

# 1997-98 VHSL CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

## JUDGES' GENERAL COMMENTS

The entries were a pleasure to read, and I learned something from all of them. It was difficult to pick the winners. While judging all three genres, I looked for original ideas that were clearly expressed. The most common shortcomings among the entries were poor grammar and proofreading.

The best essays combined specific examples, either from life or from text, with personal opinion or meditation. They were organized around a theme, and showed that the writer learned from the experience of writing the essay. One of the most common problems with the essay was the absence of a clear argument. Many of the essays read as straight narratives, and would have been improved by the addition of the writer's reflection upon the meaning of the events related.

The winning short stories each combined close attention to detail, clear plot-line, strong character development, and a compelling subject with a strong sense of voice. Many of the excellent stories were written with a clear moral purpose in mind.

In the poetry contest, the winning poems all spoke in specifics. They were full of details. Each of the winning poems created a distinct language that set it apart from prose. In general, I looked for a coherent, unified poem that seemed to make an argument, tell a story, or illuminate a single moment or image in a new way. My advice to poets would be to ask themselves, "What is the purpose of my poem?" and to tell them to be specific. They should be sure that they answer the "Who? What? Where? Why? and How?" questions that their readers are looking for.

In all three genres, there were many outstanding entries, and I wish I could have recognized all of them. Thank you for sharing your work. Keep writing.

# 1997-98 VHSL CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST RESULTS

## GROUP AAA

### Folder

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Oakton HS               | 5. Woodbridge HS    |
| 2. George Washington HS    | 6. Prince George HS |
| 3. Lake Braddock Sec. Sch. | 7. Monacan HS       |
| 4. Ocean Lakes HS          | 8. Chantilly HS     |

### Essay

- First: "The Movie: Nico's Bad Song", Nico Childrey, George Washington HS
- Second: "Heart Attack", Yolanda Keels-Walker, Ocean Lakes HS
- Third: "Finding the Light", Elizabeth Vandruff, Lake Braddock Sec. Sch.
- Honorable Mention: "Keeping Rachel", Julie Baber, Frank Cox HS

### Short Story

- First: "Plymouth", Becky Olson, Oakton HS
- Second: "Big Yellow Taxi", Mario Edmonds, George Washington HS
- Third: "Uncompromising Existence", Macayla Kirkendall, Ocean Lakes HS
- Honorable Mention: "Swallowed by the River", Dani Bell, Lake Braddock Sec. Sch.

### Poetry

- First: "Sea Poem", Fatima Maria Ahmad, Oakton HS
- Second: "The Stalker", Elijah Henderson, Bethel HS
- Third: "Letter to the World", Lisa Collado, Woodbridge Senior HS
- Honorable Mention: "My Mind is in the Freezer. . .", Rachel Krumpelman, George Washington HS

## 1997-98 VHSL CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST ESULTS

**GROUP AAA - 24 Entries**

**S = Superior, E = Excellent, G = Good**

<b>School</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Booklet Rating</b>	<b>Essay Ratings</b>	<b>Story Ratings</b>	<b>Poem Ratings</b>
Atlee HS	Julie Givler	E	S & E	G & E	E & E
Bethel HS	Florence Kuhn	E	E & S	G & G	S & G
Chancellor HS	Gloria Devall	E	G & E	E & E	E & S
Chantilly HS	Naomi Dixon	E	E & E	E & E	E & E
Frank Cox HS	James Yano	E	S & E	E & G	E & E
Fairfax HS	Katherine Siggers	E	E & E	S & E	G & S
Falls Church HS	Carolyn Perry	G	S & G	E & G	E & G
E. C. Glass HS	Cheryl Scruggs	E	E & E	G & S	S & E
Hayfield HS	Sue Rauch	E	S & E	G & E	E & E
Hermitage HS	Linda Mills and Barbara Holdren	E	E & S	E & E	G & E
Herndon HS	Constance Casserly	E	E & G	S & E	E & E
Lake Braddock HS	Christine Woods	S	S & G	S & S	S & E
McLean HS	Cathy Colglazier	E	E & S	E & E	E & G
Monacan HS	Judith Land	E	E & E	E & E	E & E
Nansemond River HS	Sandra Purdy	E	E & G	S & S	E & E
North Stafford HS	Judy Norton	E	E & E	E & E	E & E
Oakton HS	Erica Jacobs	S	S & S	S & S	E & S
Ocean Lakes HS	Don Kroeller, Jr.	S	E & S	E & S	E & S
Osbourn Park HS	Michael Faul	E	E & G	E & G	E & S
Prince George HS	Nancy Runke	E	E & E	S & S	E & E
George Washington HS	Bernard Leigg	S	S & E	S & E	S & S
West Springfield HS	Dr. Carolyn Gomez-Foronda	E	S & E	E & E	G & E
Woodbridge	Cathy Hailey	E	E & E	E & E	S & S
Woodside HS	Heather Gustin	E	G & E	E & E	G & E

# 1997-98 VHSL CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST RESULTS

## GROUP AA

### Folder

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Martinsville HS   | 5. James Wood HS   |
| 2. Loudoun County HS | 6. Northside HS    |
| 3. Graham HS         | 7. William Byrd HS |
| 4. John Handley HS   | 8. Abingdon HS     |

### Essay

- First: "What Happens When Playtime is Over: A Look at Henrik Isben's A Doll House", Jessi Beckner, William Byrd HS
- Second: "The Divided Paths. . .", Jane Hertz, Loudoun County HS
- Third: "Henry V at Harfleur and Agincourt", Jeff Spicer, Abingdon HS
- Honorable Mention: "Dreams in Crime and Punishment", Josh Martenson, James Wood HS

