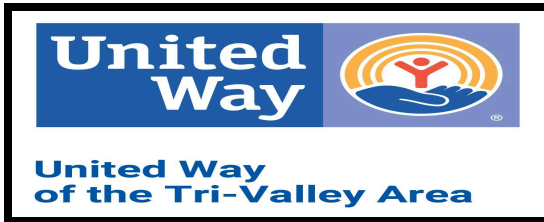


Our Mission: is to empower adults through learner-based tutoring in reading, writing, math and technology and to promote literacy in our communities.



For more information
about our services, contact:

Website: <https://www.westernmaineliteracy.org/>

Email: literacyvolunteersfs@gmail.com

Phone: 207-500-3131

We are grateful to all the poets who submitted their poems and shared their powerful voices with us.

Reflections from the judge:

“This contest offers a prism through which we can view an intergenerational community, and it offers the opportunity to reflect on each of these moments. Everyone has memories, pain, thoughts, anxiety, inspirations, and moments of beauty and playfulness—what a gift to have the chance to spend time with what each poet notices.

This year, we get to spend time in a diverse ecosystem of forests and warm window sills, in fields and houses, in privies and on the floor with children, with grief and joy alike. This contest, and the poems that make up its constellation, show the breadth and depth of human experience across personal, generational, and lived differences: a treasure we are lucky to witness!”

Laine Kuehn

2024 Prize Winners

Youth: Age 11 and under

First Place: Logan Hartman, Cat

Second Place: Daygon Purington, My Heart

Third Place: Quinn Allen, The Small Frog

Adult: 18+

First Place: Nancy Merrow, Privy Lockdown

Second Place: Nancy Lockwood, On The Death of an Old Friend

Third Place: Peg Ellis, Good Grief

Students of Literacy Volunteers

First Place: Anna Crocket, Sayings and Looks

Second Place: Matilda Holt, The New Barn

Third Place: Lacey Ann Elder, My Lost Things

The winning poems are in alphabetical order by title, starting with the cover.

Cat

By Logan Hartman

Oh, cat

Are you grinning?

Curled in the window seat

As sun warms you this December

Morning

Good Grief

By Peg Ellis

My friend found true love,

A fine match, they say.

They fit like a glove,

But I'm not okay.

What does Grandma mean

When she says "good grief?"

What did Mom and Papa mean

When they said "goodbye?"

When is it time to

Turn a new leaf?

Why does it feel

So good to cry?

"Better we part for

The sake of the kid."

But I'll always mourn

For what you did.

"Be happy for them.

Your time will come."

Will my own joy bring

Loss to someone?

My Heart

By Daygon Purington

My	heart
Is broken	by
From	My
Ex GF	She broke
It by	text
I wish	She told
Me	in person
Son	You
Broke me	into pieces
How you broke	Me

My Lost Things

By Lacey Elder

One red mitten

One bird book

One word search book

A Blake Shelton T shirt

And a hat from Paris.

My favorite hat, my mother gave me

Oh where did they go?

On the porch I found my glove

But. the others are still missing.

I'm afraid my head will be next.

On the Death of an Old Friend

By Nancy Lockwood

Speak
softly
today (the sign on the door reads).
I am in mourning.

In mourning
for you
Elbern
“Eddie”
Alkire.

You, who spent long days searching
courthouses
and cemeteries
for knowledge
of those who came before

You, who found what you were looking for
in the heat of August
On a West Virginia hillside,
evidence that you existed
in a time before this.

There were no musicians
in your family
until you,
but you have multiplied your talents:
one into two
and two into four
and four into...
until now

You live
beneath the cold, hard stone
in a northern graveyard
forged to the past
and the future
inexorably.

Privy Lockdown

By Nancy Merrow

The window still was there, and down below
The splintered planks created rows of light,
Enough to see the lumps and mounds and know
The shit was from his family. Despite
The fact that some were dead, the brown remains
Ignited thought and wonder. Percy; Pete;
Mable; May; Elvina; names his brain's
Cortex network generated, replete
With stories spanning centuries. The link
To privy holes and rotting excrement
Amused and pleased the child until the stink
Became a permeating punishment.

Privy lockdown for a few foul words-
At least he'd met the ghost of Grammie's turds.

Saying and Looks

By Anna Crockett

Saying And Looks. Brown eyes are looking at me.
Nana, can I go on an airplane. Where would you like to go To Maine to see
you again. Your eyes act like words to me. Yes, Go play with your
cars.
Vroom Vroom I hear from the floor. Standing up and looking at that
little face. Nana, you are my best friend. I love you.
Those looks and sayings came from little ones.

The New Barn

by Matilda Holt

When we have a new barn we have a farm.
Then we need a shit pit.
The cows go moooooooooo-shit.
The goats go baaaaaaaaa-shit.
Ducks go quack, quack-shit.
The rooster makes more noise than the rest of
them.
Cockle doodle doo!-but less-shit.
Shovel, shovel, shovel.
People don't realize farming is work.

The Small Frog

by Quinn Allen

The frog was small
It jumped through the woods
And splashed into the water
"Splash!" The frog is jumping away,
With water dripping off of the small frog

The Literacy Volunteers of Franklin and Somerset Counties Fourteenth Annual Poetry Contest is made possible with the generous support of the following partners.

Western Mountain Financial Services, Peter and Delinda Smith, Rummel Foundation, Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, Susan and Fritz Onion, Maine Humanities Council, Franklin County Adult Education, Spruce Mountain Adult Education, Skowhegan Adult Education, Work First, Community Concepts, LEAP, Wilton Free Public Library, LV Affiliates of Maine, Twice Sold Tales, Devaney Doak & Garrett Booksellers, Healthy Community Coalition, Maine Health, St. Joseph's Church, Food City, Franklin County Children's Task Force, Somerset County Correctional Services, Western Maine Community Action, Farmington Community Center, New Ventures, Farmington Public Library, Webster Library, Strong Public Library, Farmington Rotary Club, United Way, MSAD 73, MSAD 58, MSAD 9, Edgewood Manor Rehabilitation Center, Sandy River Center, Orchard Park Rehabilitation Center, Tina Davis, League of Women's Voters Speaker's Bureau, Proliteracy, Mt. Blue T.V., Maine Community Foundation, Phillips Public Library, Betterment Fund.

***Thank you to all of our collaborators
who support our mission.***

