

James McIntyre Poetry Contest

2011

Winning Poems

Grade 3 & 4 - Assorted

1st – THE MOUSE, by Isaac Mishchenko

Once there was a mouse
Named Louise,
Who stole a whole lot of
Cheese.

She chomped it all down,
Ran far out of town,
And she lived out her life
With great ease.

Grade 3 & 4 – Assorted

**2nd – MY GRANDMA, by
Grace Mishchenko**

My grandma is nice
And she never has lice.
She lets me come over for
The day,
And she always makes time
For us to play.
She makes cookies and
Cakes,
Because she likes to bake.
I love my grandmother
She is like no other.

Grade 7 – Assorted

**1st – A COLD WINTER NIGHT, by
Sam Mishchenko**

A cold winter night
All cozy and warm in bed
A bright shining moon

Grade 7 – Assorted

2nd – MONSTERS, by Kayla Postma

Some are big and some are hairy
All of them seem super scary
Even though this may not cross your mind
Some of them are very kind

Have you ever seen them scare?
Lots of people don't really care...
Once I happened to hear one cry
I've always seem to wonder why!

So before you look under you're your bed
Just remember all I have said
Monsters can be very kind as long as you
don't waste their time!

Grade 8 – Ingersoll Schools – Special
Award

1st – ST. JUDE’S, by John Ryan

St. Jude’s is a wonderful place
Although it isn’t my home base
It’s one of the best schools
Although it has a lot of rules
But I would still give it an ace

Grade 8 – Ingersoll Schools – Special
Award

**2nd – ST. JUDE’S SCHOOL,
by Jessica Phelps**

Supports you even when things are bad
Tender, loving and caring
Just and fair to all; we are
Utterly enjoyable to be with
Deserves your time and patience
Everlasting friendship
Sociable events, like school BBQ’s
School spirit, GO NAVIGATORS
Close to the hearts of all
Holds on to the very end
Only the best teachers
Opening a whole new door on learning
Located close by; 30 Caffyn St.

Grade 8 – Acrostic

1st – **AUTUMN**, by Katie Ziraldo

Autumn is a time when
bea**U**tiful leaves fall off of
The trees. People carrying
Umbrellas and wearing hats and
Mittens. Colourful leaves all over the
Grou**N**d. Autumn is a time of change.

Grade 8 – Acrostic

2nd – CHEESE, by Brandon Mastrandrea

Cheese is really good for you it,
Helps you be healthy and,
Excels your,
Everyday activities, cheese can be,
Swiss, cheddar or,
Even old cheese!
Grade 8 – Acrostic

Grade 8 – Acrostic

3rd – ST. JUDE’S, by Brittany Brennan

Super
Totally awesome

Just the best school ever
United as one
Dude, we’re skilled!
Everyone is totally cool, yo!
Standing up for what’s right

I love it here
So come and visit but don’t forget to sign in

Thanks for stopping by
Hey, come back again
Exciting

Best school ever
Everyday made fun
Such great staff
To you, we are welcoming

Grade 8 – Free Verse

1st – WHAT’S A HAPPY ENDING? **by Jessica Phelps**

What’s a happy ending?
In the stories you’ll live happily ever after
What does happily ever after mean?
It means you’ll live with the person you love
What’s love?
Love is a strong feeling of affection
Why does that matter?
Because you want to be happy
So basically a happy ending?
Yes, a happy ending

Grade 8 – Free Verse

**2nd – MOONBEAMS AND FIRE,
by Alianna McSherry**

The night is dark,
Frigid and raw,
The sky is an arc,
I watch for dawn,

Feeling the cold of dark,
Smelling the sweet night air,
Intertwining with the smoking embers,
While a small fire blooms,

I see my hands silhouette,
Against the blue and white flame,
Mysterious yet obvious,
Night is all but the same,

The moon is full and bright,
Eyes peer into the beams,
Looking for a sign in the stars,
A world beyond our reach,

A world beyond our reach,
Out in the distant space,
Looking for the answer,
That has hid since the beginning,

The prairie shudders,
The flickering flame dies,
A wind spills into me,
In the dark once again.

Grade 8 – Free Verse

3rd – THUNDERSTORMS, by Taylor Rounds

Big gray clouds hang in the sky.
You hear the rumble of thunder in distance.
You hear the rain hitting the ground.
You run and open the door.
You see a bolt of lightning,
It lights up the sky.
You stand there for a moment,
Just watching,
But it's too tempting.
You sprint outside.
You start dancing in the rain,
And you can't help but smile.