### Short Story

- First: "Warning", Courtney Stone, Martinsville HS
- Second: "Green", Megan Karlsson, Loudoun County HS
- Third: "Sharp Wonderful Flashes of Lightning", Norah Vawter, John Handley HS
- Honorable Mention: "July, 1997", Katherine Vondy, James Wood HS

### Poetry

- First: "I've Seen a Cowboy", Katie Cox, Martinsville HS
- Second: "building a nest", Matthew Tuck, Loudoun County HS
- Third: "What Do You Do?", Lauren Grice, Martinsville HS
- Honorable Mention: "Whirlwind", Elizabeth Sudduth, Graham HS

(OVER)

# 1997-98 VHSL CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST ESULTS

GROUP AA - 14 Entries

S = Superior, E = Excellent, G = Good

School	Sponsor	Booklet Rating	Essay Ratings	Story Ratings	Poem Ratings
Abingdon HS	Merry Jennings	E	S & G	G & G	G & G
William Byrd HS	Rebekah Woodie	E	G & S	G & G	G & G
Graham HS	Carol Hart	E	E & E	E & E	E & G
Grundy HS	Leslie Horne	G	G & G	G & E	E & G
John Handley HS	Lane Martin	E	E & G	S & G	E & G
Loudoun County HS	Toni Rader	S	S & G	S & G	G & E
Loudoun Valley HS	Priscilla Hill	G	G & E	G & G	E & G
Marion Senior HS	Debby Hanshew	G	G & G	E & G	E & G
Martinsville HS	Linda Pulliam	S	G & G	S & E	E & S
Northside HS	Kristi Fry	E	E & E	E & G	E & G
Prince Edward County HS	Rachel Overstreet	G	E & G	G & G	G & G
Sherando HS	Trevor Johnson	G	G & G	G & E	G & G
Tazewell HS	Tamara Meade, Susan Whittaker	G	G & G	G & E	G & G
James Wood HS	Gail Lucas	E	G & E	E & G	E & E

# 1997-98 VHSL CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST RESULTS

## GROUP A

### Folder

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. William Monroe HS | 5. Floyd County HS  |
| 2. Haysi HS          | 6. Surry County HS  |
| 3. Bath County HS    | 7. Powell Valley HS |
| 4. King William HS   | 8. New Kent HS      |

### Essay

- First: "It's About Time for a Beanie Baby Boycott", Rusty North, William Monroe HS
- Second: "The Ballads of Texas Anna Gladden", Jessica Clower, Floyd County HS
- Third: "The Disharmony of Music", Jessica Stephenson, Bath County HS
- Honorable Mention: "A Lesson Learned", Kathy Kerfoot, Page County HS

### Short Story

- First: "Mother Russia", James Hammond, New Kent HS
- Second: "The History Lesson", Shawn Manning, Surry County HS
- Third: "Black Widow", Derrick Yates, Haysi HS
- Honorable Mention: "A Pen Cries Freedom", Emily Belcher, William Monroe HS

### Poetry

- First: "December Evening", Amy Berberich, King William HS
- Second: "Awakenings", Crystal Spears, Haysi HS
- Third: "Grandmother's Story and the Thunderstorm", James Benjamin Bolling, Powell Valley HS
- Honorable Mention: "Leaves", Genevieve Shankle, William Monroe HS

# 1997-98 VHSL CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST ESULTS

## GROUP A - 25 Entries

S = Superior, E = Excellent, G = Good

School	Sponsor	Booklet Rating	Essay Ratings	Story Ratings	Poem Ratings
Appalachia HS	Pam Hutchinson, Kim Blanken	E	E & E	E & E	E & E
Bath County HS	Joyce Breen	S	S & E	E & E	S & E
John Battle HS	Penny Bruce	E	G & G	E & E	G & E
John I. Burton HS	Pamela Roberson	E	E & E	E & E	E & E
Central HS (Woodstock)	Bonnie Gochenour	E	E & E	E & E	E & E
Clintwood HS	Monnie Skeens	E	E & G	E & E	E & E
Coeburn HS	Karen Peters	E	E & E	E & E	E & E
Essex HS	Nancy Thompson	E	E & E	E & E	E & G
Floyd County HS	Sharon Wood	E	E & S	E & E	E & E
Galax HS	David Fant	G	G & G	E & E	G & G
Glenvar HS	Edrie Bays	E	E & E	E & E	E & E
Haysi HS	Robin Charles	S	E & E	E & S	S & E
Honaker HS	Judith Edgell	E	G & E	E & E	E & E
J. J. Kelly HS	Krista Holloman	E	E & G	E & E	G & E
King William HS	Vicky Cline	S	E & E	S & E	E & S
William Monroe HS	Michael Irani	S	S & G	S & E	S & E
New Kent HS	Micki Curle	E	E & G	E & S	G & E
Page County HS	Larry Dickerson	E	E & S	G & E	G & G
Pound HS	Betty Carter	G	G & E	G & G	E & G
Powell Valley HS	Joan Short	E	E & G	E & E	E & S
Rappahannock HS	Anastasia Vandeloecht	E	E & E	E & E	E & E
Rye Cove HS	Jeanette Taylor	E	G & G	E & G	E & E
Surry County HS	Mary Farley	E	E & E	E & S	E & E
Sussex Central HS	Mary Lewis	G	E & G	E & G	G & G
West Point HS	Patricia Hoppe	E	G & E	E & E	G & G