



When I write, I am learning how to understand, how to believe, how to conquer, and how to grow. Winning the CLA creative writing competition has embedded in me a desire to keep searching for knowledge, to keep working towards my purpose, and to keep writing for personal development. I only hope I can touch others the way great literary giants such as Margaret Walker have touched me. Thank you, CLA.

Chantel Eva Mitchell, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
First place winner, Poetry
Dr. Betty-Taylor Thompson, Sponsor

Being the 2nd place winner in the poetry category is very important to me because it not only builds my confidence as a writer, but encourages me to pursue writing in the future. Writing is what I have always wanted to do, but now I have a reason to pursue it seriously.

Tiffany M. Jackson, Abilene Christian College
Second place winner, Poetry
Dr. Rhonda Collier, Sponsor



Thank you for honoring me for my poetry. This has inspired me to continue writing and maybe consider a writing career. Thank you and your committee so much for choosing me as the third place winner in the poetry division.

Bonna King-Ware, Albany State University
Third place winner, Poetry
Dr. Mary Gervin, Sponsor

Over the years, I have written a couple of poems, but I . . . never thought of taking part in a poetry contest. When I learned about this contest, I was a little bit hesitant to submit my poems,



but then I went for it because I wanted to share some of my writings. I was excited when I was told that I had won a prize. I think that to be recognized in doing something well is even a greater award than the prize itself. Participating in this contest was definitely a great experience and being one the winners was also a great honor.

Marie-Claude Marianne Dit Gerard Joseph, Florida Atlantic University
Honorable Mention, Poetry

Dr. Mary Ann Gosser Esquilin, Sponsor

It is an honor to win 1st place at CLA. If more students were recognized for their writing abilities, it might prompt other students to want to do well in literature.

James Jones, Albany State University
First Place winner, Short Story
Dr. Doris Davenport, Sponsor

Winning a place in any contest is always an inspiration to keep writing and to keep striving to make my work better. It's encouraging to see that people I've never met responded to my story and thought it was worthy of recognition. Although it's often difficult to find the time and confidence to submit writing to contests like these, it was a good experience and I plan to encourage other writers to consider this contest. I'm also very grateful to my sponsor, Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory at the University of Houston, for going the extra mile to help me enter my story. I hope the CLA continues to offer the contest to students for many years to come.



Kelsie Hahn, University of Houston
Second place winner, Short Story
Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, Sponsor



I am grateful to the CLA for offering these awards each year. I've been writing for as long as I can remember and for many years, I would only share my work with my mother and other family members. Receiving this award forced me to move out of my comfort zone and share my work, and by all means, continue writing.

Shantee Woodards, Morgan State University
Third place winner, Short Story
Dr. Monifa A. Love, Sponsor
