



L-R: Price, Rosie, and Grace McPherson. Photo by Marie McPherson.

DEEP VALLEY YOUNG WRITER & ARTIST COMPETITION

By Julie Schrader

The Deep Valley Young Writer and Artist Competition is sponsored by the Deep Valley Book Festival and is open to students ages 7-18. Last spring students were asked to submit artwork or stories for the competition.

Young Artists

Students were required to choose their favorite book and illustrate a quote from the book for the young artist competition. Hope Cook, the director of the Carnegie Art Center in Mankato, was the judge for the artist entries.

Young Writers

Students were required to write a story in 1500 words or less using the theme "Strength", for the young writer competition. The entries were judged by Rebecca Fjelland Davis, Kirstin Cronn-Mills, Rachael Hanel, and Shelley Tougas, members of a local writer's group, Siblings in Ink.

Winners were chosen for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and awards presented at the Deep Valley Book Festival at the Mankato Event Center on October 13th. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who entered the 2018 Deep Valley Young Writer and Artist Competition!

We're proud to share the Deep Valley Young Artist Competition award winning entries.

Age Group 7-8



1st Place - Price MacPherson (age 8)

Book Title: *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*

Quote: [Ralph] climbed up the telephone cord and ran to the two of cards. There on the end of it was the motorcycle! Ralph stared at it and kicked a tire. Close up the motorcycle looked even better than he expected. It was a new and shiny and had a good set of tires.

2nd Place - Sarah Pottenger (age 8)

Book Title: *Fairy Boat*

Quote: Fairy boat sailing upright over the dam.

3rd Place - Elsa Schrader (age 8)

Book Title: *To the Stars, Isabelle*

Quote: "Dance with me!" It was a voice I couldn't resist.

Age Group 9-10



1st Place - Jadyann Meerbeek (age 10)

Book Title: *The Legend of the Mountain Dragon, the Protector of the Peaks*

Quote: The protector was like no other. He had wings as long as ten full grown anacondas stretched head to tail. His claws were as long as palm leaves. He had teeth like daggers. His scales were amber, golden, and almond brown in color. He was the Mountain Dragon. He used his power and strength to protect.

2nd Place - Rose MacPherson (age 10)

Book Title: *Anne of Green Gables*

Quote: "You don't want me!" she cried. "You don't want me because I'm not a boy! I might have expected it. Nobody ever did want me. I might have known it was all too beautiful to last. Oh, what shall I do? I'm going to burst into tears!"

3rd Place - Brynley Belling (age 9)

Book Title: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Quote: Next moment, thirty or forty letters came pelting out of the fireplace like bullets.

Age Group 11-12 years



1st Place - Madeline Schoenstedt (age 11)

Book Title: *The Secret Garden*

Quote: "There was every joy on earth in the garden that morning."

2nd Place - Kennedy Krueger (age 11)

Book Title: *The Thing About Jellyfish*

Quote: When something happens, that no one can explain, it means you have bumped up against the edge of human knowledge. And that is when you need science.

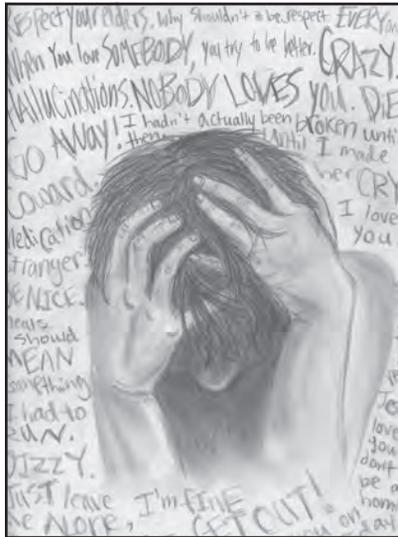
3rd Place - Grace MacPherson (age 12)

Book Title: *Emily of New Moon*

Quote: He had recited his poems a hundred times hence, as he boiled the pigs potatoes...[an] unromantic name for a most romantic occupation — or so it seemed to Emily... who...loved these evenings...Ilse and Teddy came, too, on some evenings...sometimes Teddy...drew pictures by the light of the fire. They had wonderful evenings there, those four children.

