

**The Mississippi Poetry Society**  
**2020 “Rising Stars”**  
**Student Poetry Contest Winners**

*Sponsored by:*  
*Coastal Coin Laundry, Ocean Springs, MS*  
*Dr. Joe Jacobs, Meridian, MS*  
*Guaranty Bank, and Bank Plus, Belzoni, MS*

**Level 5: “Ascending Voices” Awards College Undergrad**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** “Hope” by Cailey Ness, Millsaps College, Jackson, MS

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** “Lord, It’s Another Mississippi Day” by Trey Johnson,  
Holmes Community College, Goodman, MS

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** “This Paper Statue Hands Did Make” by Hannah Mucha,  
Belhaven University, Jackson, MS

***Honorable Mentions:***

“The Day You Were Supposed to Carry Books Down Three Flights of Stairs”  
by Allison Robeson, Belhaven University, Jackson, MS

“Where the Sun Still Shines”  
by Shayla Smith, Belhaven University, Jackson, MS

“Remember To”  
by Jamey Rossell, Northeast Mississippi Community College, Boonesville, MS

“Breaking Point”  
By Kacey Toney, Delta State University, Cleveland, MS

“Her Lover Dies and She Aches for a Marlboro”  
By Blake Case, Belhaven University, Jackson, MS

“Culture Shock”  
By Trey Howard, Pearl River Community College, Hattiesburg, MS

## **Level 4: "Rising Writers" Awards Grades 9-12**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** "Momma" by Skylar Snyder, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Humphreys Academy, Belzoni, MS  
Teacher: Taylor Hawkins

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** "Backroads" by Tucker Lloyd Wells, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Humphreys Academy, Belzoni, MS  
Teacher: Taylor Hawkins

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** "What I See" by Hanna Hardy, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Heritage Academy, Columbus, MS  
Teacher: Mrs. Perdue

### ***Honorable Mentions:***

"The Prayer" by Sarah Austyn Curtis, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Heritage Academy, Columbus, MS  
Teacher: Mrs. Perdue

"By the Ocean" by Evans Rhett, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Heritage Academy, Columbus, MS  
Teacher: Mrs. Perdue

"Searching" by Janeabner Dunn, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Humphreys Academy, Belzoni, MS  
Teacher: Taylor Hawkins

"A Delta Winter" by Travis Coopwood, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Bayou Academy, Cleveland, MS  
Teacher: Mrs. Layman

"That's My Life" by Tori Byars, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Humphreys Academy, Belzoni, MS  
Teacher: Taylor Hawkins

"Life is..." by Simmons Eldridge, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Humphreys Academy, Belzoni, MS  
Teacher: Taylor Hawkins

"When I was still in Love with You" by Garrett Duckworth, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, E Rankin Academy  
Pelahatchie, MS Teacher: Terra Brantley

"Bully" by Mason Fuller, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Humphreys Academy, Belzoni, MS  
Teacher: Taylor Hawkins

## **Level 3: "Word Blazers" Awards Grades 6-8**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** "I Am Depression" by Ty'Derricka Brown, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, South Pike Jr. High, Magnolia, MS  
Teacher: Trinia Blackmon

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** "Bad Day Blues" by Qua'Niya Carter, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, South Pike Jr. High, Magnolia, MS  
Teacher: Trinia Blackmon

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** "Smart" by Maddie Hall, 8<sup>th</sup> Gr., Northwest Rankin Middle, Flowood, MS  
Teacher: Lynn Clark

### ***Honorable Mentions:***

"A Blank Page" by Allie-Makhenna L. Brock, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, St. Augustine, Ridgeland, MS  
Teacher: Jasmine Holmes

"War and Flowers, Man and Peace" by Ryan Dunn, Neshoba Central Middle School,  
Philadelphia, MS Teacher: Catherine Hicks

"Thank You, God" by Ja'Nya Lewis, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, South Pike Jr. High, Magnolia, MS  
Teacher: Trinia Blackmon

"Remember the Forgetful" by Elizabeth Elkins, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Saint Augustine School,  
Ridgeland, MS Teacher: Mrs. Jasmine Holmes

