

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 10TH GRADERS, AS
WELL AS 11TH 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!

The NCTE logo is located in the top right corner. It 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.

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”

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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 8TH GRADERS

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NCTE®

The NCTE logo consists of the letters "NCTE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are contained within a white rectangular border that has a slight 3D effect, appearing as if it's a page with a folded top-right corner. The background of the entire image is a collage of various shades of blue and teal, with some areas appearing like torn paper or layered textures.

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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”

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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 this image.

SELINA CHEN
“LEAVES NEVER FORGOTTEN”

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*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.**