

GROUP ONE

First Place: Katie Addison Street

Age 8

Be Yourself

“So on Wednesday the girls wore their fancy clothes curled their hair and did their makeup. Does anybody care what these girls are doing to be noted?!?!”

And on Thursday the girls..... wore their fancy clothes, curled their hair, did makeup and can you even guess what they did next? They bought new backpacks and lunch pails. And still no one even noticed. Why are the girls still continuing and why are they doing all this just to be tested???”

Judge: *Good concept. Nice resolution. Interesting approach to the subject.*

Second Place: Abigail Wills

Age 8

Anada's Story

“The next day, we woke up to a gentle shaking. Nara, who was always up first, had been told that they were going on an overnight trip to the beach. Now she was waking everybody up saying to each one: “We're taking an overnight trip! It's gonna be exciting.”

We ate a breakfast of oatmeal with raisins, frozen blueberries, bananas and mixed nuts. We hopped on the shelter van and off we went!

It was a two-hour drive. I was glad we brought snacks. We talked and played thumb wrestling and Rock, Paper, Scissors.”

Judge: *Well plotted. Good dialogue.*

Third Place: Sarah Richey

Age 7

Kaitlyn and The Big Bad Horrible Bully

“Amelia and Kaitlyn were hanging out together and then IT happened. Amelia became the Big Bad Horrible Bully when she was playing with another girl Whitney instead of Kaitlyn, her best friend, who she now ignored. So one day when Whitney was playing with Amelia, Amelia said something rude to Kaitlyn. Amelia The Big Bad Horrible Bully said, “You’re not pretty Kaitlyn, you look like a monster.”

Judge: *Characters have depth. Good structure.*

Honorable Mention: Andrew Hart

Age 6

Stormy Voyage

On the waves, on the sea,

Vitamin D is good for me.

It is raining,

I stay under deck

I hate the mosquitoes on my neck.

The worst weather is yet to come,

The water spout has just begun.

We keep sloshing side to side,
Until we start to glide.

Judge: *Nice rhythm. Cute sense of humor.*

Honorable Mention: Zane Rock

Age 8

Silver Cave

“There he is!” Katie and Anthony were chasing after Katie’s younger brother Boston on their bikes. Boston came to a fork in the road and went down the left side. That’s when Katie and Anthony lost him. When they got to the fork in the road they didn’t know which way he went. Katie said, “Which way do you think he went?” Anthony said. “I don’t know Katie? Let’s guess!” They both chose the path to the left.”

Judge: *Good pacing and construction.*

Honorable Mention: Alexia Celeste Chavez

Age 9

The Carnival Of Doom!

“All of a sudden dolls started crawling on the rollercoaster. I told myself, “This can’t be happening.” I repeated this over and over again. I thought to myself, “I’m just nine years old and my birthday is coming up soon. I have to make it out of this carnival to get home.” I felt so scared I wasn’t going to make it home. I thought of not seeing my family, friends, and neighbors ever again. I was so afraid. The clowns came back and all

they did was laugh at me. I screamed, "Stop leave me alone I'm just a kid!"

Judge: *Great concept. Nice pacing and tension.*

Honorable Mention: Paige Myers

Age 9

The Thresher

"Once there was a mermaid who loved to be creative. Her name was Silvea her scales were pretty baby blue and pink with sparkles. Her hair was baby blue and pink highlights just like her tail - and she loved to go on adventures. "Today she said I'm going on an adventure". So she got all packed and ready to go. By her house at the VERY bottom of the sea was a cave. She was curious so she went inside the cave. "Hello anyone in here?" Saying to her pet seahorse, "LET'S GO EXPLORE" and they went deeper and deeper and deeper."

Judge: *Very imaginative.*

Honorable Mention: Chloe Liu

Age 8

The Legend of the Birds

"Her family was poor and rarely had a lot of food, but they were all happy. Emily suddenly remembered that she had magical powers. She took a piece of paper and a quill and started to sketch an animal

shape. Soon a colorful winged majestic animal seemed to fly right off the page.”

Judge: *Clever plot. Good visuals.*

GROUP 2

First Place: Christine Shen

Age 11

Look At Me

“In his room, Bobby examined the music box carefully. No hidden compartments, no secret buttons. Definitely no magical familiar. The only thing left was to play the music box. He wound it up and listened carefully. A sweet tune came from it. Nothing special, really. Sighing, he placed it on a shelf. Seven dollars down the drain, he thought. Well, maybe it had done something. Yes, that had to be it! The music box was special, he knew it.”

