

Poetry Out Loud Regional Contest Winners Move On to State Contest

Written by Tracy White

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Students from United Township and Orion High Schools

On Saturday, February 18th, students from Orion High School and United Township participated in the Poetry Out Loud regional contest at Quad City Arts. The event was exciting and enriching and all in attendance were edified and entertained by the student recitations.

We are happy to announce the winners of the contest: 1st place went to Brianna Gray from United Township HS. Brianna recited "Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll and "Song of the Powers" by David Mason. Runner-up was Anni Keleher from Orion HS. Anni recited "Hope" by Emily Dickinson and "The Vacuum" by Howard Nemerov.

These students will now advance to Illinois' State Poetry Out Loud Competition, being held Thursday, March 29, 2012, at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield. The State champion will advance to the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in April in Washington, DC where \$50,000 in awards and school stipends will be distributed with the grand prize being \$20,000.

Poetry Out Loud is presented by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. It is a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. This program is partially

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