice.

Organizers say the first rule is - you can write about anything you like: Real or imaginary. Ask yourself: "What am I like when I am just me? How am I different from who my friends and peers think I am? Do I have a dark side? Am I afraid of it? Or, am I really sweet underneath and don't want others to find out? Am I really who they think I am? Hey, what is everyone else hiding?" There is no limit to your imagination, just remember to have fun, whatever you write about, and we will enjoy reading it too.

"We can't wait to see how Orinda's talented youth writers will approach this year's intriguing theme," said Molly Griffin-Wilson, president of Orinda Juniors.

Generous co-sponsors of Youth Ink 2011, including The Orinda Association and The Orinda Community Foundation, have made it possible to provide impressive prizes:

- \$250 for 1st place, \$125 for

2nd place, \$75 for 3rd place

- 10 honorable mention gift

certificates worth \$25 at

Orinda Books

A panel of four local professional writers, including reporters and best-selling novelists, will evaluate submissions and choose winners. The judges' names will be shared when the winners are announced at an awards ceremony at the Orinda Public Library on Thursday, April 28, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.

Youth Ink 2011 submissions will be accepted on an ongoing basis but must be hand-delivered to a designated school representative or postmarked by Feb. 18, 2011 and mailed to Orinda Junior Women's Club, Post Office Box 40, Orinda, CA 94563 in order to be considered for an award. Youth Ink 2011 submission forms are available through the administrative offices and English departments at Orinda Intermediate School, the Orinda Public Library, St. Perpetua School, Orinda Academy, Bentley School, Saklan Valley School, Athenian School and Julia Morgan School for Girls or online at [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).

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