



47th ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST Award Ceremony May 19, 2022



Youth Services Division
Silas Bronson Library
267 Grand Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
203-574-8213
www.bronsonlibrary.org/kids

**SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY
47TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST
AWARDS CEREMONY
MAY 19, 2022**

Library Director: Raechel Guest

Silas Bronson Library

Clivel Charlton, Head of Children, Adult, & Teen Services
Anne Zadora, Librarian & Poetry Contest Coordinator
Juleigh Paradise, Children's Librarian
Kyle Garcia, Librarian

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Meet the Librarians

Mr. Clivel Charlton, Head of Children, Adult & Teen Services —

Clivel Charlton has been the Head of Children and Teen Services at the Silas Bronson Library for approximately ten years. He is also the Interim Head of Adult Information Services. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations of staff, programs and activities in the Adult, Teen and Children's Divisions. He is also responsible for the creation of programs and is the liaison in community partnerships. Clivel has twenty-plus years of library experience amid working for the New York Public Library and Silas Bronson Library.

A champion of children's literacy, he enjoys introducing the very young to books through stories and rhymes. An advocate for early literacy, he believes his job is to inspire young people to be the best they can be, and to learn as much as possible. He says the library holds a plethora of ideas within its walls and can spark the flame for a reader to become a game changer.

Miss Juleigh Paradise, Children's Librarian — Miss Juleigh has been a children's librarian for twenty-two years! Her mother instilled in her family a love of reading by taking the time to read to them every night at bedtime. A lover of the arts, she loves dancing, walking, and of course, reading. Her other hobbies are collecting owls, lighthouses, and ladybugs.

Ms. Anne Zadora, Children & YA Librarian — Youth Librarian, and poetry contest facilitator, Ms. Anne is as inquisitive as the patrons she meets. She believes there is no such thing as "not a reader" only a reader who has not met the right story. A lifelong reader, she loves finding new authors to read and share with others. Outside of the library life, Ms. Anne is an avid crafter, mom, animal lover and a collector of literature inspired art prints.

Kyle Garcia, Children & YA Librarian— New to Children & Youth Services, but not the library, Kyle Garcia has joined our team.



JUDGES

Jim Geary

Jim Geary is a lifelong resident of Waterbury Connecticut. He attended St. Mary Grammar School, Sacred Heart High School and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Post University. Jim is a member of a very large Irish family who settled in Waterbury generations ago. Jim started his career path working for North American Bank that had its main office on Grand Street in Waterbury. After finishing college Jim taught 6th grade at St Mary Grammar School. Several years ago his career path changed and he now works for the City of Waterbury Bureau of Recreation. Jim lives in Bunker Hill with his other half.

Dr. Angela Holmes, Ed.D.

Angela Holmes is a lifelong resident of Waterbury, she is an educator, mother of two beautiful daughters, and parent advocate in the Brass City. Along with her daughter, Dr. Holmes is the co-founder of the nonprofit, Works of Faith, Inc. that operated in Waterbury Opportunities Industrialization Center (WOIC) on 7-79 Bishop Street in Waterbury, Connecticut. Works of Faith Inc. is a community-based non-profit focused on educating our youth, strengthening families and individuals, empowering parents in leadership and outreach to people in need. She is a returning judge this year, and is honored to be part of this year's as well.

From the Librarian's Desk

It is a joy, and an honor to continue the tradition of organizing and facilitating the poetry contest. For forty-seven years, Waterbury students have been sharing their creativity, their honesty and their humor with their community at large. This year's crop of winners has shared a glimpse into their world that no adult who reads it will be unmoved by. Their creativity has moved me, much as it does each year as I compiled this keepsake for your families.

While I have the distinct pleasure of being the contest facilitator, the truth is, without the support of the Silas Bronson Library staff, our judges, Waterbury parents, Waterbury Public School Board of Education, Waterbury teachers and staff, and students, there would be no contest.

Please join me in celebrating the creative minds of the Waterbury students and congratulating each of them on a job well done.

