



68th Otero Arts Festival Creative Writing Winners, 2024

Judge's Best Representative Work, Senior

Zoey Montoya
Title: You Don't Get the Vibe
Grade: 11, Essay
School: La Junta Jr/Sr High School
Instructor: Keri Robinson

Judge's Best Representative Work, Junior

Fernanda Oastir Seoukveda
Title: You Freed Me
Grade: 8, Short Story
School: Rocky Ford Jr/Sr High School
Instructor: Tammy Mameda

Otero College Creative Writing Scholarship

Ayden Sisneros
Titles: The Beauty of Mother Nature, Why Video Games can be Beneficial, The Clumsy Bandits
School: Rocky Ford Jr/Sr High School
Instructor: BeaJae Viescas

Otero College Creative Writing Scholarship Alternate

Ricky Pena
Titles: School Journey, Computer Science Field, Legality
School: Rocky Ford Jr/Sr High School
Instructor: BeaJae Viescas

Creative Books

Best Overall Book
Autumn Johnston
Title: The Ways of the West
School: Swink High School
Instructor: Bonnie Grossen

Most Original Book
Grant Pickering
Title: Twilight's Snare
School: Swink High School

Instructor: Bonnie Grossen

Most Creative Book

Jaqueline Becerra

Title: The Bird Squad

School: La Junta Jr/Sr High School

Instructor: Keri Robinson

Best Storyline Book

Madelyn Bamber

Title: Now or Never

School: Swink High School

Instructor: Bonnie Grossen

Honorable Mention Book

Lassett Barron-Apodaca

Title: Echoes of the Heart: To the Ones That Make Me Dream

School: Rocky Ford Jr/Sr High School

Instructor: BeaJae Viescas

Senior Portfolio

1st Place, Ayden Sisneros

Titles: The Beauty of Mother Nature, Why Video Games can be Beneficial, The Clumsy Bandits

School: Rocky Ford Jr/Sr High School

Instructor: BeaJae Viescas

2nd Place, Ricky Pena

Titles: School Journey, Computer Science Field, Legality

School: Rocky Ford Jr/Sr High School

Instructor: BeaJae Viescas

3rd Place, Cira Fowler

Titles: Red Means Hope, The Dream Became Reality, Under the Bridge

School: La Junta Jr/Sr High School

Instructor: Julie Meiklejohn

4th Place, Roman Vasquez

Titles: Halloween Town, National Dog Day, The Legend of Grogg

School: Rocky Ford Jr/Sr High School

Instructor: BeaJae Viescas

HM, Armando Guzman

Titles: Buddy, How Veterinarians Help the World, Lobos Adventure

School: Rocky Ford Jr/Sr High School

Instructor: BeaJae Viescas

Poetry

Grade 7

1st Place, Anabelle Pettinger

Title: Ode to the Bookworm, Vilas Re 5, Instructor: Darcy Alexander

2nd Place, Hunter Bennett

Title: Broken Hearted, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

3rd Place, Emma Covington

Title: Gratefulness, Swink School, Instructor: Charissa Trujillo

HM, Elizabeth Strieter

Title: My lovely Spooky, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

HM, Fatimah Mirakhor

Title: My Final Resting Place, Swink School, Instructor: Charissa Trujillo

HM, Tessa Smith

Title: Where I'm From, Rocky Ford Jr High School, Instructor: Tammy Mamedea

Grade 8

1st Place, Edleberto Aliasramitez (Toni)

Title: Fall, Manzanola Schools, Instructor: Ryanna Pruett

2nd Place, Sarayah Zamora

Title: Rainstorms, La Junta Jr High School, Instructor: Kellie Buhr

3rd Place, Katie Holloway

Title: Smile, La Junta Jr High School, Instructor: Kellie Buhr

HM, Justin Thompson

Title: Brother, La Junta Jr High School, Instructor: Kellie Buhr

HM, Ericka Kadlecek

Title: Sunrise to Sunset, La Junta Jr High School, Instructor: Kellie Buhr

HM, Graeson Bottini

Title: A Ride Deferred, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

Grade 9

1st Place, Dillon Pittman

Title: Care, Manzanola Schools, Instructor: Alana Holmes

2nd Place, Brilye Lovato

Title: Divine Symphony, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Sue Shelton

3rd Place, Cristian Rocha

Title: You Can't Control Me, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Sue Shelton

HM, Kaylee Bachman

Title: Italian Food, Campo School, Instructor: Darcy Alexander

HM, Louie Medina

Title: Waiting For Love, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Sue Shelton

HM, Benjamin Manchego

Title: Golf Game, Fowler High School, Instructor: Emily Moreland

Grade 10

1st Place, Madelyn Bamber

Title: Helpless, Swink School, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen

