

The Marble Slate Writing Challenge:

Deadline for Submission: 25 February 2011; Turn in to Bridget Casey or Mrs. Belesimo.

The winning entries will be published in the 2011 edition of *The Marble Slate*.

1. The Plot Challenge* (Inspired by Mark Twain):

Write a story whose plot includes the following:

- **A Mystery**
- **A Theft**
- **A Betrayal** (The mystery does not have to relate to the Theft or the Betrayal NOR do the Theft or Betrayal need to relate to each other.)
- **A Historical Figure** (i.e. George Washington, Moses, King Arthur, Hercules—the timeframe of your story does not have to match that of your historical figure.)
- **A Feather**

2. The Sonnet Challenge: Write a Sonnet (a 14-line poem with approximately 10 syllables per line) using the following end words (in the order provided):

Quiet

Miss

Riot

Abyss

Trees

June

Peas

Prune

Bent

Jar

Iridescent

Guitar

Brooded

Concluded

3. 2010-2011 Essay Challenge:

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, write a 2-5 page essay addressing the following question: “Why is Harper Lee’s 1960 novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* as important (and popular) today as it was when it was first published?” Use at least three quotations from the novel in your essay.