



## 2019 Annual Writing Contest Winners List

684 entries overall

The 684 entries in our 2019 contest came from:

- California
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Iowa
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Montana
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Ontario, Canada
- Oregon
- Virginia
- West Virginia

In addition to West Virginia, the winning entries came from Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, North Carolina, Virginia, and Ontario.

### **Book Length Prose – 22 entries, judged by R. Dean Johnson**

- 1st Place: Laura Boggess (Putnam Co.), "Mildred's Garden"
- 2nd Place: Dorie LaRue (*Louisiana*), "Only Visiting This Planet"
- 3rd Place: Carter Taylor Seaton (Cabell Co.), "Murder on the Chattahoochee"
- HM: Dreama Frisk (*Virginia*), "Wildness"
- HM: Erin diStefano (Monongalia Co.), "The Vandalia Hour"
- HM: George Lies (Monongalia Co.), "Santiago's Journal"

**Chapbook – 25 entries, judged by Val Nieman**

- 1st Place: David Prather (Wood Co.), "An Unobstructed View"
- 2nd Place: Mary Honaker (Raleigh Co.), "Gwen and the Big Nothing"
- 3rd Place: Earl Keener (Brooke Co.), "The Yellow Broom Sweeps Up Its Straws"
- HM: C.J. Farnsworth (Ohio Co.), "She Does Got Good Hair"
- HM: Sherrell Wigal (Wood Co.), "Almanac Moons"
- HM: Heather Noble (Wood Co.), "Under a Deadfall"

**Children's Books – 29 entries, judged by Michaela Amaral**

- 1st Place: Patty Peckham (Cabell Co.), "The Little Red Towel From Beginning to End"
- 2nd Place: Evangeline Samples (Harrison Co.), "The Adventures of Timothy Oatmeadow"
- 3rd Place: Jennifer Weingardt (Cabell Co.), "I Am Always With You"
- HM: Garron Staten (Logan Co.), "The Dragon Who Couldn't Eat Ice Cream"
- HM: Janet Smart (Jackson Co.), "The Crooked Little Tree's Wish"
- HM: Sirui Li (*Ontario, Canada*), "Chasing the Sun"

**Emerging Writers: Poetry – 19 entries, judged by Tasha Cotter**

- 1st Place: Savannah Kimble (Harrison Co.), "Sonnet for the End of a World"
- 2nd Place: Donna Weems (Monongalia Co.), "Danger's Edge: Rafting the New River at Flood Stage"
- 3rd Place: Betty Schwimmer (Greenbrier Co.), "Phoenix"
- HM: Helena Gondry (*Florida*), "Remnants of a Civil War Battle"

**Emerging Writers: Prose – 27 entries, judged by Karin Fuller**

- 1st Place: Velicia Darquenne (Harrison Co.), "Round"
- 2nd Place: K. Irene Rieger (Mercer Co.), "Alan Means Rock"
- 3rd Place: Aaron Weltz (*North Carolina*), "A Deep and Mighty Well"
- HM: K. Irene Rieger (Mercer Co.), "Confessions of a Feminist Pageant Mom"
- HM: Tara Hun-Dorris (*North Carolina*), "State Fair"
- HM: Linley Marcum (Logan Co.), "The Ride"
- HM: Eric Casdorff (Monongalia Co.), "Heavy Metal"

**Long Poetry – 104 entries, judged by Mary Carroll-Hackett**

- 1st Place: Roger Williams (Putnam Co.), "The News From the Hills"
- 2nd Place: Tom Donlon (Jefferson Co.), "Sphygmomanometer"
- 3rd Place: Claire Stuart (Berkeley Co.), "The Alien"
- HM: C.J. Farnsworth (Ohio Co.), "While Waiting to Prove Yourself a Mountain Woman"
- HM: Llewellyn McKernan (Cabell Co.), "Coming To No Harm"
- HM: Suzanne Samples (*North Carolina*), "Cautiousness"

**Middle Grade and Young Adult Books – 17 entries, judged by Dr. Carla Jordan Wilson**

- 1st Place: Margaret Combs (*Florida*), "Darby, the Horse From Hope"
- 2nd Place: Joshua Smithson (Upshur Co.), "Russell Mason and the Ring of Destiny"
- 3rd Place: Joyce Allan (Putnam Co.), "Field Trip to Froghead Island and Other School Adventures"
- HM: Janet Smart (Jackson Co.), "The Family Secret"

- HM: Juliana Jones (Raleigh Co.), "Under My Skin"

**Nonfiction – 21 entries, judged by Jane Congdon**

- 1st Place: Katherine J. Leisering (Wood Co.), "A Child's View of Heaven"
- 2nd Place: Laura Roberts (Ohio Co.), "The Tan Place"
- 3rd Place: Suzanne Samples (*North Carolina*), "Mercury Is In Mayonnaise"
- HM: Sheila McEntee (Kanawha Co.), "A Daughter's House"
- HM: Craig Etchison (Mineral Co.), "Of War and Peace"
- HM: Dianna Simms (Roane Co.), "The Death of Rebecca"

**Romance – 16 entries, judged by Kristi Davis**

- 1st Place: Earl Keener (Brooke Co.), "Thresholds"
- 2nd Place: John Wimer (Preston Co.), "To Kiss Ada"
- 3rd Place: Don Narkevic (Harrison Co.), "Neburi-Basha"
- HM: Heather Noble (Wood Co.), "Things Jane Says"
- HM: Amabile Milano (Raleigh Co.), "Watson Takes a Wife"
- HM: Donald Becher (Kanawha Co.), "Mountains and Lovers"

