

Teen Talk

SPECIAL EDITION!

The Vineland Public Library's
Young Adult Literary Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 5

November/December
2010

The 2010 Poetry Winners



First Place
"Whispers"
by Nichole Richard




Second Place
"Let Me In"
by Nichole Richard

Third Place
"On the Inside"
by Maria Cruz-Wilson



Congratulations to the winners of The Vineland Public Library's 2010 Teen Writing Contest. Thank you to everyone who entered this year's contest. We had a lot of really great poetry submissions this year.

What can you find in this issue?

-  Read the winning entries of this year's Teen Writing Contest! (pgs. 2-4)
-  Read Juni's submission to the Teen Writing Contest! (He was instantly disqualified, but he would have won for sure!) (pg. 6)
-  A letter from *TT* editor Juni Ruiz. (pg. 7)

First Place Poetry Winner

"Whispers
by Nichole Richard
Age 15



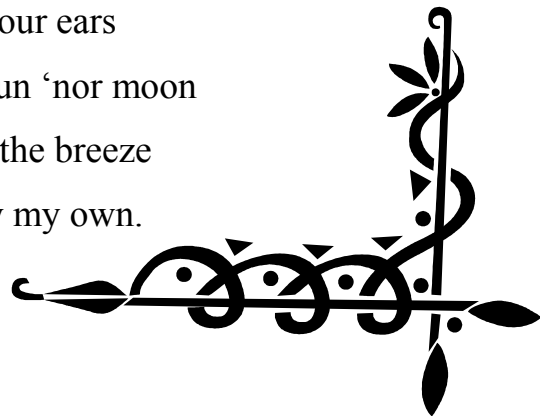
Whispers of a kiss
Reach my lips
Whisper to the shadows
To reach the sun



Whispers of the breeze
Set me free
While you whisper of a hug
That reaches my arms

Whispers of a secret
Reach only my ears
Whisper into the night
Reach the moonlight

But the whispers of my heart
Shall reach not your ears
It shall not reach the sun 'nor moon
It will not carry on the breeze
My heart shall stay my own.



Second Place Poetry Winner

"Let Me In"

by Nichole Richard

Age 15

Shadows of the moon

Let me in

Let me see the secrets within

Light of the sun

Let me in

Let me see what lies within

Glow of the stars

Let me in

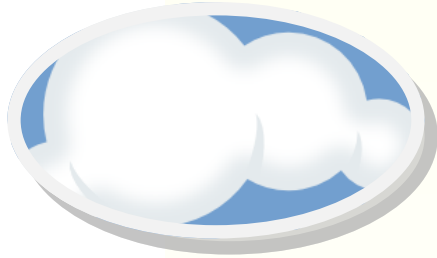
Take me away, so far

Third Place Poetry Winner

"On the Inside"

by Maria Cruz-Wilson

Age 15



Outside lies a young girl,
Just a face on this Earth.
Beautiful and wise,
Ever since birth.

Goals as far as the eye can see,
Hoping she achieves.
No matter what comes her way,
She always believes.

Although she might not be perfect,
She still has a beautiful heart.
Broken at times,
But never seems to fall apart.

Inside lies her own piece of heaven,
An angel you can say.
Soaring though an unseen world,
Living it her way.

Gorgeous golden hair,
An angel's white wings,
A dress as white as moonlight,
Eyes more beautiful than ten sapphire rings.

So next time you see her,
Look into her eyes.
And you just might see
How this angel flies.



Short Story Winners

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This year we did not have any entries in our Short Story Category. When Juni noticed this, he quickly turned something in, hoping that he would automatically win 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place by default.

Unfortunately for him, the Children's Department realized that Juni wasn't 14 and was too old for the contest.



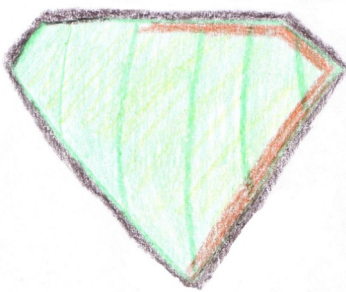
Juni Ruiz after being told his plan failed



"Children's Department Staff"

Short Story Honorable Mention
The Adventures of Tad Challoway: Part 4
The Revenge of the Disgruntled Patient
 by Juni Ruiz
 Age 14

All of my twelve years of medical/law school had not prepared me for this. I was face to face with at least ten, no, thirty-five robot ninjas. This must have been the third wave of robot ninjas to attack my offices this week, and I was beginning to think they might not be unrelated coincidences. "Where is the emerald of the Salamander Prince, Challoway?!" yelled the lead robot ninja.



Emerald of the
Salamander Prince

"I got rid of the emerald the same day Dr. Manning jumped out of that plane" I, replied in my suavest of suave voices. "Unless you want me to give you a check up or represent you in a criminal case, leave now."