Grade 8 – Free Verse

Honourable Mention – FRIENDS, by Brittany Brennan

Friends are the ones you hold close
They're the ones you can lean on
They stay close in your heart
Siblings through the soul.
Best friends are forever
Through thick and through thin.
Though you may fight,
You'll still always be friends.

Grade 8 – Haiku

1st – WINTER, by Sahpia Shannon

Snowflakes are falling
Snowmen with smiley faces
Hot cocoa waiting

Grade 8 – Haiku

2nd – WINTER, by Vanessa Fortner

Cold crisp air hovers
Slowly one by one they fall
The first snow is here

Grade 8 – Haiku

3rd – A DAY AT SCHOOL, by Dylan Lee

A good friend told me
That the teachers might scold me
But I got a B.

Grade 8 – Haiku

**Honourable Mention – UNTITLED,
by Katie Ziraldo**

Leaves changing colours
Cold wind tickling your ears
Fall is beautiful

Grade 8 – Rhyming Verse

1st – FAMILY, by Taylor Rounds

The ones that will always love you,
The ones that will always care,
The ones you can always go to,
The ones that are always there.

The times when you are feeling sad,
The times when you feel alone,
They will make it not so bad,
You will never be on your own.

They will always make you smile,
I am like their precious gem,
My time with them is worthwhile,
And that is why I love them.

Grade 8 – Rhyming Verse

2nd – THE REASON I LOVE YOU, by Jessica Phelps

I like your beautiful blue eyes
But that's not the reason I love you
I like how with you time flies
But that's not the reason I love you
I like how you understand me
But that's not the reason I love you
I like how you fill me with glee
But that's not the reason I love you
So as you go along your road
The reason I love you is just you
I feel like I'm going to explode
And that's the reason I love you.

Grade 8 – Rhyming Verse

3rd – THE LEE’S CHEESE POEM, by Nathan Lee

We three Lees like lots of cheese
But we have to say please if we want
Some more cheese some of the
Bees like to tease us Lees because
Of the cheese so we sent them back
To their big old trees
We lost our keys in the Seven seas
But we let it freeze so no more
Cheese that and the dog got
Fleas and the fleas had a
Disease so we got rid of the fleas
That did not like cheese.

Grade 8 – Rhyming Verse

Honourable Mention – GAZES TO GLARES, by Taylor Nicholson

The gazes have turned to a glare,
The laughs to an empty cry.
You just left me without a care,
I can't help but to wonder why?

It seems like you walked out the door,
Without me saying "goodbye".
Could you not take me anymore?
I ask you to please tell me why.

Right now I feel like a baby;
Not really sure what to do.
I need someone to come save me,
I want that someone to be you.

Grade 8 – Other Verse

1st – SUMMER, by Brady Harris

Hot, warm
Rainy, sunny, fun
No school/cold, snowman
Snow, awesome, Christmas
Fun, snowballs
Winter

Grade 8 – Other Verse

**2nd – WONDERFUL CHEESE,
by Noah Schonberger**

Cheese is a wonderful thing,
It makes me want to sing.
Its nice and creamy,
And oh so dreamy.
When I eat it I feel like a king.

Grade 7 – Best Dairy Ode – Special Award

1st – CHEESE, by Kayla Postma

Oh please oh please,
I need some cheese.
Not Swiss or cheddar
Mozzarella is so much better!

Some cheese is white or yellow,
Whoever eats it is one lucky fellow.
There are so many different kinds,
More than ever crosses your mind.

Cheese is super-duper yummy,
After you eat it you'll have one happy
tummy.

So please oh please,
GIVE ME MY CHEESE!

Grade 8 – Best Dairy Ode – Special Award

2nd – CHEESE, by Sarah Todd

I like cheese when it's cut in slices,
And so do mice, or should I say mices,
It's orange and white, and some are blue,
It comes in sleeves of 1, or sometimes 2,
There are over twenty different kinds,
I hope you know something important,
That cheese is yummy in your tummy,
Cheese goes great with many different
foods,
And it will pull you through many moods,
You can never ever put cheese down,
But if you do, please remember that,
You will come across, a scary frown.