Age Group 14-15 (no entries)

Age Group 15-19



1st Place - Kira Sims (age 16)

Book Title:

Words on Bathroom Walls

Quote: "See you on Wednesday, right?"

2nd Place - Katie Samek (age 15)

Book Title: *What the Moon Saw*

Quote: "Here in Yucuyoo we have a saying: The land is our body and its streams are our blood. And its waterfalls, our pulse."

These are the winners of the Deep Valley Young Writer Competition Award

Age Group 7-8:

1st Place - Tobin Gangi
The Famous Cat Mystery

Almost instantly, a door opened in front of him. The first things he saw in this room were the words Big Cat and 5 pairs of 100 lb. weights. Right then, he heard a loud distant "Meow!" Jack thought that the meow sounded like Whisker's meow. He ran through door after door wanting to find his cat, but could not reach the noise. Finally, he opened a door with a yellow doorknob and found himself face-to-face with a cat that looked just like Whiskers but much bigger. "Meow! Meow! Meow! Meow!" it said angrily. Jack was scared. He wanted to run away, but his body wouldn't let him.

2nd Place - Price MacPherson (age 8)
The Brave Knight

Once upon a time there was a strong knight whose name Sir William. He lived in a kingdom by a forest, where giants lived. He fought giants, and always won. One day, the giants stole peoples' food. Sir William knew they needed food or else they would starve, so he carefully went into the forest with his sword at his side.

3rd Place - Hailey Bouldin (age 8)
The Forbidden Book

After school got out I remembered I forgot to lock the forbidden book. Now everything will get out like mermaids, trolls, aliens, and strong things! This time all the sorcerers were gone. I had to do this on my own. I know how to get rid of them without my wand. It will be hard but I can do it. First, I need some candy, gold, and shiny things. I'll place them on a large rock and everything that comes out of the book will want some. The forbidden book will be behind the candy, gold, and shiny things. When they come to take some, they will be sucked into the book!

Age Group 9-10:

1st Place - Olivia Foster (age 11)
Toby

Then I heard footsteps in the hallway. I started to wag my tail as soon as Rachel turned the corner and was facing me, standing in the doorway. The sun was casting onto her back, outlining her with pure light. "Mom, he's awake." she called back down the hallway. Rachel came over and kneeled down right next to me. My tail wagged even harder. I tried to make it stop, but I was to overjoyed. I think sometimes that it has a mind of its own. Is that possible? "Woah bud, your tail is going crazy. You doing better? I hope." said Rachel. Then Mrs. Hambock came walking into the house den. "Hope he is doing better. He took quite a hit." said Mrs. Hambock."Me too. I can't wait for the presentation at the school in May." said Rachel. What's a school? I thought.

2nd Place - Cami Schuh (age 9)
My Adventure to the Dog House

When we got there I took a nervous breath and got out of the car. There's no turning back now, I thought. When I walked up to the front door, Jessica was jumping up and down because she was so excited. All of a sudden I was in Jessica's room. I felt relieved when Jessica told me she had put her dog in his cage. She asked if we could play with the dog sometime.

3rd Place - Jordan Brown (age 9)
Lights... Camera, Freeze!

After the introduction, it was my turn. I took a deep breath and walked out. Out of the corner of my eye I see a lot of people watching. I couldn't remember what my lines where, and then I froze up, and run off stage. I blew it! It feels like my heart has been ripped out, and it was my fault. I see Sage. "Swan Legend will be closing because of me and I embarrassed myself." "That happens to everyone. There's still time and I know you can do it!" says Hope. "I don't want Swan Legend to close so yes!" I say. "Just remember stay calm." says Sage, rushing me on the

stage. When it's my turn to speak, I almost freeze up but I remember what Hope told me, "stay calm." Then strangely I remember my lines.

Age Group 11-12:

1st Place - Sarah Sabrie *95 Days of Strength*

I woke up the next morning, and A Keema wasn't anywhere in sight. That was it. I was all on my own. The thought of the last 95 days put me in tears. After all that I've been through. Then I felt some shaking in my pocket. There was only 1 thing in my pocket. My diary. I reached into my pocket for my diary and pulled it out. It was shaking vigorously, and I saw some white light coming from inside of it. I opened it up and my vision went white. All my life flashed through my eyes. Until this day, June 13, 1932. Then I saw one-word flash across my eyes. Strength. My vision went back to normal. I, Nia Elizabeth Thompson had hope.

