

2017 Writers-Editors Network International Writing Competition - WINNERS (HM = Honorable Mention)

POETRY

1st Place - **Jody Karr**, Oklahoma City, OK – “Lying in Bed in Oklahoma” – This free verse poem captures attention and jolts readers into a beautifully expressed visualization of the horror of war and its aftermath.

2nd Place - **Sally Clark**, Fredericksburg, TX – “Los Compadres” – The irony and levity of a restaurant crew piling out of their work place into someone else’s restaurant where one can find “laughter shaking the air like maracas” is the fresh stuff of which a well-written poem can bring readers into the experience.

3rd Place - **Catherine Moran**, Little Rock, AR – “Reaching through the paint” – The descriptive encounter of an interesting subject draws readers into a prehistoric world of darkness, light, beauty, and respect for life.

1st HM - **Susan Lindsley**, Decatur, GA – “The Unwritten Poem” – With brevity and humor, this poem illustrates a moment of distraction, which most people can identify with in some way.

2nd HM - **Joan Weiner**, Asheville, NC – “Afterwards” – Emotional impact carries readers through this free verse poem and into a revelation most people will eventually experience too.

3rd HM - **Nick Sweet**, Shepherd, TX – “Decent/Descent” – The story of this poem unfolds with rhyme, rhythm, and reality with which readers can relate.

4th HM - **Louise Eastin Moses**, Indian Rocks Beach, FL – “My Cousin Carrie” – This story poem offers emotional appeal readers can relate to and envision.

5th HM - **L. L. Larkins**, Littleton, CO – “Psalm~Carol 27” – With slant rhyme, true rhyme, and sound echoes, this poem retells a psalm.

MOST PROMISING (will receive a critique)

Cassandra Tiersma, Dunsmuir, CA – “Spill” – Humor and reader identification make this lively poem most promising with a little tweak.

NONFICTION

1st Place - **Myrna Gordon Skurnick**, Boca Raton, FL – “To Be or Not To Be Seen” – Good story. Well-written with descriptions that take the reader to the time and place.

2nd Place - **Ingrid Silvian**, Groveport, OH – “Growing up during Hitler’s WWII” – Simply, but skillfully written. Could use editing, especially with repetitive “they” and “she.” But overall, very well done. The reader feels transported to the precarious war years. Good job.

3rd Place - **Myrna Gordon Skurnick, Boca Raton, FL** – “**The Séance**” – With the same characters as the top entry, this story, too, is well-written. The reader feels like she is in the story, rather than standing outside looking in.

Honorable Mention - **Valerie Gardener**, Cornville, AZ – “The Golf Tournament” – Excellent premise, which is part of the writer’s memoir. Needs tweaking/editing with smoother flow and transitions. Overall, good writing.

MOST PROMISING (will receive a critique)

Alessandra Bianchi, Marblehead, MA – “A Room of One’s Own: With Yahtzee, Frozen Pop Up and the Red Sox” – Outstanding story idea. Needs a bit of help with editing, point-of-view and format.

FICTION

1st Place - **Cindy Pontrelli**, Green Cove Springs, FL – “Flight 1715 to Havana,” Chapter 6 – Author knows how to

throw a punch. Excellent and descriptive word usage. Puts reader rightfully on edge with drama that is well done, not overdone. If the other chapters are as good as this chapter submission, then the novel is ripe for publishing.

2nd Place - **Linda Newman**, San Mateo, CA – “Collision, short story – This well-crafted short story earned the Most Promising last year. Very good storyline with surprise ending. Great reworking and great job.

3rd Place - **Alexander Fernandez**, Roseville, CA – “Above the Ashes,” Chapter One – Well-written with the potential of an outstanding novel to come. Needs some editing, but author is on the right track with solid characters and structure, and just-right dialogue, which carry the plot forward very well.

Honorable Mention - **Kate Ruland-Thorne**, Grand Junction, CO – “Beneath the Endless Sky,” Chapter One – Writer is off to a good start with the first chapter. Could use the help of a good editor to tighten and pare down the adjectives (e.g. either emerald or green but not emerald green). This book could easily be on the path toward being published.

MOST PROMISING (will receive a critique)

Patricia Grady Cox, Phoenix, AZ – “Next Year,” short story – The writer shows great promise. Structure needs tweaking but good story, characters and verbiage.

CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

1st Place - **Gail Hedrick**, Bradenton, FL – “What’s for Dinner?” – Appropriate for its intended 8-12-year-old readership, this lively story poem offers humor and a fresh view told in rhythmic couplets.

2nd Place - **Joyce Lapin**, Simsbury, CT – “The Ladder to the Moon” – This picture book has humor and keeps young readers interested.

3rd Place - **Belva Green**, Tarpon Springs, FL – “Clickity City” – Preschoolers will enjoy the sounds and sights of city life as portrayed in this picture book poem.

1st HM - **Ida J. Lewenstein**, San Mateo, CA – “A Sad Little Dog” – The title doesn’t give readers a hint about the story, but this picture book poem can help young readers to see they’re exactly who they need to be.

2nd HM - **Georgia Kelly Fitzhugh**, Lancaster, TX – “A Valentine Surprise” – Although the title gives no hint of the subject matter, this nonfiction for grade school readers includes well-done research on the Chisholm Trail with “Notes to Parents and Teachers” that could be reworded as a nonfiction article to interest kids.

MOST PROMISING (will receive a critique)

Claire Hernandez, Lafayette, LA – “The Selfish Rainbow” (story) – This story for readers 5 to 8-years-old may actually be two stories in one!