

*2014 West Virginia
Young Writers Contest
Anthology*



Introduction

We proudly present the anthology of the 2014 West Virginia Young Writers contest. It highlights the stories of eighteen students who first won in their counties in their grade level divisions and then won at the state level. These young writers represent counties from all around the state. Included are the winners of first, second, and third place in each grade level category.

The West Virginia Young Writers Contest has honored excellent writing by our state's students in grades one through twelve for over 30 years. The contest is an initiative of West Virginia's National Writing Projects and supported by the West Virginia Department of Education. University of Charleston also provides invaluable support by hosting Young Writers Day. The 2014 contest was directed by Paul Epstein, Co-director of Central West Virginia Writing Project with assistance from the West Virginia Department of Education. A Steering Committee, made up of volunteers named on the following page, also offered invaluable support and advice.

West Virginia Young Writers Contest and Young Writers Day are initiatives of West Virginia's National Writing Project sites whose mission is to improve the teaching of writing and learning in West Virginia schools. To learn more about their professional development programs, visit the websites listed below.

Central WV Writing Project:	www.marshall.edu/cwvwp
NWP at WVU:	nwp.wvu.edu

Sponsors

*West Virginia Department of Education
Marshall University Graduate College of Education and Professional Development
University of Charleston
With assistance from Mountain State Press and The Charleston Gazette*

Acknowledgements

WV Young Writers Contest Steering Committee

Dr. Elizabeth Campbell, Marshall University South Charleston Campus

Paul Epstein, Director, Central WV Writing Project and WV Young Writers Contest

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Charlotte Webb, Coordinator of Early Learning, West Virginia Department of Education

Dr. Letha Zook, Provost, University of Charleston

WV Young Writers Contest Judges, 2014

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Mellissa Duncan

Tiffany Fellure

Debbie Goff

Anne Johnson

Emily Patterson

Rebecca Ryder

Cyndi Smith

Thea Smith

Brianne Vandal

Judges are teachers associated with National Writing Project sites in West Virginia.

Editor of the 2014 WV Young Writers Anthology

Barbara Norvell

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The Ravenous Elephant

Aleecia Shelton

Flemington Elementary School, Taylor County

Teacher: Kathleen Jones

1st Place Winner (Grades 1-2)

GROWL...GRUMBLE...RUMBLE...ROAR! What a racket! Frank, the colossal pink elephant was starving! It had been a while since he last ate. He decided to call his friend, Lulu, the awesome green dog, to come to McDonald's with him. Frank was dreaming about their juicy chicken nuggets, delicious Big Mac, and yummy French fries.

When they got there, the famished elephant could not fit in the teeny tiny door. It was driving him crazy because he could smell all the scrumptious burgers and the wonderful shakes. "What will I do?" wondered Frank. Lulu tried as hard as she could to push him in, but that did not work. Frank was just too enormous!

Next, they called May the mixed-up monkey, but she did not know what to do either. She was too busy eating plump yellow bananas to concentrate on the problem. So, they called Carla the amazing red zebra to help them. Carla had an incredible idea! This is what she said, "You have to back up and ran as fast as a cheetah through that door!"

So, Frank backed up and sprinted toward McDonald's. CRASH! The glass on the door shattered into millions of tiny pieces. The pink elephant feels miserable now because he destroyed the door at McDonald's, but he is also joyful because he finally got his food! Now Frank is no longer hungry, and all is peaceful!

The Chicken

Elijah Williamson

Wayne Elementary School, Wayne County

Teacher: Mrs. Lynn Ferguson

2nd Place Winner (Grades 1-2)