New Mexico Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest

New Mexico Poetry Out Loud is made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation. It is produced and directed in New Mexico by the state arts agency New Mexico Arts, in accordance with their agreement with the Endowment.

The competition begins at the high school classroom level and progresses to a school competition. School champions move on to the state finals, which are held each winter in Santa Fe.

The state champion receives a cash prize of $200 and the champion’s school receives $500 for the purchase of poetry books for the school library. The state champion and chaperone also receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington DC to represent New Mexico at the National Finals.

This year 1600 students began the competition. This book features the ten state finalists and the people who make it all possible. Gracias y felicidades a todos!

Phyllis Kennedy, Program Coordinator

Illustration, Frank Buffalo Hyde
Poster Design, Camila Kennedy
Tim Keller Photography
Amy is interested in public speaking, playing trumpet, and hiking. She hopes to succeed in college and become an effective educator. Her favorite writers are J.K. Rowling and Orson Scott Card.
Calmly We Walk through This April’s Day
By Delmore Schwartz

The Arrow and the Song
By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Burning the Old Year
By Naomi Shihab Nye
Lizzy is interested in the sciences, drawing, reading, building cool stuff, and origami. Her dreams for the future include getting a degree in chemical engineering and becoming a neurosurgeon. She would like to minor in technical theatre. Her favorite authors are Sarah J. Maas, Marie Lu, and Edgar Allan Poe.
Lizzy Enos
Bosque School. Grade 10
Kevin Cummins, Teacher

*Self-Portrait*
By Chase Twichell

*Invictus*
By William Ernest Henley

*Respiration*
By Jamaal May
Micah Wong
Arrowhead Park Early College High School, Grade 10
Kernie Zimmerman and Reyes Duran, Teachers

*The Salutation*
By Thomas Traherne

*Momma Said*
By Calvin Forbes

*Infelix*
By Adah Isaacs Menken
Playing soccer, singing, studying human anatomy and physiology are Micah's most common pastimes. He dreams of pursuing soccer in college and, later, becoming a doctor or physical therapist. His favorite writers and filmmakers are C.S. Lewis, J.R. Tolkien, Walter Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Christopher Nolan, Steven Spielberg, Stanley Kubrick, and Wes Anderson.
Delia Bradley
Public Academy for Performing Arts, Grade 9
Josh Heard, Teacher

Semi-Splendid
By Tracy K. Smith

April Midnight
By Arthur Symons

Beautiful Wreckage
By W.D. Ehrhart
Delia’s interests and hobbies are acting, writing, singing & playing musical instruments – piano, guitar, violin. In the future she hopes to open a business in fashion merchandising. Her favorite poet is Rupi Kaur and her favorite author is Dodie Clark.
Hannah Binder
Sandia Prep, Grade 10
Brian Tregembo, Teacher

A Song: Lying is an occupation
By Laetitia Pilkington

Eating Poetry
By Mark Strand

Broken Promises
By David Kirby
Hannah’s hobbies and interests are writing, photography, drawing and painting. She hopes to become a therapist for teens and have a family. Her favorite writers are Rupi Kaur, Courtney Peppernell, J.K. Rowling, and Rick Riordan.
Samantha says, “I am interested in outer space and black holes. In my spare time I crochet. I also collect vinyl records.” In the future she hopes to work in the astrophysics field and study gravitational waves, or become a satellite engineer. Her favorite authors are Charles Bukowski, Sylvia Plath, Rupi Kaur, Kurt Vonnegut, and J. K. Rowling. Samantha was also a state finalist in 2016.
Samantha Baca
Pojoaque Valley High School,
Grade 11
Joshua Robbins, Teacher

*The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls*
By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*La Figlia che Piange*
By T. S. Eliot

*Dead Butterfly*
By Ellen Bass
Zoe Sloan Callan, First Place
Native American
Community Academy, Grade 9
Kat Page and
Emily Beenen, Teachers

Abecedarian Requiring Further
Examination of Anglikan Seraphym
Subjugation of a Wild Indian
Rezervation
By Natalie Diaz

The New Colossus
By Emma Lazarus

Famous
By Naomi Shihab Nye
Zoe's interests are reading and writing (primarily fiction), cooking, arts and crafts, performing, community activism, babysitting, swimming, and roller derby. “I love Vivian French and the illustrator Ross Collins’ books,” she says. “I also enjoy Anna M. Martin’s book series. I love Shel Silverstein and Emma Lazarus’ poetry, also Natalie Diaz and Tanaya Winder. I’m a huge fan of the Harry Potter series and almost anything by Rick Riordan.”
Destiny enjoys painting, drawing, and watching anime. Her dream for the future is to find a job that includes art or theatre in some way. Her favorite author is R.L. Stein, the Goosebump books.
Destiny Gonzales,
Second Place
Oñate High School, Grade 12
Tim Staley, Teacher

*On Monsieur’s Departure*
By Queen Elizabeth I

*Please Don’t*
By Tony Hoagland

*Tiger Mask Ritual*
By Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
Arin's interests include writing, reading, painting, and makeup. In the future they hope to be a writer or makeup artist. Their favorite writers are J.K. Rowling and Agatha Christie.
Arin Meis, Third Place
Highland High School,
Grade 10
Heather McGuire, Teacher

*The Wish, By a Young Lady*
By Laetitia Pilkington

*Caged Bird*
By Maya Angelou

"I think I should have loved you presently"
By Edna St. Vincent Millay
Samantha Delap
La Cueva High School, Grade 12
Martha Bedeaux, Teacher

The Obligation to Be Happy
By Linda Pastan

Thoughtless Cruelty
By Charles Lamb

Sanctuary
By Jean Valentine
Samantha’s interests include dancing for the La Cueva Las Ositas, reading, painting, and New Mexico Youth Rugby. One day she hopes to enter the Peace Corps in anticipation of a career as a U.S. diplomat. Her favorite writers are Sarah J. Maas, Iain S. Thomas, and Rupi Kaur.
Special Guest Artist
Alice Blumenfeld, Abrepano Flamenco, performing Chrysalis.

Chrysalis was created as part of a year-long project from 2015-16 exploring what it means to choreograph flamenco-based movements to music from any genre other than flamenco.

Music: “Yanzi (swallow song)” by Yo-yo Ma
Costume design and creation:
Alice Blumenfeld
Volunteers Jesse Yelvington, Sarita Gonzales, Angel Gil Lopez, Mia Rivera.