ESSPA 2011 Winners List

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LITERARY MAGAZINE CATEGORIES

ARTWORK/ILLUSTRATION

Gold

Zoe Clark, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Hearts, Soul, Skull, Pelvis"

Sophie Corwin, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Ballerina"

Sarah Song, Tones, Tappan Zee HS, Orangeburg
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Sarah Song, Tones, Tappan Zee HS, Orangeburg
"Girls with Deer"

Silver

Gabrielle Stowe, Valhalla, Pittsford Mendon HS
"Country Landscape"

Emily Abele, Valhalla, Pittsford Mendon HS
"Girl Running"

Faith Daniels, Galleries, Rome Free Academy
"Me"

Allison Huysman, Perspective, Locust Valley HS
"Paper Collage"

Kirsten Donovan, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Acrylic"

Bronze

Sophie Phillips, Briars & Ivy, Briarcliff HS, Briarcliff Manor
"Grecian Cast"

Anna Pierce, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
"Man with Bottle"

Sarah Song, Tones, Tappan Zee HS, Orangeburg
"Tabby Eyes of Ember"

Blain Garde, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Patterns of Poverty"

HM Sarah Song, Tones, Tappan Zee HS, Orangeburg
"Ignored"

Rachel Isaac, Briars & Ivy, Briarcliff HS, Briarcliff Manor
"Crouch"

Marlena Howard, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Wanting"

Eileen Kelly, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"An Angel's Tool"

Raeanne Villongco, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
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Ahra Gho, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Three Girls"

Korina Brewer, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Basket"

Michael DiRosa, Briars & Ivy, Briarcliff HS, Briarcliff Manor
"The Living and the Dead"

Judge's Comments
>>*Excelllent art and illustration! The gold winners were unique and imaginative and used a variey of forms to create their art. The golds were also given good play in the literary magazines. The silvers were also imaginative, ranging from black and white portraits to colorful outdoor scenes. Bronze entries also represent a wide range of media. The strength of the category dictated multiple honorable mentions, representing strong styles.*

COVER DESIGN

Gold Nora Chuff, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
"Muse"

Kiara McDade, Aaron Schffafer, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Galaxy"

Silver Monica Farrell, Alexis Fretwell, Perspective, Locust Valley HS
"Perspective Literary + Art Magazine"

Declan Banko and Sadie Schu, Kaleidoscope, Hornell Jr/Sr HS
"Kaleidoscope"

Moriah Hixson, Escapades, Wantagh HS
"Escapades 2011, Wantagh Literary & Art Magazine"

Bronze Maddy Avino, Valhalla, Pittsford Mendon HS, Pittsford
"Valhalla"

Sarah Song, Tones, Tappan Zee HS, Orangeburg
"Tones"

HM Katie Chien, Galleries, Rome Free Academy
"Galleries"

Rachel Isaac, Briars & Ivy, Briarcliff HS, Briarcliff Manor
"Briars & Ivy "

Eileen Kelly, Emily Charleson and Jane Smyth, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Fragments"

Judge's Comments
>>*Many great examples of beautiful artwork and illustration! It was very hard to choose winners. The best art was compelling to prospective readers, inviting them into the publication and providing a preview of the style inside the magazine.*

FICTION

Gold Rachel Brill, Valhalla, Pittsford Mendon HS
"The Curious Case of the Boy in the Bedroom"

Silver Sophie Corwin, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Pearl: Part 4"

Arden White, Kaleidoscope, Hornell Jr/Sr HS
"Found"

Alexis Romano, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"If only I could leap from this prison...."

Nora Chuff, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
"Human Resource Achevement: A Shocking Expose"

Olivia Leitch, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
"Create a Cuddle Bug.com"

Bronze Joseph Sweeny, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Pancakes"

Darren Masters, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"A Blind Man's Nickel"

HM Elizabeth Ingham, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Tryst"

Judge's Comments
>>*This year's Fiction entries were varied and highly imaginative. Writers told stories that ranged from first person sketches of a romantic break-up to longer narratives about* **living** *with an abusive parent. There was comedy, parody and surgically precise drama. One writer experimented with artistically hand-written paragraphs. Another attempted an interactive story with alternate endings.*

Three qualities of the writing stood out:
Description of the writer's world. Language that was sparse but accurate as a photograph gave the reader precise and sometimes scary versions of the external reality.

Dialogue that was distinctive, fun to hear and created character, mood and story exposition graced many of the winning works.

Vivid characterization drawn with economy of language reminiscent of Hemmingway or Proust demonstrated maturity and discipline.

The writing in the winning entries took the reader beyond the world of the narrator and pushed the experience of the every day.

The writing that didn't make winning categories seemed not to push the writer beyond his/her experience, location, comfort zone. Many of this year's entries needed to pay closer attention to the basics of spelling, grammar and punctuation.

