

MS Poetry Project Winners 2026

Kindergarten

- 1 Remington Smith, Baseball in Biloxi / Mendenhall Elementary
- 2 Reigny Traxler, At the Beach / Magee Elementary
- 3 Tavis Thomas, Nature Magic / Utica Elementary

1st grade

- 1 Dallas Hester, A Place I Love / Northshore Elementary
- 2 Assata Griffin, Nature's Superheroes / Casey Elementary
- 3 A'Myra James, Round and Round the Seasons Go / Magee Elementary

Honorable Mentions

Mal'akhi Butler, The Lake / Casey Elementary
Cotton Reed Bridges, Putting Food on the Table / Magee Elementary

2nd grade

- 1 Ava Grace Williams, Midnight Mosquitoes / Casey Elementary
- 2 Naomi Roderts, I see stars at night / Simpson Central
- 3 Zoey Tyler, I Don't Like Bugs / Casey Elementary

Honorable Mentions

Oliver Hodges, The Sky / Columbia Primary
Lorin Sanders, Ocean Beauty / Columbia Primary
Jaxon Patterson, Throwing the Football Outside with Patrick Mahomes / Pontotoc Elementary

3rd grade

- 1 Bethlehem Chacon, My Nature Heart Place / Casey Elementary
- 2 Aiden Berry, Oops! It's Autumn Again! / D. T. Cox Elementary
- 3 Charli Ann Chappell, Deer / Mendenhall Elementary

Honorable Mentions

Santiago Ayala Gomez, My Favorite Place to Be / D. T. Cox Elementary
Bradley Andrews, Ocean / Columbia Elementary

4th grade

- 1 Vanessa Hernandez Quintana, The Park / Northshore Elementary
- 2 Evelyn Gray, Waterfall / Iuka Elementary
- 3 Ja'Kyla Pittman, Nature's Seasons / Dexter Attendance Center

Honorable Mentions

Ruby Kathryn Paul, The Land and Sea / Northside Elementary

Ledger Smith, Autumn Has Arrived / Mendenhall Elementary

5th grade

- 1 Piper Chemin, Whispers of the Wild / Baxterville Elementary
- 2 Richard Buckley, My Love for Leaves / Casey Elementary
- 3 Emily Moncada, Ocean's Embrace / Hayes Cooper Center

Honorable Mentions

Emma Hailey, Different / West Wortham Elementary
Paris McBride, Nature is Sweet, Sweet Like Honey! / Hunt Intermediate

6th grade

- 1 Oniyah Mckinnis, Nature VS Me /Mendenhall Elementary
- 2 Ryen Pind, My Treehouse / Oxford Intermediate
- 3 Isabella McGee, A Lone Wolf in the Night / Hunt Intermediate

Honorable Mentions

Valerie Perry, Where the Mountains Breathe / Hunt Intermediate
Fisher Sharp, The Way the World Is Meant to Be / Mendenhall Elementary

7th grade

- 1 Price Rogers, Playing by the Bay / Gautier Middle
- 2 Edwar Orocio Mendoza, The Quiet Heart of the World / Columbus Middle
- 3 McKinley Dillard, Down by the Oceanside / New Albany Middle

Honorable Mentions

Rahlei Birdsall, Night Outside in the Magnolia State / Magee Middle
Tatem B. Morrow, A Colorado Adventure / Gautier Middle

8th grade

- 1 Ella Tullos, The Stream / Clinton Junior High
- 2 Maddox Nickels, In the Forest Long Ago / Senatobia Middle
- 3 Aa'Keyla Hill, Oh, Something About Nature! / Mendenhall High

Honorable Mentions

May Saleh, White Cat / Columbus Middle
Chloe Oppedal, Life Is a Beach / Caledonia Middle
Elijah Burkes, Gigi's Backyard / Scott Central Attendance Center

9th grade

- 1 Kaylee Good, Jogging Through the Wild Symphony / Pontotoc High
- 2 Katherine Krueger, The Secrets in the Stones / Cleveland Central High
- 3 Aisha Waseem Gul, The Mysterious Mountain Mist / Oxford High

Honorable Mention

Kandy Delgado Ramirez, I Wish I Could Appreciate It / Columbia High
Betsabe Roblero, A Hold to a Natural Memory / Raymond High

10th grade

- 1 Trinity Langlinais, The Storm / Pass Christian High
- 2 Jaydon Lucas, Where the Wind Remembers Me / DeSoto Central High
- 3 Kalley Bonee, The Ride / Falkner High

Honorable Mentions

Zion Smith, Who is gonna listen? / East Marion High
Tyler Osborne, Friday Nights on the Field / Terry High
Carlin Barkley, That beautiful place / Falkner High

11th grade

- 1 Thea Cates-Foster, Bird Watched / MS School of the Arts
- 2 Tre’vuan Vance, Where My Mamma Bloomed the World / Okolona High
- 3 Lakeria Carouthers, There’s a spot behind my grandmother’s house / Okolona High

Honorable Mentions

Brianna Crain, The Quiet Home / Mendenhall High
Stephany Becerril, A Love Poem to my Beloved Xihmai: Xi Di Jamädi ha Di Mä’I / Cleveland Central High

12th grade

- 1 Colin Chung, A Lesson Under the Persimmon Tree/ MS School for Mathematics and Science
- 2 Jocelyn Davidson, Where My Heart Flows / Okolona High
- 3 Sasha Harvey, Nature’s Religion / MS School for Mathematics and Science

Honorable Mentions—

Nicolas Piernas, Pass Christian / Pass Christian High
Joshua Brown, A Place I Call Home / Okolona High
Elayjah Earles, A Morning Call / MS School of the Arts