

2013 Young Poets Contest

The Nature Society put on its first Young Poets Contest this past April. Because April is National Poetry Month, we thought this would be the perfect time to introduce the concept of art and nature to young people.

The contest was open to all students in the Royal Oak Public Schools in grades 2 through 5. Their subject had to be nature themed. The quality of the work submitted was outstanding. The judges did not have an easy task. We had three judges this year: Regis Kleiss, Diana Wing and Robert Kantz. Each judge selected three finalists and then they all chose one winner. The 2013 winner was Sophia Papp, a fifth grader at Northwood Elementary. Her poem, "If I Were Nature," and the other finalists' poems can be found by going to this [link](#). This contest will be an annual event, and we look forward to see what the 2014 entrants will submit.

2014 Young Poets Contest

The Nature Society held our Young Poets Contest in April, 2014. Because April is National Poetry Month, we thought this would be the perfect time to introduce the concept of art and nature to young people.

The contest was open to all students in the Royal Oak Public Schools in grades 3 through 5. Their subject had to be nature themed. The quality of the work submitted was again outstanding. The judges did not have an easy task. We had four judges this year – Anton Anderssen, Diana Wing, Sharon Dargay and Lauren Merriam. Each judge selected one finalist and then they all chose two favorites from the four finalists and one winner. The 2014 winner was Samuel Pierce, a third grader at Addams Elementary. His poem, "The train, the bear, and the tree", and the other finalists' poems can be found by going to this [link](#). This contest will be an annual event and we look forward to see what the 2015 entrants have for us.

2015 Young Poets Contest

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The contest was open to all students in the Royal Oak Public Schools in grades 3 through 5. Their subject had to be nature themed. The quality of the work submitted was again outstanding. The judges did not have an easy task. We had four judges this year – Anton Anderssen, Diana Wing, Sharon Dargay and Lauren Merriam. Each judge selected one finalist and then they all chose two favorites from the four finalists and one winner. The 2015 winner was Ramona Cronkite, a third grader at Addams Elementary. Her poem, "Beaver", and the other finalists' poems can be found by going to this [link](#). This contest is an annual event and we look forward to see what the 2016 entrants have for us.