**Short Poetry – 92 entries, judged by Kari Gunter Seymour**

- 1st Place: Richard Spilman (Putnam Co.), "Currency"
- 2nd Place: Susan A. Sheppard (Wood Co.), "When Paris Was the Capitol of the World"
- 3rd Place: Tom Donlon (Jefferson Co.), "Unity"
- HM: Sherrell Wigal (Wood Co.), "Plowing at 3 AM"
- HM: C.J. Farnsworth (Ohio Co.), "Myth For the Working Man"
- HM: Dawn Terpstra (*Iowa*), "Ruby's Last Dress"

**Short Story – 82 entries, judged by Anna James**

- 1st Place: Suzanne Samples (*North Carolina*), "Mercury Is In Mayonnaise"
- 2nd Place: Richard Spilman (Putnam Co.), "Lightness of Ash"
- 3rd Place: Chad Smith (Kanawha Co.), "Buzzy Collins and the Key of Nawlins"
- HM: Kathleen Furbee (Preston Co.), "Flying"
- HM: Don Narkevic (Harrison Co.), "Personal Injury Settlement"
- HM: Vicki Crawford (Putnam Co.), "Static"
- HM: Velicia Darquenne (Harrison Co.), "Round"

**Social Change: The Pearl S. Buck Award – 20 entries, judged by Dr. Hunter O'Hara**

- 1st Place: Beverly Bisbee (Kanawha Co.), "From Dread to Tread: The Women's March, 2017"
- 2nd Place: M. Lynne Squires (Putnam Co.), "One Dark Night"
- 3rd Place: Julie Pratt (Kanawha Co.), "Haunted"
- HM: Janis-Rozena Peri (Monongalia Co.), "Love, Life, and Death in Boley, Oklahoma"
- HM: Sandra Bush (Wood Co.), "The Least of These"
- HM: Susanna Holstein (Jackson Co.), "In Line"

**Stage Play: The Joe McCabe Memorial Script Award – 15 entries, judged by Elizabeth Harris**

- 1st Place: Audrey Stanton-Smith (Raleigh Co.), "The Mysterious Case of the Merkin Maker"
- 2nd Place: Joyce Robertson (Logan Co.), "Coal"

- 3rd Place: A.J. DeLauder (Preston Co.), "Extraction"
- HM: Jonathan Joy (Cabell Co.), "Don't Drink the Jet Fuel"
- HM: Judith Southard (Mingo Co.), "Mother and Son"
- HM: Jonathan Joy (Cabell Co.), "Almost Heaven"

**New Mountain Voices, Grades K-5 – 42 entries, judged by Sharon Stackpole**

- 1st Place: Lila June Wright, "Hate"
- 2nd Place: Indiana Nee, "A Girl and Her Book"
- 3rd Place: Indiana Nee, "The Better Version of Cinderella"
- HM: Sebastian Smith, "Flood"
- HM: Seth Allen, "Thunder Head"
- HM: Eshaal Khan, "Who Am I"

**New Mountain Voices, Grades 6-8 – 28 entries, judged by Jennifer Weingardt**

- 1st Place: Waylon Colistra, "The Flight"
- 2nd Place: Daniel Kaddar, "The Run"
- 3rd Place: Connor White, "Decidng to Live"
- HM: Ava Bartlett, "The Great Blizzard of Finale Tundra"
- HM: Aubrey Estel, "Can You Hear Me?"
- HM: Sam Fisher, "One Hundred Seventy-Five"

**New Mountain Voices, Grades 9-12 – 125 entries, judged by Rachelle Beckner**

- 1st Place: Indiah Bleher, "Lion's Tooth"
- 2nd Place: Alex Whitney, "West Virginia Flood"
- 3rd Place: Kristine Stapleton, "Coal Dusted Stockings"
- HM: Hannah Tomes, "This Is Fire Tower Three"
- HM: Emma Waite, "Warmth"
- HM: Elizabeth Simmons, "Narrator"

The People's Choice and Writer's Wall contests are entered in person at the WV Writers Annual Conference. The attendees judge and vote on these works.

**Friday People's Choice: Poetry**

- 1st Place: Elissa Hoffman, "For Forty Years I Never Tell a Soul"
- 2nd Place: Evangeline Samples, "Another Drunken Christmas Eve"
- 3rd Place: Susanna Holstein, "The Keeper"

**Friday People's Choice: Prose**

- 1st Place (tied): Jessica Nelson, "Running Late"
- 1st Place (tied): Marion Kee, "Making Choices As a Multipotentialite"

**Saturday People's Choice: Poetry**

- 1st Place: Helena Gondry, "What Am I Afraid Of?"
- 2nd Place: Rob Merritt, "Finding Venice Again"
- 3rd Place: Mimi Merritt, "Nana's Hands"

**Saturday People's Choice: Prose**

- 1st Place: Alice Hembra, "Drowning In Guilt"
- 2nd Place: Machele Kindle, "Day At the Office"
- 3rd Place: Marion Kee, "Aiming At College"

**Writer's Wall: Poetry**

- 1st Place: M. Lynne Squires, "I Wake"
- 2nd Place: Sherrell Wigal, "Saturday With Eve"
- 3rd Place: Laura Jackson Roberts, "The Possum"

**Writer's Wall: Prose**

- 1st Place: Heather Noble, "Places Between Here and Gone"
- 2nd Place: M. Lynne Squires, "No Place Like Home"
- 3rd Place (tied): Jamie McCoard, "Auction Night"
- 3rd Place (tied): Susanna Holstein, "Milk Cows And Revivial"