



## Contest: Literature and Mathematics Voltaire's *Micromegas*

**Topic:** Response to Voltaire's *Micromegas*

**Prize(s):** Impressive award certificate, suitable for citing in your curriculum vita, application for university studies, posting on your refrigerator door.

**Criteria:** Original, thoughtful, and creative response to or analysis of Voltaire's *Micromegas*, focusing on the mathematical or philosophical metaphors.

**Rules:**

- Any genre is acceptable, including an essay, poem, visual creation, fictional extension of *Micromegas*, or mathematical exposition. Submissions should be five pages or fewer
- Contest submissions may be in English or French. Judges are fluent in mathematics.
- This contest is open to the public.
- If you wish to submit an entry by a team of people, that is fine. Just make that clear.
- We will probably award prize(s) in categories of contestants. Therefore, please include a brief description of your mathematical education, e.g., "Completed one year of calculus," "Mrs. Morton's 6th grade class." If your contest entry uses rather advanced literary/historical analysis please indicate your background such as "I teach AP French literature."

**Source** for text of *Micromegas*:

- English <http://www.wondersmith.com/scifi/micro.htm>
- French: [https://www.atramenta.net/lire/micromegas/956/1#oeuvre\\_page](https://www.atramenta.net/lire/micromegas/956/1#oeuvre_page)

**Deadline:** November 5, 2018

**Submit entries and direct questions to:**

- Professor Steven L. Jordan, (Loyola University Chicago and University of Illinois at Chicago) [sjorda2@luc.edu](mailto:sjorda2@luc.edu)
- Committee of judges is being formed.