2014 Northeast Texas Poetry Contest Student Winners

Student First Place, \$400 Kelli Knepp

Northeast Texas: Through the Eyes of a Child

Student Second Place, \$300

Miranda Mendoza

Northeast Texas Storm

That day I awoke before the sun
But soon my world was tinged a smoky blue
The air was hot, heavy, and humid
And yet the grass was dry

First warning of a Texas Storm

The ducks were gossiping contentedly until I came to them Seeing me

Second sign of a Texas storm

It was windy
And that was strange
The air had been still for days
Quit for days
No movements for days
The air had felt thick to breathe

The wind swept the sunny day clouds away
The wind was sweet relief from the hebetudinous
Humid still heavy air
That I had become used to breathing
The sky was blue
Clear blue
Blue like the sky in a cartoon
Hot sunny day blue

I began to doubt the pink sky morning
The ducks
The cats
The weatherman I ignored anyway
That I doubted him was redundant

The wind prepared the way for the storm
Her majesty the Texas storm
The wind had cleared the sky
Then brought more noble clouds to attend her
Soon the queen, the storm, would come
And all must show respect
The storm could kill
Give life
Her majesty the Texas storm

Soon the air was yellow And the thunder rumbled Slowly, quietly, far off At first Then it was banging, crashing Lightning flashing The great big sky was grey Black Blue Dark Foreboding Warning Growing Empty and full Larger than life Cold and frightening But cool and inviting

The beauty of a Texas storm

Oh sweet relief from heat of summer Sweet, sweet, cool falling water
I sat reading
Resting
Waiting
For the calm after the storm

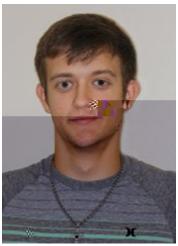
The power dulled and flickered But the flashlight was on hand

> Quilts Cocoa

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Cold cool
Seen the rainbow
Heard the amphibian choir singing
Seen the plants grow greener
Brighter
In the calm after the storm
I have survived the raging of the storm
Loved the beauty of the Texas storm

Weather changes
Like a bad temper
Here
In this land that I call home
Hot and humid
Dry and sunny
Windy right before the storm
I love the beauty of the storm
The raging beauty of the Northeast Texas Storm.



Student Third Place, \$200 Tyler Reynolds

The Abandonment of the Firefly

I awake from my slumber.

I attempt to return to my dream, but sleep refuses to greet me.

The silence of the night is too loud.

I arise in my bed and gaze toward my window.

I notice a glimmer of light piercing through my blinds.

My curiosity overwhelms my desire for sleep.

I open my back door and I am met with the mugginess of an August night.

My senses overwhelm me.

I am taken aback by the aliveness that accompanies an evening in northeast Texas.

A creek lay ahead, where minnows swim uncaught

Natural debris float along the waterway
Red, yellow, orange colors drift, acorns bob downstream.
Their end destinations grouped with their impact are hard to know
Maybe to survive, they sail from the Caddo

Whitetail tracks litter the clay mix waterbed
Theses prints could be a record, but blend slowly back
Small herds roam the thick vegetation in a reserved manner
They graze quietly; their ears apt for danger
So much around us happens without concern
Life maintains itself quite well, despite human wrecks
Amazing collaborations take place free from instructions

Student Runner-Up, \$50

Zachary Davis Summer's Charge

As I wa

She smiles, and replies simply "You promised to mow and weed-eat"