

The NCTE logo consists of the letters "NCTE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a white square border that has a folded corner effect at the top right.

# **ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN WRITING**

***NOW OPEN TO 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS, AS  
WELL AS 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS***



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# STUDENT WRITING AWARDS

*ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN WRITING  
PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS*





**THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM SUBMISSIONS THAT RECEIVED PERFECT SCORES IN THE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN WRITING CONTEST IN 2020.**

**INTERESTED IN READING THE SUBMISSIONS IN THEIR ENTIRETY? SCAN THE QR CODE ON THE WALL AND VIEW THE “ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN WRITING” PAGE!**



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**CAROLINE JOHNSTON**

**“I HAVE A BEAST LIVING INSIDE OF ME.”**

*I DUMP ALL OF MY MIND'S CONTENTS OUT AND WATER MY WORDS WITH THEM,  
AND NO ONE APPRECIATES THEM LIKE WORDS DO.  
THEY SOAK IT UP THROUGH THEIR ROOTS AND BLOOM INTO BEAUTIFUL GARDENS,  
AND PEOPLE CAN LOOK AT THOSE GARDENS AND TELL ME HOW BEAUTIFUL THEY ARE,  
AND WITH EACH COMPLIMENT MY BUCKET GETS HEAVIER,  
BECAUSE WHERE WERE THOSE PEOPLE THE LAST TIME MY BUCKET WAS FULL,  
BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT TOOK TO WATER THAT GARDEN.*



**PEDRO JUAN ORDUZ**

**“WRITING: MY KEY TO REASSERTING MYSELF”**

**NCTE**

*I NEVER GREW UP IN A WRITING HOUSEHOLD — NEITHER OF MY PARENTS BEING NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS — SO I FEEL LIKE I MISSED OUT ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-REFLECTION, FOR FORMING MYSELF... I KNOW THAT WHEN I'M WRITING, I CAN'T LIE TO MYSELF OR OTHERS LIKE I CAN IF I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO DEFEND MY ACTIONS; THE ONLY CONSTITUENCY I'M TRYING TO IMPRESS IS MYSELF... IF I PUT DOWN THE PEN, AND LEAVE MY THOUGHTS TO THE MERCY OF STOCHASTIC LIFE, I RISK LOSING THE ABILITY OF MAKING SENSE OF MYSELF, OF INTROSPECTION, OF FORMING MY OWN OPINIONS. THE PEN IS MY INSURANCE AGAINST OTHERS TRYING TO EXPLAIN THE WORLD, AND MY OWN SELF, TO ME. WITH THE PEN, I CONTAIN MULTITUDES; WITHOUT IT, WHAT AM I?*



**GRACE MA**

**“WHY DO I WRITE?”**

*ASK THE MOON*

**I’VE KNOWN HER SINCE FOREVER**

**AND SOME PARTS OF HER ARE SOME PARTS OF ME**

**BUT I UNDERSTOOD HER IN 9TH GRADE WHEN**

**I SAW HER RUNNING FROM THE SUN AT 4:30 AM**

**SHE, TOO, WAS SCARED OF TIME,**

**THE EQUALIZING FACTOR FOR ALL WHO HAVE LIVED**

**SHE TOLD ME TO WRITE FOR JUST CAUSES**

**TO FIGHT FOR EQUALITY IN MY EARTHLY LIFE**

**NCTE**



# PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS

*OPEN TO 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS*

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**THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM SUBMISSIONS THAT RECEIVED THE HIGHEST SCORES IN THE PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST IN 2020.**

**INTERESTED IN READING THE SUBMISSIONS IN THEIR ENTIRETY? SCAN THE QR CODE ON THE WALL AND VIEW THE “PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS” PAGE!**



**DAVID YUN**

**“WELL-WORN PATHS: A LOVE LETTER”**

**NCTE**

*AS I HEAR A BIRD CHIRPING IN THE DISTANCE, IT'S CALL ECHOING THROUGH THE VALLEYS, I CAN INSTANTLY RECALL IT. MAGPIE, I INSTINCTIVELY THINK IN KOREAN, REMEMBERING THE EASY TRICKS THAT GRANDPA TAUGHT ME TO CATEGORIZE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF BIRD CALLS. EVEN THOUGH MY KOREAN IS STILL SHAKY, IT'S AS IF YOU'VE HELPED ME CONNECT WITH MY CULTURE IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN JUST CONVERSATIONS SHARED OVER THE DINNER TABLE. IT'S BEEN SO LONG – IT TOOK ME THREE YEARS AND A THIRTEEN-HOUR FLIGHT SINCE TO GET BACK TO YOU – AND WHO KNOWS WHEN WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER NEXT? AS WE REACH THE END OF YOUR TRAIL, I THROW ONE LAST LOOK OVER MY SHOULDER INTO YOUR MYSTERIOUS DEPTHS. HERE'S TO MANY MORE ADVENTURES, FRIEND.*



An aerial photograph of a forest covered in snow, with a semi-transparent blue overlay. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**SELINA CHEN**  
**“LEAVES NEVER FORGOTTEN”**

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**NCTE**

*IN THE WINTER SEASON, YOUR LEAVES DECIDEDLY DISAPPEARED,  
AS THE GLEAMING SHEET OF SNOW SURROUNDED YOU LIKE A BLANKET,  
WHILE ICICLES HUNG FROM YOUR BARE ARMS. TAKING ME BY SURPRISE,  
YOU TICKLED ME WITH DELICATE SNOWFLAKES IN THE TIGHT, SHIVERING AIR.*



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**APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2023  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN WRITING AND  
PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS CONTESTS ARE NOW  
OPEN!**

**LEARN MORE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE ON THE  
WALL.**