"Castaway" by Clayton Winters, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, River Oaks Elem., Gulfport, MS  
Teacher: Emily Smith

"You Make Me Complete" by Madison Peterson, O.M. McNair Middle School,  
Belzoni, MS Teacher: Alma Patterson

"Autumn" by Destiny Lucio, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, River Oaks Elem. Gulfport, MS  
Teacher: Emily Smith

"A Mother's Love" by Zay'Briel Varnado, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, South Pike Jr. High, Osyka, MS  
Teacher: Trinia Blackmon

"Stress" by Bryanna Hughes, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, South Pike Jr. High, Magnolia, MS  
Teacher: Trinia Blackmon

"Palindrome Poem" by Malea Kuhn, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Northwest Rankin Elem. Flowood, MS  
Teacher: Alicia Bowie

## **Level 2: "Taking Flight" Awards Grades 4-5**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** "Misunderstood" by Anna Boudreaux, 5<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Newton Co. Elem. Decatur, MS  
Teacher: Lindsay McMillan

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** "Nature" by Michel Cardona, 5<sup>nd</sup> Grade, River Oaks Elem. Gulfport, MS  
Teacher: Emily Smith

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** "Dance" by Gracie Watson, 5<sup>rd</sup> Gr., Northwest Rankin Elem. Flowood, MS  
Teacher: Alicia Bowie

### **Honorable Mentions:**

"When I Hunt" by Karmyn Butler, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Newton Co. Elem. Decatur, MS  
Teacher: Nikki Roberts

"Halloween" by Jordan Chaney, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Newton Co. Elem. Decatur, MS  
Teacher: Lindsey McMillan

"Outcast" by Nolan Constans, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Northwest Rankin Elem. Flowood, MS  
Teacher: Alicia Bowie

"Bosco Love" by Alex Glover, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Newton Co. Elem. Decatur, MS  
Teacher: Lindsay McMillan

"Star Man" by Ayda Hillman, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Newton Co. Elem. Decatur, MS  
Teacher: Ashley Balliet

"Bobby's Crazy Day" by Samuel Cornelson, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Newton Co. Elem. Decatur, MS  
Teacher: Jennifer Bailey

"Soar" by Liza Henderson, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Iuka Middle School, Iuka, MS  
Teacher: Michelle Coffman

"Volleyball" by Hillary Gardner, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Madison Avenue Upper Elem. Madison, MS

## Level 1: "Fledglings" Awards Grades 1-3

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** "Up the steps..." by McCaiden Vandiver, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Alcorn Central Elem. Corinth, MS

Teacher: Mrs. Becky Winters

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** "The Garden" by Carly Kyzar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Newton County Elem. Decatur, MS

Teacher: Laura Rouse

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** "I love to climb trees..." by Haylee Hutson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr., Alcorn Central Elem. Corinth, MS

Teacher: Mrs. Becky Winters

### **Honorable Mentions:**

"My Favorite Sibling" by Arliss Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Pontotoc Elem. Pontotoc, MS

Teachers: Mrs. Hobson and Miss Buckner

"Wonderful Christmas" by Savanna Warren, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Newton Co. Elem. Decatur, MS

Teacher: Laura Lewis

"Using My Senses in the Garden" by Seth Hollingsworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Newton Co. Elem. MS

Teacher: Ms Cheryl Amis

"Tree, Oh tree" by Jordy Nelson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. Alcorn Central Elem. Glen, MS

Teacher: Mrs. Becky Winters

"I'm sick in bed..." by Nicole Scialabba, Alcorn Central Elem. Glen, MS

Teacher: Mrs. Becky Winters

"I cannot be tagged today..." by Lannah Slaughter, 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr., Alcorn Ctrl. Elem. Corinth, MS

Teacher: Mrs. Becky Winters

"The Door" by Taleiana Rodriguez-Whitley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Alcorn Central Elem. Glen, MS

Teacher: Mrs. Becky Winters

"Friday Night" by Lily Morrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Pontotoc Elem. Pontotoc, MS

Teachers: Mrs. Sonja Hobson and Miss Alex Buckner