

2008 Northeast Texas Poetry Contest Student Winners

Sponsored by Elliott Chrysler Dodge of Mount Pleasant

Winning Student Poem Adriana Lopez's

Weather

Clouds weep from the heavens above

we feel like strangers in our own land
no we are not like the rest of Them
we do not love the razor-sharp prairie
we do not sing Home On the Range like an anthem
we do not dream of vast rolling oceans of mesquite and
epic cattle ranches or
mystical mustang herds
we do not drink the holy waters of the Brazos Pecos or Colorado
no we are aliens
nobody knows who we are
we do not belong here

III

Land of peace and paradox
charming courthouses and town squares
bed-and-breakfasts
football
low taxes
“family values”
Spanish moss
lots of churches
rolling green pastures
Southern hospitality
sweet-smelling pine cedar oak sweetgum forests
sweet tea
humble muddy creeks and streams
fried chicken
serene meadows
but also

never-

destined to be
mystery

Third Place Poem by Maria Chavez

"Northeast Texas Eden"

In the neglected land there exists a northeastern Eden.
Precious not with stones or gold, but life.

Oaks, Pines, and cypress, giants in the land
Waving in the wind, gently caressing the sky.
Bushes shrubs and ivy rustling down below,
Critters scurry something spooks,...
Deers in the clearing, shhh don't move.

Walk through the deer trotted path and you'll find,
Quietly settled amongst giants, mystical mirrors
Reflecting the beauty around.
Fishes, toads, and turtles, gliding inside,
Swimming, eating, and breathing, surviving in Eden.

Across the green lake there's an old dusty road,
That leads to an old dusty town, A tiny, historic, old town with

buildings right and left. bR2 (htu0 (i)-2 (n.)0mdus)u.d (i)-2 (c)4n)-0 (g)0 (t)-2 gd dust (a)4A0 (ht)-2

Charging the daylight
Violent swirls and shadow
Beating all life into submission

Greater than I
Or are we equals?
Rain and wind, my brother and sister
Casting your crowns upon my head

You speak between the breaths of life
Uttering your secrets
Are you spirit, brother and sister?
Who is your maker?

I rose from brother rain
I am water
I move with sister wind
I am air
I speak as god of thunder
I am fire
I drink as mother earth

Kiss me with your forceful ways
Texas thunderstorm in May.

Poetry Judges:

Chuck Hamilton

Our Northeast Texas Poetry Contest Chair is an Associate Professor of English at Northeast Texas Community College. Hamilton has edited and written for numerous magazines and newspapers, and is a participant in Texas Renaissance Festivals.

Jim Swann

Jim Swann is a professor of Spanish at NTCC. He is a two-time nominee of the NTCC faculty for the prestigious Minnie Piper Award for teaching, and has been a great fan of poetry in both English and Spanish.

Anna Ingram

Anna Ingram taught English at Mount Vernon High School for sixteen years, before teaching full-time this year at Northeast Texas Community College. Born in Arlington, Texas, she prefers the quiet landscapes of Northeast Texas.