2020 Mid-Carolina Region Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
Gold Keys in Art & Writing
“Any reality can be created by words.

But, I held my tongue. Instead of using my voice, I did this: I auditioned for an art school. I was accepted. I was assigned to a bus.”
Mia Biehler

And Then There Were None

The Cannon School
Jenna Bouhussein

Bruce and Traffic Light

William Amos Hough High School
Katherine Bouhuys

*Addled and Entry*

Myers Park High School
“This is my pledge: I will elegize and mourn and dig into the melancholy sitting heavy on my mother’s shoulders, and yes, I will fear, but I will also move this world one step closer to understanding and compassion and overwhelming love whenever I can. I have the opportunity to bring understanding to the people who want to learn, and I have the chance to grow myself.”
Zoe Brodeur
Remains Uncovered
Northwest School of the Arts
“Blazer, slacks, heels. As a 17 year old, that same girl now sees her reflection in the buildings of the state capitol as a council member for the governor.”
Melanie Calabrese

Beneath

Providence High School
Graciella Campuzano

Mental tear

Lake Norman High School
Olivia Cole

Parental and Weaving

Gaston Day School
Rachel Cooke

Firm Foundation

Maiden High School
Ellen Curley

Green Mist

South Charlotte Middle School
“My dad feared he would not have enough time to teach me the lessons of life. I wish I could tell him he did an amazing job. The journey we embarked on together taught us both many things: patience, flexibility, and bravery. I learned my mind and soul are what makes me who I am. I wish my dad could see the man I have become.”

William D’Amore
Personal Essay/Memoir
Gaston Day School
Jaiden Daya

Deforestation

William Amos Hough High School
Max DiGaetano

A Breath of Fresh Air and Buy Your Bamboo Toothbrush

Ardrey Kell High School
“Being a former treasonous congressman, I have much experience in filibusters, and now it is my time to shine. Under the laws of the kingdom the guards must let me finish speaking before they execute me.”
Blakely Durham

Stay Off the Dunes and On the Edge

Myers Park High School
Titi Ekunsanmi

Ocular Carcinoma

Charlotte Catholic High School
Kiron Fan

Personal Space

Northwest School of the Arts
“(Beginning slowly) When he was a kid, girls weren’t supposed to do anything but get married and cook dinner. That’s what happened with him and your grandmother, and he thought it would work the same way for me and your daddy when we got married.”
Nathan Ferency

Pour Over Coffee and If My Father Were Here

South Mecklenburg High School
“the cool air grazes my bare feet
soft caresses of storm tempered breeze
crickets whisper to each other secrets
of when the next bolt shall strike
the green sentinels stand indifferent
veterans of tempests long past
branches grasp one another tenderly
slow dancing to the monotone melody of falling rain”
Angela Ge

She Foretells a Pleasant Day

Ardrey Kell High School
“Patience, patience. The painting is almost done, Miss Chandler, and then the series will be complete.” Mr. Newbury breezes into the studio and picks up his brushes, while Miss Chandler hobbles wearily behind him. “Once it’s all over, you will feel absolutely captured in paradise.”
Cross Genco

*Shallow, Beautiful Ideas, and Modern World*

Northwest School of the Arts
“He began to write me letters. Not emails or text messages. Handwritten letters. Gems. Mementos. Tokens. Unwrapping his white envelopes like gifts that arrived by mail, I felt the depth and texture of his old-fashioned script flow through me.

“The winds of distress may bend you but will not dislodge you if you are properly grounded.”

With the arrival of every new letter, I felt my own roots growing stronger, more confident in this unfamiliar soil.”
“I must write
even when my mind is locked.
Even when my words are burned
by my hand or another.
I must search for poetic lines
in an entangled forest of memories and stories
and comments and conversations
that I steal.”
Callian Gordon

The Brother I Wished For

South Mecklenburg High School
YOUR KNOW SOME PEOPLE ARE MADE OF WOOD SOME PEOPLE HAVE HEARTS OF STONE
“I stand surrounded by sunflowers,  
And beyond that, great oaks tower.  
A brilliant blue sky sits on the horizon.  
I smile for the camera as my mother snaps a picture,  
But my mind wanders elsewhere”
Hope Gottschling

Blank Canvas

Charlotte Latin School
Mason Gottschling

Sanctuary

Central Academy of Technology and Art
Caroline Greife

Just Sit

Myers Park High School
“Maybe one day I’ll finally realize that I almost lost my mother and the guilt will hit me like the tide of an ocean and I will fall apart, but until then I will get angry with you and talk about you in front of my friends and pretend that I am not taking advantage of something that is only mine by miracle.”
Emily Griner

Purify, Adherent Disinfection, Scrub, and Squeaky Clean

Myers Park High School
Kate Hammermeister
Society Hypnotism
South Mecklenburg High School
Olivia Hedrick

Still Life

Stuart Cramer High School
Salley Heldt

A Smokey Escape

Gaston Day School
Kate Hinshaw
Our Hand in Religion
Myers Park High School
Kimberly Hoang

