



## **Steinbeck Young Authors, Grades 6, 7, 8**

### **National Steinbeck Center**

***Commitment to participate must be received by October 20, 2017***

**The Steinbeck Young Authors Program is an opportunity for middle school students to explore the excitement of writing and to enhance their writing skills by reading and discussing John Steinbeck's *The Red Pony*.**

The Steinbeck Young Authors Program consists of three stages:

1. Classroom Component.
2. Day of Writing event for teacher-nominated students.
3. Awards Ceremony.

#### **Stage One: Classroom Component**

- Teachers are provided with a drop-in curriculum designed to enhance students' writing skills.
- The unit includes engaging class activities and progressive writing activities that focus on *The Red Pony* as well as a rubric for assessing the students' writing skills (the same rubric used by coaches and judges in Stages Two and Three). A ELD component is included for English language learners.
- The teacher selects two-three students to move on to the next level of the program, in one of the following categories:
  - **Proficient/Advanced Writer:** Students who are good or strong writers, who consistently write clear and focused essays.
  - **Emerging Writer:** Students who are still developing their skills and making steady progress towards proficiency.
  - **English Language Learners:** Students whose first language is not English and who are making steady progress towards proficiency in English.

#### **Stage Two: Days of Writing on Monday, March 5 or Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at the National Steinbeck Center**

Selected students from each participating teacher will participate in a day-long event in the spring. The Day of Writing is an opportunity for students to write an essay about *The Red Pony* and receive feedback and mentoring from a member of the local community for whom writing is an essential component. The Day of Writing also includes a hands-on demonstration of horse care, activities, and a tour of the National Steinbeck Center. Within a week following the close of registration, teachers will be notified which day their selected students will attend for DOW.

#### **Stage Three: Awards Ceremony: Saturday, April 28, 2018**

- The students' essays from the Day of Writing are reviewed by a panel of expert judges.
- Awards recognize Advanced/Proficient Writers, Emerging Writers, and English Language Learners. Special Judge's Awards allow judges to recognize students with unusual achievements such as highly descriptive prose, outstanding language, or unusual perspectives.
- All students who participate in the Day of Writing receive an individualized certificate of participation and the *Gabilan Journal*, which includes all DOW student finalist essays.