Judge: *Good plot and character development. Nice twist ending!*

Second Place: Thordar Han

Age: 13

The Collapse of the Sun

“Another gulp of wine. And another. And another. Outside, the cars are flowing through the streets, and the people are either dead or dying, and nobody knows about the woman, hunched in the corner of her penthouse apartment, cowering under the indulgent veil of the night

and tipping her bottle until her vision is blurry and she's sitting next to a puddle of vomit and tears. For the next hour, she stays crouched, unmoving, leaned against the oak cabinets with her hands in her hair and her heart in her throat. Then, slowly, shakily, she stands."

Judge: *Good sense of drama. Well developed main character.*

Third Place: Vivian Oxley
Age 13

Sensing Jemma

"Ready, set, go!" The coach yelled. After some hits by the players, a tall blonde and rustic looking girl gave the ball a forceful punch, and the ball hit me in the head. "Out!" The coach yelled at me. I stumbled over from the impact as the tall blonde laughed.

"You can sit out on the benches," he told me.

"Fine..." I grumbled. I look back to see a couple of high fives being passed around from the winning team for that round. The girl who hit me has a smug grin on her face. She's wearing the ugly gym clothes, sweat dripping down her forehead. She was like a threatening shark, circling its prey. I got up and limped my way over to the benches. Once I sat down, I noticed something. I didn't feel any pain."

Judge: *Clever plot. Good use of dialogue to move the story forward.*

Honorable Mention: Vencionas Kosasih
Age 13

The Man With the Pink Gloves

“The pink glove lay on the ground, almost covered. Jack stared at it. He could still remember the day he killed that man. No, not man. Thing. Monster. A demon in human form. Jack picked up the pink glove and stuffed it in his pocket, then continued to search the old house. The house was not a very big one; it was a one-story building, with a only 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. After all, only Jack and his wife, Angela, were living in the house 10 years ago. Now, almost everything in the house was covered in shrubbery.”

Judge: *High energy. Lots of action. Spooky ending!*

Honorable Mention: Benjamin Lim
Age 13

My New Power

“The next day John and I were taking a walk, and while we were walking we saw a burglar robbing a bank. I was not going to allow a thief to steal all the money. Without thinking I quickly summoned a tornado. It completely consumed the enemy in a gust of wind and completely immobilized him. Shortly after the police arrived and saw the robber in the tornado I had made. Before the police got suspicious of me I released the tornado, and let the police capture the villain. At that moment I realized that I could use my powers for good, and help the city stop crimes. On this day I became “Zephyr.” I picked this name because my power allowed me to control storms.”

Judge: *Nice origin story. Very visual with lots of action.*

Honorable Mention: Ricky Lambert

Age 13

Decisions

“Both of our minds were running so fast that we both didn’t pay attention to the crosswalk light and rid right into the middle of the intersection. Out of nowhere a double trailer gas truck was going fast at the opposite direction of us. Right then my fast reflexes kicked in and I kicked Christa’s back tire to make the bike swerve to the side. Christa slid to the side of the street but I had no choice but to jump towards the truck and aim down. I hopped off, and time started to slow down. Everything was going so slow that I could see water floating out of the driver’s cup and not splash everywhere.”

Judge: *Good pacing and plot development.*

Honorable Mention: Erin Zhou

Age 13

The Death of Ann Koi

“Ann Koi lay sprawled on the damp concrete floors beside a swimming pool, with shards of glass surrounding her and a fluorescent red drink splattered over her white and teal colored work uniform. Her face was twisted with shock and a hint of agony. A man in his mid-twenties, equipped with a wheelchair, raced to her side, with a look of fury and dismay on his face. However, his face fell when he noticed there already was a man tending to her wounds who had a near perfect face and build. The two men made eye contact and exchanged a look of hate and disgust.”

Judge: *Well paced mystery. Didn't see that ending coming!*

Honorable Mention: Jeffrey Cheng

Age 13

What Would I Do if I Faked My Death and What Would I Do Next

“Bryan I need your help,” said John

“For what?” said Bryan

“My wife wants to kill me for my money, I need to fake my own death.” said John

“Oh I see,” said Bryan

“What should I do,” said John

“You should suicide off a bridge, then land in the water and I will be their to pick you up in a boat. After I pick you up, we will go to Brazil to go to my secret hideout and think of what we should do next,” said Bryan.”