"My goodness you're cool!" replied the lead robot ninja. "We will leave now, but our master will not be pleased." With his last words, the robot ninja slammed a smoke bomb at his feet and all his companions mirrored his action. For almost a solid minute the entire room was shrouded in smoke. When the smokescreen finally dissipated, I was alone. Confused, but not shaken by the unexpected intrusion, I quickly went back to the task at hand. Turning my attention back to my incredibly large and expensive mahogany desk, I sat to review the will of my late father. The man had been as incredibly senile as he was ridiculously wealthy. In his will he had left his vast fortune to the son of his favorite baker. He reasoned that if the child had an ocean of wealth at his disposal, he would use the riches as a means to excel at his father's skill and become the greatest baker that ever lived. There were two problems with this; if someone has great wealth, why would they strive to be a great baker? Second, the baker's

son was two years old. Bequeathed to me were only three things; a pack of chewing gum, a gold-plated pen engraved with my father's initials and his motto "Sometimes you have to eat ALL the cheese"!, and the keys to a 1973 Ford Mustang (sans the actual car).

The reasoning behind the effects my father left to me failed to present itself. As I picked up the pen to have a closer inspection of it, the massive double doors to my office burst open. Cynthia, my secretary, ran into the office with eyes wide and wild looking as someone who had just seen an advancing zombie horde. "Advancing zombie horde!" she screamed at the top of her lungs. I sprung to my feet and ushered her to the bookcase. I quickly scanned the books and found the one book I had to pull to enter the secret stairwell beyond the case. Once I pulled *Green Eggs and Ham* from the shelf, we quickly hurried onward away from the danger that was filling the office. "Sir, you told me last week that there wouldn't be any more zombie horde attacks" chided Cynthia.

"Cynthia, I assure you I had no prior knowledge of this zombie attack. Are you hurt?"

"No, but one of them managed to- WEREWOLVES!" Just then, two unbelievably angry werewolves crept out of the shadows. "I quit I quit I quit I quit!" She continued this chant while the hairy beasts advanced. The hell hounds came within four feet of where we were standing and stood there snarling and pondering how would be best to tear us to shreds. They didn't get long to think, for just a few moments after they stopped to contemplate our demise, something miraculous happened.

**CONTINUED IN THE NEXT
ISSUE OF TEEN TALK!**

**FROM THE
EDITOR'S
DESK**

Seasons greetings, faithful reader! This is your jolly *TT* editor-in-chief Juni Ruiz wrapping up this very special edition of *Teen Talk*. The Vineland Public Library always looks forward to our annual Teen Writing Contest. We always get great poems and short stories from teens in our community. This year we saw that again in our poetry category, but not in our short story category. Why is that? Was it the ill thought out rumor I spread about me rigging the contest so I'd win? Probably not. Whatever the reason for the shortage of entries I'm sure it will never EVER happen again.

This isn't going to be our last writing contest. *Get to writing already!* "What? I should start writing now?" you ask. YES! *Get some practice writing in.* You have a whole year to get yourself ready, so start cranking out some great stories. Writing, like most skills, gets better with practice. If you start now you'll probably be able to be at least a level 10 writer! (I'm a geek and give everything levels. EXAMPLE: Juni- LVL 52 Editor). After creating some fantastic works of poetry and fiction, send them over to *Teen Talk* and let the rest of us have a look at your crazy awesome talent.

As you may or may not have noticed, I submitted my own little entry into the writing contest. (You may not have noticed because I have the firm belief that most people that pick up this newsletter go straight to the back to read what I, Juni "The Man With the Plan" Ruiz, have to say about random stuff). I was disqualified before the story even touched the judges desk. It was almost like I fed it directly into a shredder. That hurt. I guess I should apologize for trying to steal the spotlight from the hard working teen writers that perhaps wanted to submit things, but were too late. As awesome as I think it is to put this newsletter together for you guys, I think it's even more awesome for all of you teens to have a place to showcase your talents.

This newsletter is always going to be for you poets out there to share you creative wordplay. It's for you fiction-wizards (what I call writers) to show how imaginative you can be. Finally for you artists out there that are proud of what your hands created and want others to appreciate your art as much as you do. Did I leave anyone out? The columnist? The reviewer? The disgruntled teen? This is for you too. Send something in. You know you want to.

Sincerely,

Juni 
Ruiz

Juni Ruiz

*TT*Editor/Level 89 Fiction Wizard



Juni Ruiz still recovering from the rejection

Suggestion Box

Drop any suggestions you'd like to see in *Teen Talk*! Do you know any good jokes? Have you visited any cool websites lately? Is there a topic you would like to have discussed? Is there something you want me to rant about? Let us know and it MIGHT show up in one of our upcoming issues. Don't forget, we also need poetry, stories and pictures.

Contact Juni in the Children's Department by using the contact info at the bottom of the page, or you can contact us via our myspace and facebook pages.

Be Our Friend!

Yes, the Teen Room has its very own myspace page. Make sure to add us as your friend. The Teen Room myspace can be found at:

www.myspace.com/vplteenroom

Be Our Fan!

Yes, the Teen Room has its very own Facebook Fan page. Log in to your facebook account and do a search for "Vineland Library Teen Room". We need more fans!

We're on the web!
www.vinelandlibrary.org

Teen Talk is a newsletter of original stories, poems, and artwork by local teens. The works contained in this newsletter are solely the creative work of the authors and artists and does not reflect the opinions of the Vineland Public Library. If you are a teenager and are interested in having your work published in this newsletter, please submit work for review to the Vineland Public Library's Children's and Young Adult Department. Mail entries to the Vineland Public Library at 1058 E. Landis Ave., Vineland, NJ 08360, ATTN: Teen Talk. You can also email Juni Ruiz at eruij@vinelandlibrary.org with the subject line "Teen Talk."