LAYOUT

Gold Emily Charleson, Eileen Kelly, Jane Smyth and Roxette Romanes,
Fragments, Long Beach HS
Pgs. 38-39

Rachel Isaac, Briars & Ivy, Briarcliff HS, Briarcliff Manor
Table of Contents

Jesse Moses, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
Pgs. 32-33

Kiara McDade, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
Pgs. 34-35

Silver Monica Farrell, Perspective, Locust Valley HS
Pgs. 36-37

Deirdre Tragner and Staff, Escapades, Wantagh HS
Pg. 42

Kiara McDade, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
Pgs. 20-21

Bronze Kiara McDade, Colin McKenna & Jessie Moses, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
Color Illustration/Photographs

HM Colin McKenna, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
Contents listing

Judge's Comments
>>*Layouts were beautifully thoughtout and executed, making effective use of the page space and content.*

PHOTOGRAPH

Gold Liza Belsito, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
Pg. 30

DJ Donofrio, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
Untitled

Brigid Byrne, Galaxy,Brighton HS, Rochester
Man and clouds

Elizabeth Ingham, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Will you remember me?"

Silver Kiara McDade, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Wither"

Hillary Vinokur, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Do not feed the pigeons"

Maria DeFilippo, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
Football and hands

Maria DeFilippo, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Here to take the sky"

Bronze Shannon Macias, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Rice bowl"

Kiara McDade, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"No longer a home"

Scott Blumenfeld, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Sleep"

Emily Charleson, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"The Path"

HM Isabelle Lotocki, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
Cat with fangs

Aaron Schaffer, Galaxty, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Through the haze"

Claire Stieg, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
Horse's eye

Kirsten Donovan, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Appendages"

Judge's Comments
>>*The winners' entries were full of great moments ranging from artistic illustrations to photojournalistic entries. They were well-composed and executed, colorful, when appropriate, subdued when appropriate. The magazines made good use of their fine qualities in their layouts. The photos were interesting explorations into the world and into the photographers' worlds.*

POETRY

Gold Jane Smyth, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"The Faceless Man"

Sophie Corwin, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"The Savior"

Alex Jones, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"I'm going to do it"

Sophie Corwin, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"As Fathers Do"

Silver Laura Kaminsky, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"The Grapefruit"

Grace Smith, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"At Last"

Benjamin Weiss, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"I Respond to Love"

Grace Smith, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Anchor"

Bronze Jane Smyth, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Fortune Teller"

Kayla Woodlock, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Catastrophic"

Sophie Corwin, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"On The Bus"

Nabiha Ahsan, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Taxis"

HM Sarah Ben-Moussa, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Snow"

Eileen Kelly, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Morning Dream"

Grace Smith, Framents, Long Beach HS
"It was dark"

Madeleine Flieger, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
"People person"

Judge's Comments
>>*Reading the submissions was a real pleasure. It gave me very interesting insight into the minds of high school students throughout the state of New York, many of which were so compelling and bright.*

The Gold Category for Poetry was arranged so that it encompassed pieces which were outstanding and unique. They had to have a real sense of the writer's voice, which can be a very difficult and unique thing to have developed by high school. So those pieces that accomplished a sense of voice and personality were selected for the Gold Category because they left the reader wondering about the writer. These pieces also left the reader sifting through images and deliberate word choices.They have beautiful and haunting images, and are tuned to reflect a cyclical nature of images or details. Pieces in the Gold Category had to have outstanding use of words, as well as command of imagery and details.

The Silver Category for Poetry accepted pieces that were very well executed, usually in a specific style of poetry or writing. This is to say that the piece was completed with good style, as well as form and some make very interesting literary references. They show a strong understanding of the elements needed to comprise a forceful and persuasive piece of poetry. Some of these pieces have phonetic exactness and deliberate writing of auditory details. These make the poems very strong, and resonant with a wide variety of readers. This category included pieces about fruit, and love, and hearts, and the ocean but they all left the reader with a strong sense of the author's voice and style.
The Bronze Category for Poetry included pieces that may have had some slight sense of confusion in the beginning, but resolved themselves by the end of the poem. This reflects

both the narrative intention of the writer, as well as the display of a kind of process in these pieces. These are particularly wonderful to encounter because the thinking and writing process is evident in these poems, and one is able to extricate the thoughts of the writer, and in a sense match them with the words of the poem. This allows for sustained and well developed images, as well as a kind of depth that stretches beneath them. These poems could be further developed through a focusing in on their subject matter, and cutting of superfluous deviations from their main images.