Ms. Anne



SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

46TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

Themes by Grade

Kindergarten—Third Grade

- 1) Animals
- 2) My Favorite Thing
- 3) Haiku

Grades Four—Six

- 1) Spooky, Scary Things
- 2) Make a Haiku
- 3) What's your Ideal World?

Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Make a Haiku
- 2) Social Media—Hero or Zero?
- 3) What Empowers you to be Fierce?

SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

45TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

FIRST PRIZE WINNERS

Grade

K	Scarlett Marzella
1	Sebastian O. Rodriguez
2	Margarita Madore
3	Hailey Caceres
4	Kivanc Ozen
5	Fiona Riley
6	Molly Crossley
7	Arianna Mennillo
8	Emma Moozar

All poems appear as they were received

Cats

Cats eat food

Cats are in a good mood

And if you don't play with them

They will fall asleep

Scarlett Marzella

Kindergarten

Happy Tail

*I have a dog
His name is Cail.
When he sees me,
He moves his tail*

*I bring him for a walk
In the park
He sees his friends
And started to bark.*

*My dog was happy,
Moving his tail.
When I saw them
All together,
They all have a happy tail.*

Sebastian O. Rodriguez

Grade 1

Spooky

Spooky is my cat,
He is white and black.
He was very scared at 12 weeks old,
So, he ran and hid.
But, sooner or later Spooky got bold.
He came out of hiding,
And started running and climbing.
His favorite place to sleep is under my bed,
In his brown fluffy cat bed.
He loves to give big hugs,
And he is a great cuddle bug.
Now, he is such a sweet big boy,
That, loves to play with his toys.
Spooky gets so spooked out,
And that's without a doubt.

Margarita Madore

Grade 2

Important rules

Here are some rules for you and me

See how important they can be

Always be honest, be kind and fair

Always be good and willing to share

*These are rules we should all know we follow these rules
wherever we go!*

Hailey Caceres

Grade 3

The Bat

The mammal flies in the dark

The bat is quite a fright

It usually hangs out in the night

It sleeps upside down

On its face is a frown

In grammar a bat is a noun

When you go out for trick or treat

You see it on the street

If you get scared, retreat

The bat has a small nose

Under the moonlight it glows

It flies away when the wind blows

Kivanc Ozen

Grade 4

Wonderful Things

*In my ideal world, there are
Jungle girls, with pretty curls.
There are kitty-cats with
Funny hats, and there are
Sparkly dresses with gems and ruffely hems.
And also beaches with big blue waves, and
chocolate caves. And kind people who like to
wave. I will be there to, with you!*

*Fiona Riley,
Grade 5*

There's no going back to the life before,
Wait and see what your future has in store,
No one can claim that they know,
Because deep down, they don't.

You feel like life is a thing to rush,
But think on all the things that make it so lush,
You were made for a reason you know,
So take pride in your life, never let go

Years seem to pass by faster than ever,
But remember what changed your life for the better,
Maybe big, maybe small,
None of that matters at all.

Bad things happen to all,
But let them roll off you like a little ball,
People may tell you about their day,
But let them in so they won't be afraid.

Molly Crossley
Grade 6

Girls

*I really love to be fierce but everyone thinks we can be pierced
But their hurtful words are just overpowering us girls
They don't understand how they demand
us to be perfect and all that does, is defect
Our fierceness and we are not that fearless
But what empowers me to be fierce is when I can go to school
And have people cheering me on
but all the girls want ot live once upon a time
But no one thinks that we are prime
So all the girls need to listen up because we are tough and we
are fierce.*

Arianna Mennillo

Grade 7

Starving

“Download social media. It will be fun!” they said.

Now I’m crying as I scroll through comments in my bed.

The comments sometimes read—“You are so cute. A queen on her throne!”

Little do they know, I starved myself to the bone.

Posting and posting, checking what people say,

One hurtful comment can ruin a person’s day.

As I scroll through my friends’ posts, I see they’re all together.

Wow they look so good, they’re all like Heathers.

But why was I not invited? Aren’t I their friend?

Sometimes friendships must come to an end,

Thoughts flood my mind: Am I not good enough? Am I too fat?

