



Cass District Library  
Dowagiac District Library  
Lawton Public Library  
Marcellus Township Wood Memorial Library  
Paw Paw District Library  
Van Buren District Library

200 N. Phelps St., Decatur MI 49045  
PHONE 269-423-4771/FAX 269-423-8373

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CHALLENGE ANNOUNCES WINNERS

DECATUR, MICHIGAN - - - The sponsors of the Southwest Michigan Teen Creative Writing Challenge are pleased to announce the winners of this year's competition.

The Challenge, sponsored by Cass District Library, Dowagiac District Library, Lawton Public Library, Marcellus Township Wood Memorial Library, Paw Paw District Library, and Van Buren District Library awarded over \$1800 in five categories: Comics, Cover Art, Fiction, Flash Fiction, and Poetry. First place winners receive \$100, second place, \$50; and third place winners receive \$25.

Katie Blomeke, Mattawan, received first place honors in the Cover Art Division. Her art will serve as the cover for a professionally printed compilation of all winning entries. Second place honors were awarded to Kenzi Canseco, Bangor, and third place to Allison Mroczek, Decatur.

Winners and their home libraries are:

#### Fiction – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	Jocelyn Suranyi	VBDL Bloomingdale Branch
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	Mikayla Michalak	VBDL Antwerp Sunshine Branch – Mattawan
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	Ella Hanley	VBDL Antwerp Sunshine Branch – Mattawan

#### Fiction – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades

1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	Miriam Gartland	Paw Paw District Library
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	Emalie Caley	Marcellus TWP Wood Memorial Library
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	Connie Grabemeyer	Dowagiac District Library

#### Fiction – 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	Martha Schaller	Dowagiac District Library
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	Brendan Coveyou	Niles District Library
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	Ema Somers	Lawton Public Library

#### Flash Fiction – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	Natalie Craft	Paw Paw District Library
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Decatur \* Bangor \* Bloomingdale \* Covert \* Gobles \* Lawrence \* Mattawan

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Abygail Bulley  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ezabella Lemke

VBDL Bangor Branch  
New Buffalo Township Library

#### Flash Fiction - 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Katie Blomeke  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Aidan Bickel  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Kelsee Sharp

VBDL Antwerp Sunshine Branch – Mattawan  
Cass District Library  
Cass District Library

#### Flash Fiction - 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Martha Schaller  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Henry Endymion  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Lilly Yeater

Dowagiac District Library  
Marcellus TWP Wood Memorial Library  
Cass District Library

#### Poetry - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Isobelle Mick  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Faith Wooley

VBDL Antwerp Sunshine Branch – Mattawan  
Paw Paw District Library

#### Poetry - 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Chloe Thomas  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Kelsee Sharp  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Emalie Caley

Cass District Library  
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#### Poetry - 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Martha Schaller  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Katelyn Wierenga  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Henry Endymion

Dowagiac District Library  
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#### Comics – All Grades

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Hayden Groth

Dowagiac District Library

The official award ceremony originally scheduled for June was cancelled to restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Winners are invited to record short videos of them reading a portion of their work or discussing their art that can be shared on the Challenge’s Facebook page. Videos may be submitted to [TCWC@vbdl.org](mailto:TCWC@vbdl.org). For more information, contact any sponsoring library or email [TCWC@vbdl.org](mailto:TCWC@vbdl.org).

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