Distracted

Ardrey Kell High School
Kimberly Hoang & Nicholas Rose

Hopeless

Ardrey Kell High School
“I lived your life for you, and I still do. I am not hurt that you wanted to live through me. I was honored. Your worst days, my worst. Your best days, my best. Our energies synched.”
Katie Houpt

Life

South Mecklenburg High School
“You held me for less than 24 hours.
I wish I could remember every last one.
But all have is this video to remind me.
To show me how beautiful you were.
How you kept me close to your heart,
Wrapped up in a new blanket.
A smile dancing across your face
As I looked at you in awe.
Then the video ends…
You held me for less than 24 hours.”
Tristyn Hudson

*Sloth*

Queens Grant Prep High School
Michelle Igbinadolor

Earthquake

Charlotte Christian School
Victoria Inn

Blueberry Lemonade and Forever Entangled

Governors' Village STEM Academy
Bella Jacobs

*Over There, Regimes of the Mind, and Queen of Queens*

*Myers Park High School*
“I see middle class America shoplifting what the rest of (God blessed) America buys
From the pedestal of hard work (happenstance) they really just happened upon
Happen upon
We all happen upon
Injustice
But Justice
Too often happens to have a price tag
So does the American Dream
When was the Yellow Brick Road paved green?”
Cornelia Knight

Deer-Dreaming

Home School
Andrew Knotts

Beginning, Bloom Bond, and Cheese Cat

Charlotte Christian School
Nina Lavelle

Portrait of Morgan

Charlotte Latin School
Ansley Lewis

A Photography Sewn Together

Myers Park High School
“Free verse is a duality in itself. It is prose and poetry, form and experimentation, yin and yan. It is an art form that speaks directly to our human nature. We are all dualities, sometimes good, sometimes bad, sometimes pensive, sometimes thoughtless.”
Sellina Lin

America’s Little Girl

Ardrey Kell High School
Evie McMahan

Serenity

Charlotte Latin School
Lily McMahan

Habitat

Charlotte Latin School
Julia McMillan

Misophonia

Ardrey Kell High School
Nicki Moore

*Hermit*

Myers Park High School
Jacob Mullen

A Thousand Miles

East Gaston High School
Kirsten Ostrea

Refection

Christ the King Catholic High School
“my food is brought to me
but it seems I have lost my appetite
I nibble on a few pieces
but I can’t stop watching the people
the people are the basis
of life in America
crowded around a tiny
lunch counter waiting for
cheap and quick food with no actual appeal
I think to myself
So this is what America looks like”
“In fact, according to the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, we are simultaneously living in “the age of apology” and the age of outrage. Yet, researchers argue that “There is … an ironic downside” to our incessant apologies: the more we demand them, the more devalued and insincere they become.”
Joanne Park

Stranded on Mars

Lake Norman High School
Matthew Patterson

Pencil Holder and EDC Organizer

Lake Norman Charter High School
“6. Pour your main ingredients— cornmeal, sugar, salt, baking soda— into a mixing bowl and whisk well.

Ignore Harry’s next four calls; he isn’t taking Danica home from the recital anyway and you aren’t in the mood for a screaming match.

Imagine the cramped apartment he fled to, taking the cat and half of your retirement savings, and wonder how long he’ll last without a job.

Lost in your daydream, you will splash the mix across the counter, but the world isn’t ending. Breathe. Dab it up with a paper towel.”
Julia Payette

Dad & James

Ardrey Kell High School
Hannah Permenter

Tempting Fate

Stuart Cramer High School
Katherine Pon-Cooper

*Thematic, Inspection, and Unicorn*

Mallard Creek High School
“She came to such places. These were the graves she walked among when nobody else would for an entire eternity. She came to give at least a frail shell of something before all was lost forever. She came to listen to the final thoughts of the living and the silence of the dead.”
Diana Rand

Compulsions

Lake Norman High School
Lillian Richards

*Girl Obscured*

Myers Park High School
Janeese Rix
Parrot
Mint Hill Middle School
Jadyn Sadlowski

Cereal for Dinner

Maiden High School
Baker Sanders

Submerged

Gaston Day School
“For you, suffering was a stepping stone to the eternal life you existed for, that you emanated with your being. I wish I picked up the phone when you called me just to say you loved me. But I knew it, nonetheless..”
Sadie Shannon

Recycled Bag

Covenant Day School
“Bill wasn’t good at reading, but I would have listened to him for the rest of eternity. His reading was lilted in the wrong places like dried oil paint, and when I would cough, his voice cut off like the snap of a guitar string as he’d wait for my lungs to return.”
“The time came to deposit the cargo into its vessel. With joy in her eyes, Aphrodite filled the heart of gold with the love she had created. Her trembling hands held the face of her beloved vessel once more; she sent it into the world. All the gods of Olympus looked on as the machine descended upon the Earth. Aphrodite herself sat on a throne, at last satisfied that her children should receive her gift. For eons and eons, Aphrodite’s machine delivered light to the world through an unconditional love like no other. Thus, man received the dog.”
Zoe Spicer
*Burmese Orphanage*