2nd Place, Daphne Mae Clarke

Title: Jealousy, Manzanola Schools, Instructor: Alana Holmes

3rd Place, Flynn Holmes

Title: The Watchers, Manzanola Schools, Instructor: Alana Holmes

HM, Kylee Romero

Title: Interwoven, Swink School, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen

HM, Lawren Johnson

Title: Banelli, Fowler High School, Instructor: Emily Moreland

HM, Kaleb Smith

Title: 60 Miles An Hour, La Junta High School, Instructor: Bill Schmidt

Grade 11

1st Place, Hunter Coon

Title: Depression, Vilas Re 5, Instructor: Darcy Alexander

2nd Place, Rylee Rodriguez

Title: Jenny, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuistion

3rd Place, Halina Crank

Title: Plague, Manzanola School, Instructor: Alana Holmes

HM, Jacqueline Becerra

Title: The Idea of One, La Junta High School, Instructor: Keri Robinson

HM, Adynn Ahumada

Title: Darkness, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuistion

HM, Drayton Grasmick

Title: John, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: BaeJae Viescas

Grade 12

1st Place, Michael Chambers

Title: The Fox and the Dove, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuistion

2nd Place, Michael Ramiez

Title: Little, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuistion

3rd Place, Sydney Carnes

Title: Can't Spell Funeral Without Fun, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuistion

HM, Kayla Allen

Title: Toys, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuistion

HM, Jansen Ediger

Title: Consequences, Swink Schools, Instructor: Robyn Wallace

HM, Nano Guitierrez

Title: Overwhelmed, Vilas Re 5, Instructor: Darcy Alexander

Essays

Grade 7

1st Place, Jacy Brown

Title: My dog Presley, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

2nd Place, Devin Thompson

Title: Cheese: The Supreme Dairy, Vilas Re 5, Instructor: Darcy Alexander

3rd Place, Ostyn Gilreath

Title: Black Holes, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

HM, Brody Fioretti

Title: Largemouth Bass, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

HM, Hunter Bennett

Title: Pokemon Lore, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

HM, Allie Johnson

Title: Mr. Tentacle, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

Grade 8

1st Place, Ericka Kadlecek

Title: A Tribute to My Grandpa, La Junta Jr High School, Instructor: Kellie Buhr

2nd Place, Lanae Romero

Title: Motherly Love, La Junta Jr High School, Instructor: Kellie Buhr
3rd Place, Tyfani Willis

Title: Peer Pressure, Vilas Re 5, Instructor: Darcy Alexander
HM, Luke Nantz

Title: Can Money Buy Happiness, Vilas Re 5, Instructor: Darcy Alexander
HM, Baylee Buford

Title: History of Volleyball, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower
HM, Bella Hagerman

Title: Colors, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

Grade 9

1st Place, Sabryna Su

Title: My Culture, Swink Schools, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen
2nd Place, Sarah Elmore

Title: The Woman, Campo School, Instructor: Darcy Alexander
3rd Place, Mia Mendoza

Title: Adaline Gray, Swink Schools, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen
HM, Kashlyn Blasingame

Title: Hebrews 11:1, Swink Schools, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen
HM, Emma Gacnik

Title: Oh Brother, Swink Schools, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen
HM, Damien Johnson

Title: Ocean Essay, Vilas Re 5, Instructor: Darcy Alexander

Grade 10

1st Place, Madelyn Bamber

Title: Would've, Could've, Should've, Swink Schools, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen
2nd Place, Isabella Pharr

Title: Martin Luther King Jr. in the Civil Rights Movement (Kid Version), Fowler High School, Instructor: Emily Moreland

3rd Place, Kaylee Romero

Title: Winter Daze, Swink Schools, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen
HM, Talula Wordell

Title: Democracy Over Dictatorship, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Sue Shelton
HM, Junior Kilburn

Title: History of Canada, Fowler High School, Instructor: Emily Moreland
HM, Jocelynn James

Title: Fear Has Two Meanings, Swink School, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen

Grade 11

1st Place, Zoey Montoya

Title: You Don't Get The Vibe, La Junta High School, Instructor: Keri Robinson
2nd Place, Courtnee Baylor

Title: Is Cocomelon Bad for Kids?, Fowler High School, Instructor: Emily Moreland
3rd Place, Madison Marsh

Title: Summer Rain Shower, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuiston
HM, Ilyanna Barraza

Title: Crackling Skies, La Junta High School, Instructor: Keri Robinson
HM, Ashlynn Cornell

