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Library short story contest winners!

Contributed by: Sheila Kerber on 9/30/2007

The atmosphere was full of anticipation and excitement this past Saturday, September 29, as the ten winners of the National Literacy Month Short Story Contest and their families began to stream into the Grange at the Meadows.

In addition to eagerness and excitement in the air was the smell of chocolate.

The treats table was brimming with cookies and brownies. Proud mothers, fathers, grandparents, sisters and brothers chatted quietly waiting for the prize-giving to begin.

The short story contest was sponsored by Douglas County Libraries and the Grange at the Meadows. Kristine Newton, the Events Manager, Jan O'Connor, Douglas County Libraries Program Liaison and I organized this contest to celebrate National Literacy Month.

The themes for the competition were *What if*, *A Day in My Life* and *Animals, real or imaginary*. The judges were treated to stories about dragons, horses and tales of challenges met. The judges were impressed with the caliber of the entries and found it very difficult to choose. The winners:

Ben Heyliger: Home Schooled

Collette Broeker- Douglas County High School

Denae C. Worcester- Home Schooled

Hannah Hawkins- Home Schooled

Hannah Lewis- Douglas County High School

Jessica McKinney- Home Schooled

John W. Komdat- Douglas County High School

Kayla McGough- Legacy Academy

Michael Donovan- Castle Rock Middle School

Olivia Newman- St. Mary's of Littleton

The entries may be viewed on the Meadows at the Grange website by the end of next week.

The children also learned about the Young Writer's Guild which meets the first Tuesday of every month from 4-7:00 p.m. at the DCL Philip S. Miller Library in Castle Rock. This writing club presents an excellent opportunity for students age 12-18 to practice the craft of writing and enjoy the company of other teen writers.

Once prizes were in hand, the party really began. Family members posed for photographs and enjoyed the wonderful chocolate treats and lemonade. As the contestants headed for the door, they requested that we run the contest again next year. I think we will.

For more information about the Philip S. Miller Library, visit DouglasCountyLibraries.org or call 303-791-READ.

