

2024 SoMLA Young Authors' Contest
STATE FINALISTS

Grade 1, Poetry:

- Phoebe Blanco, "Young Authors Contest," South Shore Elementary, Crownsville, MD, Anne Arundel
- Jiya Kothari, "I Love My Sister," Triadelphia Ridge Elementary, Ellicott City, MD, Howard County Literacy Chapter

Grade 1, Short Story:

- Remi McGown, "Unicorn in My Closet," St. John's Lane Elementary, Ellicott City, MD, Howard County Literacy Chapter
- Miles Vocke, "Loose Tooth at the Beach," Buckingham Elementary, Berlin, MD, Eastern Shore Literacy Association

Grade 2, Poetry:

- Zoe Lane, "My Family," Waterloo Elementary, Columbia, MD, Howard County Literacy Chapter
- Quinn Westbrook, "The Beach," Buckingham Elementary, Berlin, MD, Eastern Shore Literacy Association

Grade 2, Short Story:

- Audrey Johnson, "Lillian and the Book Villain," Triadelphia Ridge Elementary, Ellicott City, MD, Howard County
- Emery Reynolds, "The Bird's Party," Grasonville Elementary, Grasonville, MD, Upper Shore Literacy Chapter.

Grade 3, Poetry:

- Anna Behrendt, "Treehouse," Triadelphia Ridge Elementary, Ellicott City, MD, Howard County Literacy Association
- Suravi Poudyal, "Nature," Emmorton Elementary, Bel Air, MD, Harford County Literacy Association

Grade 3, Short Story:

- Preston Fodel, "Hope Gets Lost," Emmorton Elementary, Bel Air, MD, Harford County Literacy Association
- Iracema Resendiz, "Wolfy," Chesapeake City Elementary, Chesapeake City, MD, Cecil County Literacy Association

Grade 4, Poetry:

- Henry McCabe, "Always Art," Kennard Elementary, Centreville, MD, Upper Shore Literacy Association
- Joshua VonSteuben, "Your Brain Can Grow," Rising Sun Elementary, Rising Sun, MD, Cecil County Literacy Association

Grade 4, Short Story:

- Alice Cannon, "The Cloaked Trickster," Manor Woods Elementary, Ellicott City, MD, Howard County Literacy Association.

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- Eloise Coningsby, "Mother of Mississippi," Bel Air Elementary, Bel Air, MD, Harford County Literacy Association

Grade 5, Poetry:

- Julianna Martinez, "Feeling Blue," Churchville Elementary, Churchville, MD, Harford County Literacy Association
- Lily Price, "Watercolor Sunrise," Jones Elementary, Severna Park, MD, Anne Arundel County Literacy Association

Grade 5, Short Story:

- Katelyn Barber, "Stuck in Time," Gorman Crossing Elementary, Laurel, MD, Howard County Literacy Association
- Breanna Ortiz, "Scrabble," Piney Orchard Elementary, Odenton, MD, Anne Arundel Literacy Association

Grade 6, Poetry:

- Jenna Ahn, "Your Pawprints On My Heart," Mount View Middle, Marriottsville, MD, Howard County Literacy Association
- Olive Martin, "The Mountain in Me," Matapeake Middle, Stevensville, MD, Upper Shore Literacy Association

Grade 6, Short Story:

- Douglas Gartrell, "Scary Adventures in Alaska," Clarksville Middle, Clarksville, MD, Howard County Literacy Association
- Kristina Phillips, "The Stuffed Animal Switch," Middletown Middle, Middletown, MD, Frederick County Literacy Chapter

Grade 7, Poetry:

- Joshua Akinbobola, "My Hair...I'm Not Ashamed," Monarch Global Academy, Laurel, MD, Anne Arundel County Literacy Association.
- Maira Khokhar, "What's the Point of Life," Mount View Middle, Marriottsville, MD, Howard County Literacy Association

Grade 7, Short Story:

- Reygan Ladner, "Lily Pads," West Frederick Middle, Frederick, MD, Frederick
- Gabriella Picha, "Winter of Guilt," North Harford Middle, Pylesville, MD, Harford

Grade 8, Poetry:

- Sree Saranya Ganti, "Lost in the Music," Mount View Middle, Marriottsville, MD, Howard County Literacy Association
- Kieryae Kodges, "Flowing in the Wind," Blended Virtual Middle School, Frederick, MD, Frederick County Literacy Chapter

Grade 8, Short Story:

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- Catherine Clayton, "The Haunted Springhouse," Swan Creek School (Blended Virtual Program), Aberdeen, MD, Harford County Literacy Association
- Catrina Donmoyer, "Gone Astray," Stephen Decatur Middle, Berlin, MD, Eastern Shore Literacy Association

Grade 9, Poetry:

- Micah Georgeson, "Moon," Mountain Ridge High, Frostburg, MD, Western Maryland Literacy Chapter
- Lily Karpman, "My Jar of Candies," Oakdale High, Ijamsville, MD, Frederick County Literacy Chapter

Grade 9, Short Story:

- Kristen Arthungal, "At the End of the Sea," Atholton High, Columbia, MD, Howard County Literacy Association
- Eden Rankin, "Wingspan," Northern Garrett High, Frostburg, MD, Western Maryland Literacy Chapter

Grade 10, Poetry:

- Niki Holloway, "Hades," Frederick High, Frederick, MD, Frederick County Literacy Chapter
- Anushka Skariah, "Sisyphus," Centennial High, Ellicott City, MD, Howard County Literacy Association

Grade 10, Short Story:

- Esther Harbin, "The Downfall of the Obelisk of Light," Frederick High, Frederick, MD, Frederick County Literacy Chapter
- Amara Nwankwo, "Oh Brother," Montgomery Virtual Academy, Montgomery County Literacy Association

Grade 11, Poetry:

- Zuzu Kusmider, "Honeysuckle," Queen Annes County High, Centreville, MD, Upper Shore Literacy Association
- Miranda Martin, "Rocking Chair on the Beach," Southern Garrett High, Oakland, MD, Western Maryland Literacy Chapter

Grade 11, Short Story (SS)

- Miranda Martin, "Empty," Southern Garrett High, Oakland, MD, Western Maryland Literacy Chapter
- Lydia Schwartz, "Secrets," Worcester Preparatory, Berlin, MD, Eastern Shore Literacy Association

Grade 12, Poetry:

- Gouri Gupta, "The Writer's Touch," Glenelg High, Glenelg, MD, Howard County Literacy Association

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- Macy Woroniecki, "The Fall of Girlhood," Stephen Decatur High, Berlin, MD, Eastern Shore Literacy Association.

Grade 12, Short Story:

- Sara Patamawenu, "Paragon," Urbana High, Ijamsville, MD, Frederick County Literacy Chapter
- Chris Stedding, "Hallow Home," Stephen Decatur High, Berlin, MD, Eastern Shore Literacy Association