

Carlie Lee  
Missouri School for the Blind  
(314) 633-1562  
Carlie.Lee@msb.dese.mo.gov

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## Missouri School for the Blind Students Take Prizes in Wolfner Library Teen Poetry Contest

**St. Louis:** Two (2) students from Missouri School for the Blind (MSB) took awards for their original poetry submissions to Wolfner Library's second annual Teen Poetry Contest. Dionna Towns, 12th grader and granddaughter of Alice Ellis of St. Louis, Missouri, won Second Place for her poem "Pain." Nicole Motley, 9th grader and daughter of Richard and Rebekah Motley of Dover, Missouri, took Third Place for her poem "Father." Both poems are printed below.

Wolfner Library received nine (9) poems from six (6) teen patrons. Wolfner Library staff reviewed the poems and Walter Bargaen, Missouri's first Poet Laureate, judged them. Winners received a plush doll of Wolfie, Wolfner Library's mascot, and their poems were printed in the Wolfner Library SPRING 2018 newsletter, audio recorded, and transcribed into braille.

**About Wolfner Library:** Wolfner Library is a free library service for Missourians who are unable to use standard print materials due to a visual or physical disability. Materials are mailed to and from library patrons at their homes, postage paid. There is no charge, whatsoever, to the patron. Currently, over 11,000 Missourians actively use Wolfner Library. The library's collection includes fiction and nonfiction audio and braille books for all ages. Over seventy (70) magazine subscriptions are available, and the library loans playback machines to those using audio books.

**About MSB:** Missouri School for the Blind offers educational and outreach services for legally blind Missouri children from birth through age 21 and their families. MSB is operated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the State of Missouri and its services are free of charge. MSB's services are concentrated in two areas – its centerbase kindergarten-grade 12 school in St. Louis, Missouri, and its Outreach services offered throughout the state.

### Second Place:

"Pain" by Dionna Towns  
September brought me pain  
October brought me heartbreak  
November brought me tears  
December brought me scars  
January brought me flashbacks  
February brought me smiles  
March brought me questions  
April brought me death  
May brought me loneliness

June brought me disappointments  
July brought me pain  
It all hurts the same

**Third Place:**

“Father” by Nicole Motley  
I’ve been sailing the waves  
Too many times the dark caved  
But I’m okay, I’m saved  
Because I’m following the path you paved

When the path gets blurry  
Not to worry  
I won’t get scared and scurry  
I’m in no hurry

I try to be the perfect daughter  
You’re already the perfect father  
Sometimes I wonder why you bother  
Then it hits me like ten gallons of water

Even if you can’t hear  
I’ll always be endeared  
The path will still be clear  
You will be held very dear

Even if you’re not here  
You are still the very best  
Put to the test  
Greatest father ever.