The Honorable Mention Category for Poetry included pieces that held either a strong idea, or an appealing way of writing. These pieces stood out among the submissions, but could have used some development on the idea in certain fields. Some of these pieces rotated around very specific topics, and lacked some refinement in their execution. Others were executed well and uniquely, but their topics could have used some sharpening. These writers show enormous potential for writing about specific ideas and should continue to develop their writing skills to include other mediums of writing, as well as a diversity of topics!

USE OF TYPE/IMAGE

Gold

Danielle Darby & Gianna Torre, Escapades, Wantagh HS
"Abandoned House"

Moriah Hixon & Staff, Escapades, Wantagh HS
"The Big Bang Theory and Blue Eyes"

David Zaitz and Brenna Kenney, Escapades, Wantagh HS
"Plop"

Kiara McDade, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Galaxy title page"

Silver

Colin McKenna, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"Galaxy contents"

Alex Natale, Tones, Tappan Zee HS, Orangeburg
"Darkness"

Bronze

Grace Gorenstein, Tones, Tappan Zee HS, Orangeburg
"Dear Mike"

Jesse Moses, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"This is a poem"

Monica Farrell, Perspective, Locust Valley HS
"The Garden"

HM

Kiara McDade, Galaxy, Brighton HS, Rochester
"How it ends/Aftermath"

Judge's Comments
>>*In all the winning entries, the designers married words and images to create layouts that were suggestive of the content. This is the great strength of literary magazines: the ability to combine imaginative visual images with appropriate layout and typography.*

NON-FICTION

Gold

Alex Natale, Tones, Tappan Zee HS, Orangeburg
"Darkness"

Alana Costello, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Beavers"

Emily Charleson, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"10 Things I, as a Writer, Never Want to Hear Again"

Silver

Maggie McEvoy, Tones, Tappan Zee HS, Orangeburg
"Ophelia and Hamlet: A Tragic Tale of Two Fish"

Sophie Browner, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
"Introspection"

Bronze

Marella Gayla, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
"Nice"

HM

Kira Carlee, Tones, Tappan Zee HS, Orangeburg
"Truth-telling Lies"

Andrew Card, Briars & Ivy, Briarcliff HS, Briarcliff Manor
"Change"

Judge's Comments
>>*The Gold Category for Fiction encompassed pieces that were singularly sharp and pithy. Writing fiction is not an easy task, especially at the age of a high school student, and pieces that were selected for the Gold Category show real promise as creative writers.They included a specifically unique way of viewing a specific idea or topic, and a compelling approach to this topic through their writing. The pieces of fiction that won the Gold Category were compelling, interesting and well put together. Most importantly, they left the reader with something once the piece was read.*

The Silver Category for Fiction was comprised of pieces that seem to have been written above a high school level. The ideas behind the pieces in this category were startling, in a very positive way, which is to say that they seemed advanced. These pieces were full of charm and detail in a way that seemed pleasantly beyond the writer's years. These pieces both contained very advanced and interesting content, as well as descriptive and well-structured writing. These pieces could be improved by a sharpening of their subject matter to weed out any loose or unneeded ideas, and keep the piece more succinct.

The Bronze Category for Fiction was a category to encompass fiction that posed an interesting and bright idea, but required further development for the idea to reach its full potential. These pieces began with compelling ideas, and in some senses, abstract ideas, and but lacked the necessary development required for fiction pieces. These pieces could be improved by continuing to brainstorm ideas on the subject, and trying to move past the first conclusion one comes to at the end of a writing piece, and stretching and reaching for something more.

The Honorable Mention Category for fiction was comprised of pieces that hinted at a good idea or held some essence of interesting craft. These pieces need further devotement of time and effort to improving them, but they were all composed of convincing seeds of ideas. They could be improved by thinking more about structure, in terms of how a structure might attract or dissuade an audience. Also, the pieces could be improved by additional details and descriptions to make them increasingly vivid. Nevertheless, pieces in this category were interesting and contained unique and substantial ideas for further writing.

SPECIALIZED CONTENT

Gold

Katie Ried, The Muse, Marymount School, New York City
"Photo/Essay Montage"

Giovanna Raffa, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Ceramic"

Emily Charleson, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Polymer Clay Roses and Wirework"

Silver

Lost Weekend: Pete Barell, Nick Minaltses, Zach Rowe & Richie Straub
Perspective, Locust Valley HS
"Sunken Toy Ships"

Kirsten Donovan, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Multimedia"

Blaine Garde, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Pastel and Photography"

Kirsten Donovan, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Ceramic"

Bronze

Emily Charleson, Fragments, Long Beach HS
"Untitled"

Judge's Comments
>>*The beauty of this category is its ability to reward outstanding work that can't necessarily be categozied anywhere else. Ceramic pieces, for instance, are quite imaginative and appropriately included in literary magazines. Winners also included song lyrics, a photo essay and a multimedia piece. Good to the staffs who made room for non-traditional content from talented students.*