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## COLORADO STUDENTS HONORED IN NATIONAL WRITING & ART COMPETITIONS

### Colorado Humanities and Center for the Book Host Student Literary Awards

LAKEWOOD – Forty Colorado students were honored at the fifth annual Student Literary Awards at the Lakewood Cultural Center on Thursday, May 1. The winning students, surrounded by parents, family members, teachers and educators from across the state, were recognized for their literary or artistic achievements in two national competitions *presented by* the Library of Congress:

- *Letters About Literature* participants write a personal letter to an author about how their book changed their perspective on the world.
- *River of Words* contestants create art and poetry about the role of watersheds and the environment in our lives.

Colorado had a national grand prize winner and a national finalist in the River of Words poetry contest. Jack Baker, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader from Polaris at Ebert Elementary School (DPS) won First Place nationally for his poem “Sewer”. Colorado Humanities and its program department, Colorado Center for the Book, administer the program at the state level.

“This year’s increased participation shows we’re offering K-12 programs that challenge the creativity and critical thinking skills of young people,” said Josephine Jones, Colorado Humanities and Center for the Book director of programs. “The quality of work submitted continues to improve in each year of the competition.” Award presenters included poet Dr. Kathryn Winograd, painter Michael Gadlin, children’s writer Kathleen Pelley, and Executive Director of Colorado Humanities Margaret A. Coval. The event was emceed by Ben McKee of Channel 9 News.

“Programs of this quality are possible thanks to strong support from parents, teachers and the community,” said Jones. “The individuals who attend our events continue to inspire and encourage us to make humanities programs available to all Coloradans.”

### About Colorado Humanities

Founded in 1974, Colorado Humanities is the only statewide organization in Colorado dedicated exclusively to support the humanities. Each year, the organization’s teacher education, reading and writing and living history programs, grants and special events serve more than 20,000 people in 30 counties across Colorado. For more information, visit [www.coloradohumanities.org](http://www.coloradohumanities.org) or call 303-894-7951 x19.

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## 2008 STUDENT LITERARY AWARDS LIST OF WINNERS

### RIVER OF WORDS

#### Level I (Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

First Place Malia Olson, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader from Crested Butte Community School, Crested Butte. Amelia Peacock, teacher.

Second Place Catherine Washburn, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader from Crested Butte Community School, Crested Butte. Amelia Peacock, teacher.

Third Place Sully Marshall, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader from Crested Butte Community School, Crested Butte. Amelia Peacock, teacher.

Honorable Mention Nathan Howard, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader from Polaris at Ebert Elementary in Denver. Karin Johnson, teacher.

#### Level II (Grades 3 – 6)

First Place Elise Guyot, 4<sup>th</sup> grader from Hunters Glen Elementary in Thornton. Jamie Olson, teacher.

Second Place Kaitlyn Mitchell, 6<sup>th</sup> grader from Horizon Middle School in Aurora. Jenny McDonnell, teacher.

Third Place Dean Patterson, 6<sup>th</sup> grader from Mount Garfield Middle School in Clifton. Elizabeth Winfrey, teacher.

Honorable Mention Arden Gehl, 4<sup>th</sup> grade individual entry from Denver. Meg Gehl, parent.

#### Level III (Grades 7 – 9)

First Place Sarah Hamilton, 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Good Shepherd Catholic School in Denver. Linda Keller, teacher.

Second Place Juliann Richardson, 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Good Shepherd Catholic School in Denver. Linda Keller, teacher.

Third Place Grayson Whitehouse, 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Crested Butte Academy in Crested Butte. Sue Wilson, teacher.

Honorable Mention Maya Stackhouse, 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Good Shepherd Catholic School in Denver. Linda Keller, teacher.

#### Level IV (Grades 10 – 12)

First Place Moriah Van Cleef, 11<sup>th</sup> grader from Arapahoe High School in Centennial. Marlys Ferrill, teacher.

Second Place Logan Jacobson, 11<sup>th</sup> grade individual entry from Centennial. Beth Hanson, parent.

Third Place Amanda Wojahn, 11<sup>th</sup> grader from Arapahoe High School in Centennial. Marlys Ferrill, teacher.

Honorable Mention Erin Goulet, 11<sup>th</sup> grader from Arapahoe High School in Centennial. Marlys Ferrill, teacher.

#### National Honors

Jack Baker, National Grand Prize Winner in Category I, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Polaris at Ebert Elementary School, Denver

Isabel Levine-Clark, National Finalist in Category I, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Polaris at Ebert Elementary School, Denver

#### Art

First Place, Category I Cormac McCrimmon, Polaris at Ebert Elementary School, Denver. Karin Johnson, teacher.

Honorable Mention Marlene Hight, individual entry from Colorado Springs. Sabine Hight, parent.

First Place, Category II Alfred Crager, Carlile Elementary School, Pueblo. Kay Vannelli, teacher.

Second Place Clark Tefft, Aspen Country Day School, Aspen. Barbara Mensch, teacher.

Third Place Diana O’Cuilinn, Pikes Peak School of Expeditionary Learning, Falcon. Ginger Mashburn, teacher.

Honorable Mention Taylor Tyzzer, individual entry from Crested Butte. Andy Tyzzer, parent.

First Place, Category III&IV Knutzen Hoff, Crested Butte Academy, Crested Butte. Melissa Neuner, teacher.

First Place, Collaborative Art Jessika Sowle, Dustin Miller and Michelle Kuczowski, Mt. Garfield Middle School, Clifton. Elizabeth Winfrey, teacher.

### LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

### **Level I (Grades 4 – 6)**

First Place Douglas Leshner, 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Summit Academy at Aurora Hills, Aurora. Elizabeth Herbst, teacher.  
Second Place Sarah Evans, 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Stargate School, Thornton. Rebecca Ball, teacher.  
Third Place Jin Baek, 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Summit Academy at Aurora Hills, Aurora. Elizabeth Herbst, teacher.  
Honorable Mention Karin Van Hegewald, 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Summit Academy at Aurora Hills, Aurora. Elizabeth Herbst, teacher.

### **Level II (Grades 7 – 8)**

First Place Amanda Coopersmith, 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Challenge School, Centennial. Kate Anderson, teacher.  
Second Place Tyler Turk, 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Summit Academy at Aurora Hills, Aurora. Elizabeth Herbst, teacher.  
Third Place Alison Johnen, 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Drake Middle School, Arvada. Nawal Nader-French, teacher.  
Honorable Mention Rachel Rodriguez, 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Drake Middle School, Arvada. Nawal Nader-French, teacher.

### **Level III (Grades 9 – 12)**

First Place Melanie Brown, 11<sup>th</sup> grader individual entry from Centennial. Lynn Brown, parent.  
Second Place Alexandria Godinez, 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Lamar High School, Lamar. Ginger Cromwell, teacher.  
Third Place Kiley Meissner, 9<sup>th</sup> grade homeschool entry from Yuma Public Library, Yuma. Beth Sanderson, parent.  
Honorable Mention BreOnna Aguilera 12<sup>th</sup> grade in Lamar High School, Lamar. Ginger Cromwell, teacher.

Top Photo: Melanie Brown of Centennial reads her winning letter from the podium. Melanie is this year's first place winner of Letters About Literature in Colorado.

Bottom Photo: National River of Words poetry winner Jack Baker prepares for a handshake from River of Words poetry judge Dr. Kathryn Winograd. Both photos courtesy of Dr. Paul Docktor.



