59th Otero Arts Festival Creative Writing Contest Winners

Judge’s Best Representative Work
Senior Division
Matt Alwin - Title: “Curse of the Maiden’s Basin”, 11th grade Short Story
Crowley County High School - Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen

Junior Division
Emily Kelly - Title: “Ink”, 8th grade Poetry
Manzanola Junior High School - Instructor: Mrs. Williams

Otero Junior College Scholarship
Becca Smith - Swink High School
Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Otero Junior College Scholarship Alternate
Devin Camacho - Swink High School
Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Creative Writing Senior Portfolio Awards
1st, Becca Smith, Swink, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen
2nd, Devin Camacho, Swink, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen
3rd, Kamron Grasmick, Swink, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen
4th, Zeph Pope, Swink, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen
Honorable Mention, Jennifer Franklin, La Junta, Instructor: Mrs. Kelly Jo Smith

Poetry Grade 7
1st, Kaine Jones, Life and Death, Manzanola, Mrs. Williams
2nd, Sophie Russell, The Ranch, Swink, Mrs. Traver
3rd, Topenga Montano, Music, La Junta, Mr. Grantham
4th, Noah Zumwalt, Scorched Prairie, Swink, Mrs. Traver
HM, Allyson Haugen, Nature, La Junta, Mr. Grantham
HM, Johnathan Mobbley, Suicide, Fowler, Mrs. Lacy McCuistion

Poetry Grade 8
1st, Emily Kelly, Ink, Manzanola, Mrs. Williams
2nd, Justin Thomas, Can’t Forget, Swink, Mrs. Traver
3rd, Rico Carale, Rainbow, Swink, Mrs. Traver
4th, Dustin Carroll, Snow, Manzanola, Mrs. Williams
HM, Karley Krieger, Emmalee's Kingdom, Manzanola, Mrs. Williams
HM, Bethany Horiuchi, The World of Books, Swink, Mrs. Traver

Poetry Grade 9
1st, Kyle Hirakata, Ranchlands, Swink, Mrs. Wallin
2nd, Jade Mora-Menges, The Mother, Swink, Mrs. Wallin
3rd, Lillian Fitzpatrick, Lake Tahoe, Swink, Mrs. Wallin
4th, Rhiley Unruh, She Wants Hope, Kit Carson, Mrs. Isenbart
HM, Emmalee Krieger, Nature, Manzanola, Mrs. Holmes
HM, Acelin Lucero, Aspen Tree, Swink, Mrs. Wallin

Poetry Grade 10
1st, Whitney Nelson, Winter, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
2nd, Emily Aragaon, The Eyes, Fowler, Mrs. Clemmensen
Essays Grade 11
1st, Catelin Rene Churchill, Of Magical, McClave, Mrs. Becky Roesch
2nd, Adelaide Efird, My Symphonic View, Rocky Ford, Mrs. Shelton
3rd, Brianna Hobby, Tattoo on my Skin, Fowler, Mrs. Clemmensen
4th, Bethann Traver, Midnight's Song, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
HM, Hervey Nalera, Survivor, Kit Carson, Mrs. Isenbart
HM, Veronika Viescas, The State of Tranquility, Rocky Ford, Mrs. Shelton

Essays Grade 12
1st, Cory Ham, Shadowy Night, Crowley County, Mrs. Bender
2nd, Isaac Lambelet, An Unbelievable Surprise, La Junta, Mrs. Kelly Jo Smith
3rd, MaKayla Dickey, My Fear Is..., Kit Carson, Mrs. Isenbart
4th, Brandon Miller, Shining Night, Crowley County, Mrs. Bender
HM, Donavon Ramirez, Spinning is Everything, La Junta, Mrs.Kelly Jo Smith
HM, Jayde Hannel, Love of Nature, La Junta, Mrs. Kelly Jo Smith

Essays Grade 7
1st, Olivia Lewis, The Life of George M. Horton, Swink, Mrs. Traver
2nd, Kaine Jones, What Veterans Mean to Me, Manzanola, Mrs. Williams
3rd, Caleb Dorenkamp, A Turkey, A Coyote, and Two Wrestlers, Granada, Mrs. Holden
4th, Sophie Russell, Four Wheelers on Public Roads, Swink, Mrs. Traver
HM, Ean Martinez, Why People Should Have Dogs, Manzanola, Mrs. Williams
HM, Robyn Wallace, Four Day Week, Swink, Mrs. Traver

Essays Grade 8
1st, Emily Moreland, Animal Testing, Rocky Ford, Mr. Lobato
2nd, Karley Krieger, Why I Appreciate America's Veterans, Manzanola, Mrs. Williams
3rd, Reina Young, Women in the Military, Rocky Ford, Mr. Lobato
4th, Mackenzie Turner, Suzanne Buffam Poet, Swink, Mrs. Traver
HM, Rico Carale, Compassion, Swink, Mrs. Traver
HM, Elizabeth Weber, Running Through the Barrier, Swink, Mrs. Traver

