

Lacey's Teen Writers Contest Winners Announced

The annual contest is run by the Lacey Timberland Library as part of *Lacey Loves to Read*, a community-wide program.

Lacey Loves to Read (LL2R) is an annual community literacy program that occurs each February. It is sponsored by the City of Lacey, Lacey South Sound Chamber, North Thurston Public Schools and the Lacey Timberland Library.

Each year, the program celebrates books, writing and writers through the lens of a single author. This year's author was **Matt de la Peña**, a New York Times bestselling author and Newbery Medal winner.

Two frequent themes in de la Peña's stories are finding beauty in everyday life, and being comfortable in one's own skin.

These two themes were adopted for this year's Teen Writers Contest, organized by the Lacey Timberland Library. Winners were selected based on the how well they reflected these themes in their writing or artwork. Here are the names of this year's winners:

Cover Art:

Lost by Basia Covert

Short Story:

1st place - *Snake Heart* by Nicholas McClelland, 7th grade, Aspire Middle School

2nd place - *Stronger* by Nathan Reimer, 6th grade, Aspire Middle School

3rd place - *Human Nature* by Emily Preuss, 10th grade, North Thurston High School

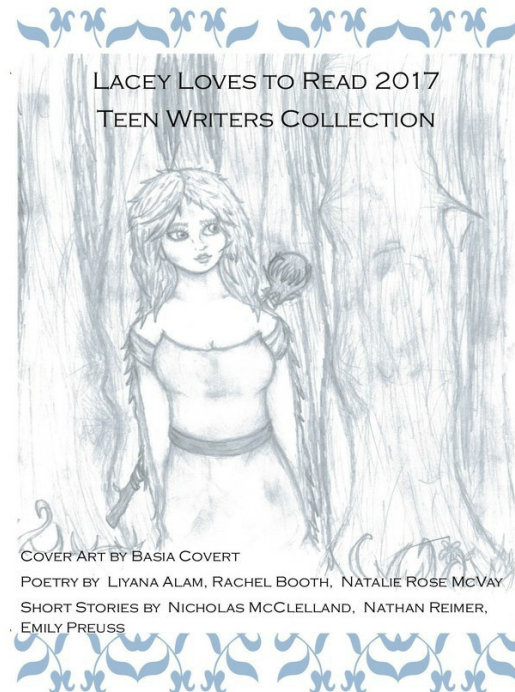
Poetry:

1st place - *Songbird* by Liyana Alam, 7th grade, Aspire Middle School

2nd place - *Raining Again* by Rachel Booth, 12th grade, North Thurston High School

3rd place - *Hope* by Natalie Rose McVay, 8th grade, Komachin Middle School

The winning stories and artwork were published in the 2017 [Teen Writing Contest Collection eBook](#). Winners were invited to a V.I.P. reception to meet de la Peña, and received a signed, personalized copy of one of his books. Other prizes included an Amazon gift card, a tote bag, a LL2R pencil and an 8G USB drive containing a copy of the eBook. Artist Basia Covert also received a framed print of her eBook cover design.



Cover Art Winner - "Lost" by Basia Covert

Timberland Regional Library provides for the information, reading and lifelong learning needs of the Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston county public at 27 community public libraries and six library service partner locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library's programs may contact the library one week in advance.

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