Charlotte Latin School
“Yet, it is also a name that did not only belong to the ground. In Sanskrit, it means a star. In Hindu, a goddess, who was captured by the moon and later released. It’s a name that’s part of the sky. For a family that never settled easily, my parents picked a name that fit me well. It also fit them, because it wasn’t just my feet that traveled miles and waded in different oceans.”
Haley Stoup

Suds

Lake Norman High School
Avery Szakacs

Ignorance is Bliss and It Throbs but I Can’t Feel

Ardrey Kell High School
Cathy Thai

Camping in Bones

Ardrey Kell High School
Miguel Thillet

Inner Struggle

The Cannon School
Antonella Tommasi

*Connection Between the Two Lovers*

Pine Lake Preparatory
Blanca Valerio Flores

*Mystery Roots*

Governors’ Village STEM Academy
“as i eye 518 cordoba circle
maria left waiting by the mailbox for my letter
in our secret code and cursive writing
she’s the way i left her standing out front
hair light from chlorine drying in draining light
spanish tile roof and cuban cigarette smoke
set the backdrop for childhood innocence”

Annie Vedder

Poetry

Myers Park High School
“'We're trying to cultivate in kids the want to go into music or film or the arts. So we can start to balance the scales a little bit,' Bellamy explains when asked about the necessity of Girls Rock. And the organization goes to great lengths to make their services accessible to all girls regardless of race, sexual orientation or socio-economic class.”
“A sob clawed its way up my throat, but I killed it before it could escape. I squeezed the latch tighter than I’d ever held anything before: tighter than when I last hugged my mother, tighter than when I held Lizzy’s good hand after she broke her arm, tighter than when I gripped my phone white-knuckled as I heard my mother was gone. The lock crumbled to pieces in my hands.”
“Through her story, people learned more about the trials of such a situation, and those affected found comfort in shared journeys. The strength of writing through the foundation continues to expand, including September’s event Through My Eyes, weekly online blog posts telling the story of a patient, family member, doctor or nurse each week, to highlight the different perspectives of those absorbed in similar struggles.”
Tori Williams
Adjustment
Maiden High School
Jakaila Williamson

Bolted Heart

Mallard Creek High School
“Lifting the violin to his chin, he methodically tuned the strings. All the while, the man watched intently, silently, eagle-like.

And then he began to play.

The boy drew the bow across the strings, letting the first raspy notes fade into the gentle melody of the piece. He closed his eyes in concentration. Slide up the fingerboard, put pressure on the double stops, vibrato on the half note, let the sound melt away- he heard his father’s voice coaching him in his head as he played.”
Anthony Yang

The Cottage from My Dreams

Randolph Middle School
Elise Zhang

Gashadokuro

Ardrey Kell High School
“Her father has stage six dementia, and the nonprofit has provided him with the opportunity to have fun creating in a safe place. ‘Clayworks, the Arts and Science Council, and the Hickory Grove Library have helped open a closed door, and keep the lights on in my dad,’ Brown remarks.”
Special Awards
American Vision Nominees
Nina Lavelle

Portrait of Morgan

Charlotte Latin School
Lillian Richards

*Girl Obscured*

Myers Park High School
American Voice Nominees
“My dad feared he would not have enough time to teach me the lessons of life. I wish I could tell him he did an amazing job. The journey we embarked on together taught us both many things: patience, flexibility, and bravery. I learned my mind and soul are what makes me who I am. I wish my dad could see the man I have become.”

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Pottery Central Award
Mint Museum Award
Anthony Yang

_The Cottage from My Dreams_

Tian Xue, educator

Contessa Westover

_Broken Beauty_

Karen Ernsberger-Liebner, educator
ArtsPlus Award
Cornelia Knight

Deer-Dreaming

Home School
Light Factory Award
Aaron Bello

John Doe

Kody Hall, educator

Mason Gottschling

Sanctuary

Kaila Gottschling, educator
NC Art Education Association Award
Evie McMahan

Serenity

Anne Cammer, educator
Adams Outdoor Advertising Award
Presented by Jeannine Dodson & Gale Bonnell

In Partnership with Namta
AVA BERNATH
SOUTH CHARLOTTE MIDDLE SCHOOL
WILLIAM D'AMORE
GASTON DAY SCHOOL

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I wish my dad could see the man I have become...
CROSS GENC0
NORTHWEST SCHOOL
OF THE ARTS
...I must search for poetic lines in an entangled forest of memories and stories and comments and conversations that I steal...
CALLIAN GORDON
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A smile dancing across your face
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Then the video ends...
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"...Happen upon
We all happen upon
Injustice
But Justice
Too often happens to have a price tag..."
SYDNEY RINK
WILLIAM AMOS HOUGH
HIGH SCHOOL
ELISE ZHANG
ARDREY KELL HIGH SCHOOL