



*The CommunityREAD program of the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation is sponsoring an essay contest relating to the themes which are discussed in Lisa Genova's book, *Still Alice*.*

In *Still Alice*, the main character suffers from dementia, in particular, early-onset Alzheimer's. Dementia is a loss of brain function that occurs with certain diseases. Alzheimer's disease is one form of dementia which gradually gets worse over time. It affects memory, thinking, and behavior. Memory impairment, as well as problems with language, decision-making ability, judgment, and personality, are features for the diagnosis.

This contest encourages students in grades 3-12 and adults to write an essay addressing the following question: If you knew you would eventually lose all memories, what is the one thing you would want to remember?

### **ENTER**

In order to apply, please complete the attached registration form and submit it along with your typed essay. Students from Findlay City and Hancock County Schools as well as adults from Findlay/Hancock County are eligible to enter. Essays should be 250 words or less. Please submit your essay and registration form on or before February 13, 2012.

Students and adults can submit their essays a number of ways:

- Email your essay to [lhouck@community-foundation.com](mailto:lhouck@community-foundation.com);
- Mail your essay to The Community Foundation at 101 W. Sandusky St., Ste 207, Findlay, OH 45840; or
- Drop your essay off at the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library circulation desk.

### **JUDGING**

Essays will be judged on originality, grammar, and expression of ideas. Four winners will be chosen: one from grades 3-5, one from grades 6-8, one from grades 9-12 and one for adults.

### **PRIZES**

The winning students and adult will receive a copy of all three CommunityREAD books. The three books are *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova, *The Graduation of Jake Moon* by Barbara Park and *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox.

If you have any questions about the essay contest, please contact Lisa Houck by phone at 419-425-1100 or by email at [lhouck@community-foundation.com](mailto:lhouck@community-foundation.com).

### **ABOUT LISA GENOVA**

Lisa Genova graduated valedictorian from Bates College with a degree in Biopsychology and has a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Harvard University. She is the author of the New

York Times Bestselling novels *Still Alice* and *Left Neglected*. Lisa is currently writing her third novel, *Love Anthony*, about a boy with autism. She lives with her family on Cape Cod.

### **ABOUT STILL ALICE**

*She didn't want to become someone people avoided and feared. She wanted to live to hold Anna's baby and know it was her grandchild. She wanted to see Lydia act in something she was proud of. She wanted to see Tom fall in love. She wanted to read every book she could before she could no longer read.*

*Alice Howland is proud of the life she has worked so hard to build. A Harvard professor, she has a successful husband and three grown children. When Alice begins to grow forgetful at first she just dismisses it, but when she gets lost in her own neighborhood she realizes that something is terribly wrong. Alice finds herself in the rapid downward spiral of Alzheimer's disease. She is only 50 years old.*

*While Alice once placed her worth and identity in her celebrated and respected academic life, now she must re-evaluate her relationship with her husband, her expectations of her children and her ideas about herself and her place in the world.*

*Losing her yesterdays, her short-term memory hanging on by a couple of frayed threads, she is living in the moment, living for each day. But she is still Alice.*

*Still Alice is as compelling as *A Beautiful Mind* and as powerful as *Ordinary People*. You will gain an understanding of those affected by early-onset Alzheimer's and remain moved and inspired long after you have put it down.*

## **Essay Contest Registration Form**

Contestant's Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Adult (please check if 18 years or older):

Contestant's Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_