No, no, it must not be that.

I start to overthink and get kind of anxious,

Nothing else can fill my mind, not even blankness.

I look at myself in the mirror, wondering why.

Why do I look like this?

Why do I want to die?

I wish I looked like them.

Skinny, pretty and bright like a gem.

I start slowly obsessing over little things,

My hair, my weight the food I bring.

I take a step on the scale and see the numbers,

Now I won’t go to bed or get any slumber.

Download social media, but see where it got me,

Alone sickly and afraid of she.

Emma Moozar

Grade 8

SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

46TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

HONORABLE MENTION

Grade

- K Maxwell Morrison**
- 1 Akeem Clarke, Jr.**
- 2 Joshua Smith**
- 3 Victoria Footman**
- 4 Kai Sevilla**
- 5 Michael Hartnett**
- 6 Marc Matias**
- 7 Josephine Andonellis**
- 8 Robin McIntosh**

All poems appear as they were received

Batman

Batman saves Robin

He fights the bad guys

He saves Bruce Wayne

Superheroes save the world

Maxwell Morrison

Kindergarten

Fun

The game was fun.

We play in the sun

*I am good at playing tag,
so that why I brag.*

*I am not ready to go.
he ask to play soccer I said no.*

*I have to go home.
I will call you on a phone.*

Akeem Clarke, Jr.

Grade 1

*Quietly sleeping.
Cuddling, petting softly.
No barking good boy!*

*Joshua Smith
Grade 2*

My Favorite Things

I like rain but it is too plain.

*I like mars and stars but
they are pretty far! I want
to fly to the sky to see the
moon with my own eyes.
And look at butterflies.*

Victoria Footman

Grade 3

Silky Dew

*Blanketing the grass
The soft dew in the morning
It feels like woven silk.*

Kai Sevilla

Grade 4

Springtime

Spring time full of cheer

Flowers blossom in the air

Beautiful sunset

Michael Hartnett

Grade 5

My Ideal World

*My ideal world
With birds and trees
Try to picture it
Can't you see?
It's not the best
Some people disagree
But to me i see
My ideal world
A perfect prodigy.*

Marc Matias

Grade 6

The Fire Deep Within

The love that burns deep inside
For the ones that you hold dear
Keeps you going,
On your hardest and darkest days
As a fire deep within

Josephine Andonellis

Grade 7

Can I Be Pretty?

*A girl one day sat on her bed,
While silently judging herself in her head.*

*Using her thumbs to scroll away,
From the media posts she sees everyday;*

*Germinating tears in her eyes,
She contemplates her role in others lives;*

*Staring in the wide bathroom mirror,
Her mind drowns with "Do I deserve dinner?";*

*With her puffy and swollen eyes,
Her mom asks why she hears her silent cries*

*I wish I was a pretty girl,
And maybe I could give this thing a whirl,*

*You may question, "What is this thing?",
It shows what the real world happens to bring;*

*Social media can hurt you;
But you the only one it can pursue.*

*Girls in those posts can be pretty,
Don't let them tell you if you are pretty.*

*Robin McIntosh
Grade 8*

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

The Friends contribute a variety of materials, equipment and services not financed in the annual city budget. They also provide support for Library programs and activities involving the community. New members are welcome to join the Friends of the Library and share their talents and experience for improved total library service. The Friends of the Library meet the second Tuesday of even numbered months at the Silas Bronson Library.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Town, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Are you interested in volunteer work? YES NO

Membership fees

Individual	\$25
Senior/Student	\$15
Patron	\$50
Organization	\$50
Business/Corporate	\$100
Other Contribution	\$_____

VISIT WWW.BRONSONLIBRARY.ORG/FRIENDS FOR MORE INFORMATION

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

You can help the Library. Gifts in any amount are always welcome. Memorial gifts for departed relatives or friends are a special way to honor their memory. A bequest in your will is also a very special way to remember the Library and the entire community. Donors' wishes for handling gifts and bequests are carefully followed. Gifts and bequests are tax deductible.

*Thank You For Your
Participation in our
47th Annual Poetry
Contest!*