Grade 8 – Best Dairy Ode – Special Award

**3rd – CHEESE IS MY FAVOURITE,
by John Ryan**

Cheese is my favourite
It will always stay that way
Cheese is my favourite
I could eat it all day

Say you don't like cheese
As much as you really could
When you get the chance
Eat it, you honestly should

Every time of the day
Every time of the dark night
You look at my cheese
And I'll put up a hard fight

Adult – Rhyming Verse

1st – LACEY LEE, by Janice McDonald

Over the beanfield all I see
Is the tip of her wagging tail.
We call her name as loud we can
Though we know we won't prevail;
Once that nose has caught a scent
These humans can never win.
That silly dog! I must admit
My patience has grown thin.

It could be rabbit, coon or cat,
She'll chase them all the same.
And though I tell her she is bad,
It's instinct that's to blame.
Right from the start she's been like this
All attempts to change did fail,
And so we watch with real dismay
That shrinking glimpse of tail.

We've fetched her twice from folks in town,
And thrice from doggy jail.
She's cost me cash, that crazy dog,
When she's gone on the trail.
She'll be an angel for awhile
A ruse to gain our trust.
Then sneak off quickly through the fence,
It's usefulness a bust.

Otherwise, she's the greatest pet
And best friend to our son.
The only trial is when this beast
Has left us for a run.
Whoa is me! She's gone again.
My beagle's on the trail.
And over the beanfield all I see
Is the tip of her wagging tail.

Adult – Rhyming Verse

**2nd – THE GARDEN – EARLY MORNING,
by Elizabeth Bustard**

To stand barefoot in the garden
Feel the earth between your toes
Know that you are so connected
Walk up and down between the rows
To be at one with all creation
Sense that you are not alone
Rejoice with worms, ants and spiders
Bless Mother Earth who is your home
These are the joys that greet the morning
As birds fly, their voices pure
Sun rises in a blaze of glory
Dew drops suspended, allure.

Adult – Rhyming Verse

3rd – FIREFLY, by Dana Highley

Firefly, firefly, dancing in the night.
A tiny, little miracle. Jovial, in the storm's
light.

Do you see me watch you?
Do you know I'm there?
As you fly so randomly, across the heavy
air.

What stories you've inspired!
What plays you've helped create!
As you played so childlike, along the
garden's gate.
As I watch you shining, and cavorting with
the trees,
My feet I have to steady, from the
weakness in my knees.

I want to run and catch you!
And place you in a jar.
Keep you with me, forever. Always near,
not far.
For seeing you reminds me, of the child in
my heart.
An innocence with which, I never want to
part.

Alas. As part of Mother Nature,
You belong to it, not me!
And collecting you, would cheat you, of who
you need to be.
So I will smile a joyful smile, at the gift you
did impart.
A warm and peaceful feeling, down deep,
inside my heart.

Adult – Free Verse

1st – UNTITLED, by Neil Desborough

Birds and ragged bee balm
Understand it best
Summer on the wane

Black clouds wheel
Above new-silk corn

Young deer venture timid
Onto moonlit fields
Of absent wheat

Butterflies in shadow
Hang beneath the stars

And none regret
The long dark furrow
Of seasons end

Adult – Free Verse

**2nd – THE PHANTOM OF THE CABIN,
by Winnifred Harris**

A chorus of splattering raindrops launches
its debut,
As the strident chords of “The Phantom of
the Opera”
Contend in dramatic prose.
“Why, Christine, Why?” 1

In the little cabin by the lake,
We strain to hear the rhythmic notes
As the rain begins to pummel the tin roof,
As if to applaud its outspoken approval.
“Forgive me, Christine, forgive me!” 1

Mary, armed with camera and umbrella,
Ventures out into the storm, in a futile
attempt
To capture nature’s melodies.
Marlene occasionally nods off

In the cadence of the balmy timbre,
As Brenda, heedless of the recital,
Continues to read in the dim, unnatural
light.

*“You try my patience, Christine, make your
choice!” 1*

Karen, joining in the aria, keeps tune
In her soprano voice, amoroso.
And I....I, in my warm, fuzzy socks.
Doodle in euphoric harmony.

*“Nothing can save you now, except
Christine.” 1*

As the opera draws to a close,
The rain ends.
Quiet reigns.

”It’s over now, Christine” 1

1 excerpts adapted from “Phantom of the Opera”

Adult – Free Verse

3rd – PICTURE FRAME, by E.S. Doyle

Tonight I put your picture in a frame.
It had started to buckle standing
Against the kitchen counter wall,
And it would fall every time
The backdoor swung open.

You would always leave the backdoor ajar.
Especially when you worked out in the
garden.