Essays Grade 9
1st, Cheli Gonzalez, Words and the Power They Contain, Fowler, Mrs. McCuiston
2nd, Derick Carroll, Keeping your Gun Ready for Action (Bolt Action), Manzanola, Mrs. Holmes
3rd, Alyssa Adame, Be Who You Want, Swink, Mrs. Wallin
4th, Jolene Carrica, Social Media Has Our Hands Tied, Swink, Mrs. Wallin
HM, Kyle Hirakata, Growing Up in a Rural Area, Swink, Mrs. Wallin
HM, Trey Redner, Dealing with Divorce, Swink, Mrs. Wallin

Essays Grade 10
1st, Toki Hirakata, Greek and Roman Theatre, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
2nd, Brad Johnson, Code of Life, Kit Carson, Mrs. Isenbart
3rd, Jodyanna Gallegos, Nine Words Used by Women, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
4th, Anastasia Mathews, Dream a Little Dream, La Junta, Mrs. Meiklejohn
HM, Blake Dickey, Code of Life, Kit Carson, Mrs. Isenbart
HM, Jaxon Crawford, Learning From History, Kit Carson, Mrs. Isenbart
Short Study Grade 11
1st, Jamie Von Feldt, The Window, Rocky Ford, Mrs. Shelton
2nd, Sam Bartolo, Veterans: Then, Now, and Always, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
3rd, Amber Dannar, The Unappreciated Beauty, Rocky Ford, Mrs. Shelton
4th, Luke Burkstaller, Katrina, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
HM, Emma Brown, Our History, Our Future, Our Veterans, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
HM, Veronika Viescas, Melodies From Within, Rocky Ford, Mrs. Shelton

Essays Grade 11
1st, Christina Eppley, Who I Will Be, Kit Carson, Mrs. Isenbart
2nd, Deborah Settle, Good Without God?, La Junta, Mrs. Kelly Jo Smith
3rd, Brooke Dickey, My Life, Kit Carson, Mrs. Isenbart
4th, Austin Coy, Grace, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
HM, Shelby Polkinghorn, Why are Farmers Important in Colorado, Manzanola, Mrs. Williams
HM, Milan Patel, The Bahamas, Swink, Mrs. Grossen

Short Stories Grade 7
1st, Faith Hailey, The Day Cara Traveled to Sandesta, Fowler, Mrs. Lacy McCusition
2nd, Adam Cruz, The Five Astronauts and the Dusty Planet, Rocky Ford, Mrs. Tamara Marmeda
3rd, Sydney Copley, The Forest, La Junta, Mr. Grantham
4th, Samantha Graham, Taken, Fowler, Mrs. Lacy McCusition
HM, Caleb Dorenkamp, The Smartest Mountain Man, Granada, Mrs. Sheryl Holden
HM, Orin Carnes, The Golden Door, Fowler, Mrs. Lacy McCusition

Short Story Grade 8
1st, Dustin Carroll, Power, Manzanola, Mrs. Williams
2nd, Karley Krieger, Magpie, Manzanola, Mrs. Williams
3rd, Levi Collins, The Art of Caring, Swink, Mrs. Traver
4th, Rico Carale, The Dragon's Journey, Swink, Mrs. Traver
HM, Jill Wallace, The Minotaur, Swink, Mrs. Traver
HM, Skyler Jones, Extinguishing the Fire, Swink, Mrs. Traver

Short Story Grade 9
1st, Gabriella Leone, Willow, Fowler, Mrs. Mc Cusition
2nd, Jolene Carrica, The Hatter's Madness, Swink, Mrs. Wallin
3rd, Jade Mora-Menges, Giuseppe and Gwendolyn, Swink, Mrs. Wallin
4th, Cheli Gonzalez, The Space Enigma, Fowler, Mrs. McCusition
HM, Danielle Painter, Rapunzel and The Prince, Swink, Mrs. Wallin
HM, Ali Ahmad, Broken, Swink, Mrs. Wallin

Short Story Grade 10
1st, Megan Soltani, The World on Your Toes, Crowley County, Mr. Henry Grossen
2nd, Selene Ortiz, Letters, Rocky Ford, Mrs. Robinson
3rd, Britt Wren, Sailfin, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
4th, Dylan Tuma, What About You?, Crowley County, Mr. Henry Grossen
HM, Jacob Rodriguez, The Curiosity of Elbert, Rocky Ford, Mrs. Robinson
HM, PJ Roberts, Pickles, Manzanola, Mrs. Holmes

Short Study Grade 11
1st, Matt Alwin, Curse of Maiden's Basin, Crowley County, Mr. Henry Grossen
2nd, Joshua Knabenshue, The Unknown, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
3rd, Kellie Hirakata, Hunting for a Cause, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
4th, Bethann Traver, Hospital Flowers, Swink, Mrs. Grossen
Short Story Grade 12
1st, Shelby Polkinghorn, The Visitor, Manzanola, Mrs. Williams
2nd, Peyton Tuma, Full Circle, Crowley County, Mrs. Bender
3rd, Keely Freeland, The Memory, Fowler, Mrs. Clemmensen
4th, Austin Coy, I am..., Swink, Mrs. Grossen
HM, Robby Baca, Dreaming/Awakening, Manzanola, Mrs. Holmes
HM, Emilie Fox, The Person I Never Became, Fowler, Mrs. Clemmensen