

2026 SoMLA Young Authors' Contest Winners						
Elementary (Grades 1-5)						
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Student First</u>	<u>Student Last</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>School/City</u>	<u>SoMLA Chapter</u>
Grade 1 Poetry	1	Wynstella	Lit	If I Had Wings	Northfield Elementary	Howard County
	2	Lainie	Booth	I am a Lonely Star	Worcester Preparatory	Eastern Shore
Grade 1 Short Story	1	Maeve	Anderson	Turbo the Turkey	Benfield Elementary	Anne Arundel
	2	Jaanvi	Magesh	The Clever Cat and the	Worthington Elementary	Howard
Grade 2 Poetry	1	Japna Kaur	Bajaj	We Belong	Triadelphia Ridge Elementary	Howard County
	2	Rebecca	Jackson	A Very Cold December	Heather Hills Elementary	PGCPS
Grade 2 Short Story	1	Lydia	Isgrig	The Adventures of Lily	St. Margaret School	Harford County
	2	Evelyn	Justice	Toy-Making Day	Ocean City Elementary	Eastern Shore
Grade 3 Poetry	1	Jackson	Webster	Sea Turtles	North Salisbury Elementary	Eastern Shore
	2	Vritika	Narayanan	Touching the Sky	Ilchester Elementary School	Howard County
Grade 3 Short Story	1	Nyah	Hamilton	Freckleland	North Salisbury Elementary	Eastern Shore
	2	Annabelle	Kirk	Pheonix City	Roye Williams Elementary	Harford
Grade 4 Poetry	1	Gursahib Singh	Lalia	My Village I am Born to Shine	Deep Run Elementary	Howard County
	2	Rachel Von	Steuben	Lightning Bugs	Rising Sun Elementary	Cecil County
Grade 4 Short Story	1	Leamon	Cheng	The Shadow that Followed Me	Dayton Oaks Elementary	Howard County
	2	Talia	Clamage	Bud	Monarch Global Academy	Anne Arundel
Grade 5 Poetry	1	Livid	Simone	The Seasons of a Tree	Forest Hill Elementary	Harford
	2	Everett	Pope	The Mouse and the Cat	Bayside Elementary	Upper Shore

Grade 5 Short Story	1	Arya	Thomas	The Clockmaker's Promise	Triadelphia Ridge Elementary	Howard
	2	Stella	Martin	The Magic Bookstore	Matapeake Elementary	Upper Shore
<u>Secondary (6-12)</u>						
Grade 6 Poetry	1	Nafeesa	Naba	I Am Me	Arundel Middle	Anne Arundel
	2	Sarvani	Bhagavatula	Power of Nature	Mount View Middle	Howard
Grade 6 Short Story	1	Chesnie	Ziegenhein	Courage to Speak Up	Chesapeake Bay Middle	Anne Arundel
	2	Eloise	Coningsby	Beyond Times	Bel Air Middle	Harford County
Grade 7 Poetry	1	Deepika	Kothurthi	A Heavy World	Oakdale Middle	Frederick
	2	Kelly	He	The Wish We Shared	Clarksville Middle	Howard
Grade 7 Short Story	1	Serena	Jaoude	Trip of a Lifetime	Worcester Prep	Eastern Shore
	2	Rachel	Blorstad	Hope	Middletown Middle	Frederick
Grade 8 Poetry	1	Deebshana /dib-saw-nah/	Khadka /kah-duh-kah/	American Enough	Patuxent Valley Middle	Howard County
	2	Lillian	Gregory	The Tears of My Fear	Fallston Middle	Harford County
Grade 8 Short Story	1	Magnolia	Thompson	She's Alive	Mt. View Middle	Howard
	2	Ara	LaDue	The Ground is Lava	Matapeake Middle	Upper Shore
Grade 9 Poetry	1	Keira	Keaney	Skies of Water, Seas of Stars	James M. Bennett High	Eastern Shore
	2	Chloe	Kline	Dandelion Prison	Rising Sun High	Cecil County
Grade 9 Short Story	1	Marcus	Hernandez	Brothers in Arms	North East High	Cecil County
	2	Grace	Ko	The End and a Beginning	Centennial High	Howard

Grade 10 Poetry	1	Jacob	Culver	Lingering Touch	Snow Hill High	Eastern Shore
	2	Lillyanne	Spelhaug	Meeting Him	Kent Island High	Upper Shore
Grade 10 Short Story	1	Minsuk	Kim	Echoes Loud But Unheard	James M. Bennett High	Eastern Shore
	2	Sruthi	Madhusoothana	The Missing Six	Urbana High School	Frederick
Grade 11 Poetry	1	Sophia	Leimbach	The One Who Couldn't Hear	Holly Grove Christian School	Eastern Shore
	2	Nesochukwu	Onyeuche	Flaked on Corn Flakes	Centennial High	Howard
Grade 11 Short Story	1	Sabrina Sah-Bre-Nah	DeLoach Dee-Low-Chah	The Weight of What Was Left Unsaid	Atholton High	Howard
	2	Danica	Craig	What if the World Was	Governor Thomas Johnson HS	Frederick
Grade 12 Poetry	1	Cassandra	Koh	Victor Frankenstein	Urbana High School	Frederick
	2	Kanye	Reid	Pink Confetti	Pocomoke High	Eastern Shore
Grade 12 Short Story	1	Johanna	Mitchell	The Sands of Blood	Oakdale High School	Frederick
	2	Jamie	Nguyen	Blossoms Between	Worcester Prep	Eastern Shore