

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

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.