60th Otero Arts Festival Creative Writing Contest Winners

Judge’s Best Representative Work

Senior Division
Caitlyn Lancaster – Title: “Equality?”, 9th grade Essay
Fowler High School – Instructor: Mrs. McCuiston

Junior Division
PJ Welker – Title: “Snap”, 8th grade Poem
Manzanola High School – Instructor: Ms. Williams

Otero Junior College Scholarship
Sam Bartolo – Swink High school
Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Otero Junior College Scholarship Alternate
Hayley Stephenson- Swink High School
Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Creative Writing Senior Portfolio Awards
1st, Sam Bartolo, Swink, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen
2nd, Hayley Stephenson, Swink, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen
3rd, Hope Holder, Swink, Instructor: Carolanna Traver
4th, Catelin Rene Churchill, McClave, Instructor: Becky Roesch
HM, Savannah Robinson, Swink, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Creative Writing Books
Best Overall, Alexis Mayne, “The Wall” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Mrs. Shelton
Most Original, Jacob Pitts, “If the Dead Could Think” Crowley High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen
Most Creative, Veronika Viescas, “Remember the One Who Gave you life”,
Best Storyline, Justin Casselman, “The Heroes Academy”, Swink Jr/Sr High School, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen
Most Artistic, Ali Landgren, “Stolen Childhood”, Crowley High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen

Poetry Grade 7
1st, JaNae Voss, “Church” Kit Carson, instructor: Mrs. Kent
2nd, Brayan Garcia Cruz, “Where I’m From” Manzanola Junior High, Instructor: Ms. Williams
3rd, Greer Mameda, “Faith” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Carolanna Traver
HM, Allison Gekeler, “Cherries” Kit Carson, Instructor: Mrs. Kent
HM, Tieler Randel, “Dasiy” Kit Carson, Instructor: Mrs. Kent
HM, Justyce Vigil, “This Man that I Know” Manzanola Junior High, Instructor: Ms. Williams
HM, Maresa Lucero, “Basketball Joy” Manzanola Junior High, Instructor: Ms. Williams
HM, Frederik Rikhof, “Trustworthiness Tightrope” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Carolanna Traver
HM, Blake Williams, “Where I’m From” Manzanola Junior High, Instructor: Ms. Williams

Poetry Grade 8
1st, PJ Welker, “Snap” Manzanola Junior High, Instructor: Ms. Williams
2nd, Brooklyn Mueller, “Horses” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Traver
3rd, Kaine Jones, “Innocence Lost” Manzanola Junior High, Instructor: Ms. Williams
HM, Austin Pope, “Apocalypse” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Traver
HM, Jordan Fowler, “Look At Me” La Junta Jr/Sr High School, Instructor: Mr. Grantham
HM, Sophie Russell, “Making an Impression” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Traver
HM, Nevaeh Horton, “Softball” Manzanola Junior High, Instructor: Ms. Williams
HM, Donavyn Jimenez, “Loud” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Traver
HM, Rylee Platt, “Leaves” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Traver

Poetry Grade 9
1st, Brianna Denton, “Hunting” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Wallin
2nd, Maddie Painter, “Lake Sunsets” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Wallin
3rd, Lane Walter, “Good Time” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen
HM, Mitchell Klempan, “Mt. Elbert” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Wallin
HM, Brett Geringer, “The American Dream” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen
HM, Logan Fuller, “Beautifully Deadly” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen

Poetry Grade 10
1st, Samuel O’Reily, “Refreshing Solitude” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen
2nd, Haley Volanos, “Upon a Bit of Cloth” Swink School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen
3rd, Cheli Gonzalez, “Letterman’s Envy” Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. Clemmenson
HM, William Valdez, “Social Media” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Mrs. Robinson
HM, Jasmine George, “Limerence” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Mrs. Robinson
HM, Alex Blair, “Alone Tonight” La Junta High School, Instructor: Mr. Schmidt
HM, Gabriella Leone, “Dust” Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. Clemmenson
HM, Shannon McLelland, “Love's Cruel Twists” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen

Poetry Grade 11
1st, Mariah Brookfield, “Despondency”, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Mrs. Robinson
2nd, Mykayla Clifford, “Our Moment” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Mrs. Shelton
3rd, Tess Tucker, “The Wolf” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen
HM, Ty Ham, “The Endless Sea” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen
HM, Ciarra Carter, “King Cobras and Broken Glass” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen
HM, Britt Wren, “Transition” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen
HM, Stephanie Frantz, “The Good Old Days” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Mrs. Shelton
HM, Megan Dotter, “Running” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen
HM, Emily Aragon, “Twenty-Six” Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. Clemmensen
HM, Jodyanna Gallegos, “Three's” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen

