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Bluegrass Clippings

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Bluegrass Clippings

Spring Writing Contest

The annual writing contest was inspired by the phrase “Bluegrass Clippings.” Of the many beautiful submissions we received, the following winners were chosen by our wonderful judge, Concordia English alumna, Randilee Sequeira Larson.

1st Place – Blue

The plotline for “Blue” is written with profound subtlety and patience. The author doesn't make it clear where the story is going in the beginning but instead allows the surrealism of the narrator's condition to carry the reader along, drawing the audience into what seems like a poetic musing about an unusual phenomenon. Only the strong, punctuated ending reveals a deeper plot behind the poetic reflection and a tragic surprise for the reader. "Blue" represents just how tight a plot can be when an author is both patient and unwilling to waste even a single word.

2nd Place – Blue Grass Clippings

“Blue Grass Clippings” reads like a modern horror-mystery set in everyone's most angsty high school year. Although the story is short, the tension begins with the opening line and carries taut throughout each suspenseful step, breaking only occasionally for a moment of teenage-inspired gallows humor. Using colorful phrases, unique imagery, and dramatic storytelling, the narrator slowly leads the reader to a dark and satisfying ending.

3rd Place – Monochrome

“Monochrome” is a hopeful and uplifting piece that skillfully juxtaposes the familiar with the unfamiliar. It plunges the reader into a different world and a different perspective on life, one that most of us will never truly understand. The author uses color images in a playful and unique way, allowing the reader to really “see” through the eyes and the art of her colorblind narrator, and while the perspective might be different, the story is charmingly familiar, focused on the unconditional love of a mother and the drawing she holds dear.