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2010-2011 Writing Contest

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A letter from Jeriann Watkins Managing Editor

Several years ago, *The Promethean* decided to stage a writing contest for all students, faculty, and staff. The success and popularity of the contest encouraged our current team to continue the tradition.

This year, we decided to use the same concept we used last year; the Short-Short Story. We challenged students to write a story in 500 words or less. Our theme: Literology. This could be taken to mean whatever authors wanted it to.

Our Short-Short Story Contest received quite a few submissions. Concordia writers were up to the challenge.

Rebecca Carlson, alumna of Concordia, was our judge this year. While studying and writing in graduate school she found the time to select our winners. We thank her for sharing her precious time and energy with us!

A list of all winners can be found on the next page. Comments on the winning place entries are provided by Rebecca Carlson.

NOTES ON WINNING ENTRIES

1st Place

Cole Dable

My Fecal Fortress

2nd Place

Samuel Cantrell

A Hot Day

3rd Place

NyEma Sims

My First International

Flight

Honorable Mention

Donnie Drobny

Haunted Past

MY FECAL FORTRESS

This story's vivid imagery immediately captures the reader's attention. The children described as "monsters," "creatures," and "rabid animals" are a perfect counterpart to the helpless, hiding narrator. This reversal of expected roles provides the impetus for a swiftly moving, comically entertaining and highly creative story. The author knows how to make readers laugh, and is not afraid to have the laughter be at his expense.

A HOT DAY

"A Hot Day" is built upon layers of carefully constructed conflict. The author uses seeming contradictions and false expectations to build conflict, and then holds in the tension with the tight interior setting, pulling the characters inexorably together. The ending is wholly unexpected, a powerful shift in character that causes the reader to rethink the entire story. The language is tight and clean, letting the action speak for itself.

MY FIRST INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

The narrative is nicely framed by the flight time; it is a self-described "nineteen hour race to our final destination." The varied views out the airplane window are used as an introspective look into the narrator's thoughts and emotions, making the story one of self-discovery as well as exploration. The reader is left (along with the narrator) standing on the edge of a journey, waiting to see where it will take them.