Title: My Hero, Vilas Re 5, Instructor: Darcy Alexander
HM, Hagen McCuiston

Title: A Golf Shot, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuiston

Grade 12

1st Place, Marc Otero

Title: Zaijian, La Junta High School, Instructor: Julie Meiklejohn

2nd Place, Rashel Chavez

Title: Talking Trees, La Junta High School, Instructor: Julie Meiklejohn

3rd Place, Madison Medrano

Title: A Letter To My Younger Self, La Junta High School, Instructor: Julie Meiklejohn

HM, Will Marx

Title: Kubota, La Junta High School, Instructor: Julie Meiklejohn

HM, River Stover

Title: Life Lessons, La Junta High School, Instructor: Julie Meiklejohn

HM, Kloe Six

Title: Memories Left, La Junta High School, Instructor: Julie Meiklejohn

Short Stories

Grade 7

1st Place, Arabella McShannon

Title: The Rats, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

2nd Place, Anabelle Pettinger

Title: Death of Time, Vilas Re 5, Instructor: Darcy Alexander

3rd Place, Megan Spera

Title: Fierce, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

HM, Gabrielle Torrez

Title: The Hidden Bunker, Swink School, Instructor: Charissa Trujillo

HM, Devin Thompson

Title: Break-in Month, Vilas Re 5, Instructor: Darcy Alexander

HM, Bella Martinez

Title: Why you should dislike Christmas, Manzanola School, Instructor: Ryanna Pruett

Grade 8

1st Place, Fernanda Pastor Sepulveda

Title: You Freed Me, Rocky Ford Jr High, Instructor: Tammy Mamede

2nd Place, Luke Nantz

Title: The Night That Made a Universe, Vilas Re 5, Instructor: Darcy Alexander

3rd Place, Adriana Herrera

Title: The Black Drawing, Rocky Ford Jr High School, Instructor: Tammy Mamede

HM, Ava Camacho

Title: Carlos the Crab, Fowler Jr High School, Instructor: Paige Lower

HM, Alondra Hernandez Gonzalez

Title: A Tulip's Last Bloom, Rocky Ford Jr High, Instructor: Tammy Mamede

HM, Gilberto Ramos

Title: "Unholy Confessions", Manzanola School, Instructor: Ryanna Pruett

Grade 9

1st Place, Madalyn Tafoya

Title: 1..2..3, Swink Schools, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen

2nd Place, Sabryna Su

Title: When Everything Changed, Swink Schools, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen

3rd Place, Kashlyn Blasingame

Title: The Only Way Out is Through, Swink Schools, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen

HM, Rose Spano

Title: New Year Visitor, Swink Schools, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen
HM, David Diaz
Title: Dark Gravity, Manzanola School, Instructor: Alana Holmes
HM, Kory Pieper
Title: Sharkey's Adventures, Fowler High School, Instructor: Emily Moreland

Grade 10

1st Place, Bella Ortiz
Title: The Final Battle, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Sue Shelton
2nd Place, Julian Kiefer
Title: D-Day But The Nazi's Are Cats, Fowler High School, Instructor: Emily Moreland
3rd Place, Bailey Ward
Title: Lost in Space, La Junta High School, Instructor: Bill Schmidt
HM, Jocelynn James
Title: Aging, Swink Schools, Instructor: Bonnie Grossen
HM, Mallory Johnson
Title: Death and Friendship, Campo School, Instructor: Darcy Alexander
HM, Cayson Van Dyk
Title: The Way of the Missouri, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: Sue Shelton

Grade 11

1st Place, Sawyer Menz
Title: Hawks and Hummingbirds, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: BeaJae Viescas
2nd Place, Donavyn West
Title: The Blood-Stained Wine Glass, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: BeaJae Viescas
3rd Place, David Pentlicki
Title: Antequam Dormiam, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: BeaJae Viescas
HM, Jacqueline Becerra
Title: Abigail Salem, La Junta High School, Instructor: Keri Robinson
HM, Cael True
Title: Fishing Trip, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuistion
HM, Trent James Rook
Title: The Story, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuistion

Grade 12

1st Place, Malaki Rael
Title: Addiction, Swink School, Instructor: Robyn Wallace
2nd Place, Sydney Carnes
Title: Long Live the King, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuistion
3rd Place, Michael Chambers
Title: I Run a Dog Sitting Business. I Think It Was A Mistake., Fowler High School,
Instructor: Lacy McCuistion
HM, Elizabeth Stroede
Title: The abandoned fairground, La Junta High School, Instructor: Julie Meiklejohn
HM, Esteban Ortega
Title: Mythic Gods, Rocky Ford High School, Instructor: BeaJae Viescas
HM, Macy Cash
Title: Check Engine Light, Fowler High School, Instructor: Lacy McCuistion