Judge: *Interesting concept!*

GROUP 3

First Place: Zia Saylor

Age15

Sweet Caroline

“She closed her eyes as she hummed the melody. She remembered a beach, the hot sand between her toes and the sun beaming down on her slender bikini-clad figure; a time long gone. She opened her eyes,

slightly disappointed to find herself stuffed back inside her stretch-marked body. The fluorescent lights of the hospital glared down at her, cold and uncaring to her plight. She looked away, at Caroline's soft baby face, and kissed her on the forehead. Sweet Caroline. So precious. So dear."

Judge: *Heartbreakingly honest. Exquisitely drawn characters.*

Second Place: Charlotte Oxley

Age 15

Grandmother's House

"Good night" mother says as she closes the door
The sound of the hinge clicking into place echoes
All snuggled up yet shivering afraid
Fingers digging into her old teddy bear
Covered in a blanket from grandmother's trunk

The dark shadows, night, rap on the window
They creep into the room and cover the walls
Their silent wails like nails on a chalkboard
Helpless, she covers her head in grandmother's blanket
And breathes in the scent of the old place"

Judge: *Eerie and atmospheric. Perfectly captures a frightening sense of vulnerability.*

Third Place: Jessica Zapien

Age 17

Mute

"I am quietly kind.
I often wonder what I can offer this immense world.
With care and love, I nurture those near me.
Ringing bells promise hope and better days.
I arm myself with fluffy paintbrushes.
Spirals of emotion stretch before me in vivid hues.
I wear brilliant streaks of pride
And paint splattered sweaters.
But then, I am quietly kind."

Judge: *Nicely layered. Thought provoking.*

Honorable Mention: Janette Segura

Age 18

Blue Eyes

"It was a sunny hot morning on a Sunday, springtime. The sun shined through the trees above him and casted shadows over them. He watched as people passed by. A few leaves were falling from the trees near the man. He put down the flowers with care and picked up a leaf that was blown by the soft wind. He twirled it around with his fingers and looked down at it, thinking of what he could say to his loved one.

"I know it's been a year. I don't know if you have forgiven me by now." said the man. A long time passes before he says anything else. "I know that if I wouldn't have done that...I wouldn't have lost you," said the man as he got up to stretch his legs.

He felt the wind on his face, which he was thankful for. He paced back and forth thinking of that night he had received the call.”

Judge: *Great depth of character. Nice imagery.*

Honorable Mention: Ethan Sepulveda
Age 16

Death Pen

“Another misconception about the “benefits” of the death penalty is that it deters crime, while, in fact, regions of the United States that carry the death penalty have had significantly higher murder rates than regions without. Supporters of the idea of deterrence have been hard pressed to find strong evidence between the death penalty and a drop in crime. Mayor of New York, Carlos Fagan, states that New York’s crime rate has steadily declined “before, through and after the capital punishment statute.”

Judge: *Well-researched and argued. Good construction.*

Honorable Mention: Kathryn Mota
Age 16

One Days

“One pastel pink cotton candy hurricane day at a time:
My life, your life, our lives, are all filled with one days:
one days of royal blue and me and you
where we can run around a park
smelling pine cone trees for that one day.”

Judge: *Evocative language. Lovely use of metaphor.*

Honorable Mention: Ray Garcia

Age 17

Barrio Soldier

“Life wasn’t all that easy growing up.

Always being told to enjoy being a kid, but I wasn’t a kid

To the left of me was poverty and abandonment

And to the right were gangs patrolling the streets

Leaving you in fear as your shoes are in cement”

Judge: *Powerful and redemptive.*

Honorable Mention: Sophia Liu

Age: 14

Bright Side

“My sister and I walk down the muddy pathway that leads into the closest trading center from our desolate village. The great capital doesn’t let any beggars in even though we work to dig up gold for the nobles. Instead, they set up trading posts so the poor could receive supplies. That is what my sister and I are doing now. The men who man the posts are more giving to young women than anyone else, so we are the errand runners.”

Judge: *Well developed plot. Good pacing.*