2nd Place - Grace MacPherson *The Strongest Animal of All*

One day, many years ago, a great gray elephant was running through a meadow. The sun shone cheerfully down on him, and even the flowers seemed to be smiling. I am the strongest animal of all, he thought, very satisfied with himself. He stomped his feet happily. "Oh, please be careful!" he heard a tiny voice say from right below his reckless feet. "Who's that?" he asked, squinting down at the ground. He was very nearsighted, as all elephants are, and was not able to see who the speaker was.

3rd Place (tie) Samira Sabrie and Sam Pottenger Samira Sabrie (age 12) *The Letter*

It was supposed to be a relaxing family cruise but it turned out to be stressful, they have never seen anything like the staff here. The family went somewhere away from all the staff and captain to relax, Haley, Max, Julie and Jon went to the side of the ship to look at the nice view they saw a beautiful island it was amazing. It was the middle of the night and the Andersons started to head back to their rooms, but they didn't go far until they were all

grabbed by their hands and pushed to the floor.

Sam Pottenger (age 12) *Strength Equals Friendship*

Don't you just hate Mondays? They always seem to be the saddest day of the week for most middle school kids. For Tom this was especially true because his weekend was the worst ever. Utterly horrible.

Age Group 13-14:

1st Place - Maria Dembouski *I Got This*

We all sat at the table and passed around the fish. My grandpa smiled proudly. "I caught them myself." I remembered grandpa struggling to get the bait on the hook with his shaky hands. My dad had offered to help but my grandpa had declined saying, "I got this." I watched him struggle against his disease as soon as he was diagnosed with Parkinson's. He never gave up on his everyday schedule, always struggling to finish his routine. He always did. However, his disease was getting worse and he could tell. We all could.

2nd Place - Rachel Evans *Make Me Strong*

I drop my phone, and it bounces off the tile and under the door. Drat. Come on, God. Are You trying to embarrass me tonight? Make my anxiety flare up so I can definitely not control it? I open the stall door and grab my phone, then wash my hands and walk back into the hallway. The guy stands in a circle of people a few feet away. He glances around, his gaze resting on me. He pulls away from the group and approaches me.

3rd Place (tie) - Emily Dittmer and Gretl Holz Emily Dittmer *Berry, Flower, Bird*

The full moon shone down through the trees, illuminating the female lynx like a spotlight. She had to move quickly, for she had heard word of a creature called an Everhunter. They were not nocturnal, but sometimes they stayed up all night just for fun. They had huge smoke-breathing monsters that did whatever the Everhunters wanted; and the most horrible thing of all, they hunted everything.

Gretl Holz *Chosen*

It all started at the meeting. I didn't want to go to the meeting; I didn't even want to become Queen. I would have happily given up my spot at the throne if it meant my dear beloved father would stay with me longer. But I couldn't. I couldn't choose my future, my friends, anything. My whole life was already planned, lying out before me on a looming scroll of thick, ink-black paper, written in starch white ink. Impossible to change.

Age Group 15-17

1st Place - Lauren Bryant *Strong Enough To Survive*

When the explosions reached the floor Becky and Luke were on the blast threw them into the wall of the stairwell. They were stunned and in that critical second of inaction, the building began to crumble around them. As the crushing mass of concrete and rebar fell on them Luke realized he was wrong. He was strong enough to survive this, but Becky wasn't.

2nd Place - Autumn Schwertfeger *Strength*

Strength. It's a word that has many definitions. From one person to another, strength is a completely different story about how it can be found. I found strength in a very unique way, by power in words. Hope brings me to keep on moving forward. Being strong and being able to show that, is something that can never be replaced. Even when times still get tough, I always think about how far I've come. Strength isn't something that happens right away, rather strength is something you gain as you go. With many ups and downs you live with, and all the worries and fears you conquer. It proves to you that you are a strong, courageous, and a fierce person!