Poetry Grade 12
1st, Jessie Kurtz, “Personal Poison” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Mrs. Shelton
2nd, Alexis Mayne, “Poseidon” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Mrs. Shelton
3rd, Jacob King, “I'm No Poet” La Junta High School, Instructor: Kelly Jo Smith
HM, Nisa Vela, “I Don't Love You Anymore” La Junta High School, Instructor: Kelly Jo Smith
HM, Coleton Courtneyn, “Change” La Junta High School, Instructor: Kelly Jo Smith
HM, Nolan Grenard, “Wild West” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Essays Grade 7
1st, Dawn Diaz, “What Freedom Means to me” Manzanola High School, Instructor: Ms. Williams
2nd, Brylee Miller, “Bullies: Are they really that bad?” Genioa-Hugo, Instructor: Mrs. Book
3rd, Jeremy Horn, “What Freedom Means to me” Manzanola High School, Instructor: Ms. Williams
HM, Ethan Pope, “The Right to Service” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Traver

Essay Grade 8
1st, Simon Apodaca, “The Greatest Win of My Life” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Brusuelas
2nd, Rylee Platt, “Freedom” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Traver
3rd, PJ Welker, “My Movie Moment” Manzanola Junior High School, Instructor: Ms. Williams
HM, Sophie Russell, “What Freedom Means to Me” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Traver

Essay Grade 9
1st, Caitlyn Lancaster, “Equality?” Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. McCuiston
2nd, Crystal Castaneda, “The Fault in Our Wall” Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. McCuiston
3rd, Jill Wallace, “The Danger in Wearing Shorts” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Wallin
HM, Darrien McGhee, “What is Honor” Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. McCuiston
HM, Skylies Traver, “Can a Cross Bar Save a Life” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Wallin
HM, Isabella Proctor, “My Role Model” Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. McCuiston

Essay Grade 10
1st, Danielle Painter, “The Lament of Moving” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen
2nd, Jasmine Gossett, “Breastfeeding in Public” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen
3rd, Sara Dittemore, “Skiing” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen
HM, Jade Mora-Menges, “Marching Band” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen

Essay Grade 11
1st, Selene Ortiz, “Gradma's Kitchen” Rocky Ford Jr/Sr High School, Instructor: Mrs. Shelton
2nd, Toki Hirakata, “How Bare are Your Arms” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen
3rd, Kylie Krueger, “Studying With Music” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen
HM, Britt Wren, “My Vision for America” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen
HM, Tobias Kersey, “Empathy” Swink School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen
Hm, Ciarra Carter, “Civil War Submarines” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen
HM, Ricardo Preciado, “The Mouthwatering Burger” Rocky Ford Jr/Sr High School, Instructor: Mrs. Shelton

Essay Grade 12
1st, Lauren Addington, “Standing Out” La Junta High School, Instructor: Kelly Jo Smith
2nd, Jacob King, “Small Town Life” La Junta High School, Instructor: Kelly Jo Smith
3rd, Colton Williams, “Book by its Cover” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Short Stories Grade 7
1st, Willow Johnston, “Sirens” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Carolanna Traver
2nd, Charlee Johnson, “A decade in ten Minutes” Genoa-Hugo School, Instructor: Mrs. Book
3rd, Frederik Rikhof, “Story” Swink Junior High, Instructor: Mrs. Carolanna Traver

Short Stories Grade 8
1st, Christa Mousel, “Sunsets” Kit Carson, Instructor: Mrs. Kent
2nd, P.J. Welker, “The Girl with Silver Eyes” Manzanola High School, Instructor: Ms. Williams
3rd, Caleb Dorenkamp, “The Grizzly Hunter’s Final Hunt” Granada School, Instructor: Mrs. Holden
HM, Sophie Russell, “That Hospital Hallway” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Travers

Short Stories Grade 9
1st, Rico Carale, “Like Father, Like Son” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Wallin
2nd, Kaitlyn Smith, No Title? Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. McCuiston
3rd, Bethany Horiuchi, “Up in Flames” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Wallin
HM, Joey Martinez, “Interstellar” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen
HM, Sarah Smith, “Red Queen” Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. McCuiston
HM, Jill Wallace, “Not Infected” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Wallin
HM, Dakota Gennetten, “The Monster on my Shoulder” Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. McCuiston
HM, Josh Valencia, “Searching for Home” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Wallin

Short Stories Grade 10
1st, Jacklynn Snyder, “The Enlightening” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Keri Robinson
2nd, Alyssa Adams, “Birdsong” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen
3rd, Jasmine George, “Enya’s Folly” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Keri Robinson
HM, Ashlynn Grap, “The Life I Feel I Live” Goal Academy, Instructor: Brittany Farmer
HM, Gary DeLeon, “The Forgotten Recipe of Time” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Keri Robinson
Short Stories Grade 11

1st, Cody Norris, “The Journey” Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. Clemmensen
2nd, Ana Mathews, “Winter Hazel” La Junta Jr/Sr High School, Instructor: Julie Mieklejohn
3rd, Sophia Alvarez, “Dark Before Light” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Mrs. Robinson
HM, Joseph Von Feldt, “I Won’t Let Go” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Mrs. Shelton
HM, Colton Gruntorad, “Two Miles Out” Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen
HM, Jodyanna Gallegos, “Rules of Love” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen

Short Stories Grade 12

1st, Alexis Mayne, “Memories of a Morlock” Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Mrs. Shelton
2nd, Nolan Grenard, “Healing Power” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen
3rd, Kellie Hirakata, “Hiting the Bullseye” Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Grossen