I remember when you grew the tomato
patch.
But then the bugs got it.
You were out there everyday
Nurturing the pitiful excuses for plants,
And would always leave the backdoor ajar.
It would swing open
And all my paperwork
Would blow across the floor.

I would say,
“Rip those God forsaken things from the
ground
And put them out of their misery”.
You would just smile your radiant smile.

But now your picture just falls over.
Never flies across the room.
Stays firm to the counter,
Where it feels safe.
It knows I will take care of it,
And someday even hang it.

Tonight I put your picture in a frame,
And laid it back against the kitchen counter
wall.

Adult – Free Verse

**Honourable Mention – SIX O’CLOCK
NEWS, by E.S. Doyle**

Like the marks upon
The walls of this old house of mine,
My body has been scratched with time.
Scars of both good times and bad.

My bones crack as
The floor boards squeak,
And my thoughts drift back
To a time when my dad slept
After supper in his recliner
Watching the six o’clock news.

Tired from the days work.
Tired from fixing the hot water heater,
...or the dryer,
...or changing the starting motor on the old
blue Pontiac,
...or digging up the clogged septic tank.

I watched and learned.
And now, as I sit back to doze
Off to the six o'clock news,
I can't help but think,
I'm proud to have become my dad.

Adult – Haiku

1st – UNTITLED, by Lori Pearson

Come in, little bird,
I won't hurt you.
Talk for me.

Adult – Haiku

2nd – UNTITLED, by Neil Desborough

Feathers of the moon
Dragonflies on wings of light
In the ponds dark skin

Adult – Other

1st - UNTITLED, by Neil Desborough

Old statue in a cold garden
Dark with yesterdays rain

Sad mystery when flowers
Never touch your name

Cold statue in an old garden
Yesterdays dark with rain

Adult – Other

**2nd – FROM THE BULRUSHES,
by Janice McDonald**

Closing night choir
Fills cooling days with magic,
Gather near and then
Thousands of voices sing out—
Last encore to summer's show

Adult – Other

**3rd – A MAN NAMED McNAUGHTON,
by Glen Semionoff**

I once knew a man named Mc Naughton.
He loved his potatoes au gratin.
If you left out the cheese,
He'd say, "No thank you. Please!
I think something you have forgotten."

Adult – Famous Local People – Special
Award

COMMENCEMENT, by F.H. Lee

Husband
Father
Friend

Minister
Man
Mentor
Marvel
McCombe

Uncle Rog.

He handed her to Cliff
Saying
If we find the right polish
She will shine

It was scandalous

He was hugged Fri 04 Nov 1983
By a female student
In front of the assembly

What they had not seen
He had been
Her homeroom teacher in grades 12 & 13

A strike had caused tension
Student
Teacher
Board

He wrote a tribute to 13 B
Expressing thanks
Unoriginally speaking

We had healed each other
And that singular ode
Became one of her
Brightest moments
Of memory

She was proud of the spectacle
To have hugged this man
Of vision
When she could

To pay him tribute
In a way
That would make him smile,
Still.

The lamp of learning
Shone brightly that night
And winked,
To itself

P.S. I am not sure if Bonnie Mott and Roger
McCombe knew each other well, but I know
they both loved words, as do I.

Adult – Best Dairy Ode – Special Award

**1st – SONNET XVIII (Revised),
by Gary E. Miller**

Shall I compare thee to Ingersoll cheese?
Thou hast, alas, less sensuous appeal,
(Though there's no danger you'll make me
obese);
Both add enjoyment to a gourmet meal.
Sometimes too hot your sudden temper
blazes
And sometimes is your kind, warm nature
chilled,
As Fate's vicissitudes your spirit raises
Or else your hopeful mood is cruelly killed;
But cheese's endless goodness never fades,
Nor does its gustatory joy diminish;
Its flavor is pleasure that never jades;
It keeps its heavenly taste from start to finish.
So long as tastebuds taste and teeth can
chew,
I'll choose this Ingersoll cheese over you.

Adult – Best Dairy Ode – Special Award

2nd – EL SIN YOUR, by Glen Seminoff

I knew a man named El Sin Your.
He said that cheese he did adore.
 With his sweet little wife,
 He spent his whole life,
Eating cheese 'til there just was no more.

Adult – Best Long Poem – Special Award

**MY HOME TOWN HEREOS,
by William Heslop**

The pioneers from our fabled past
Toiled through rough and nasty weather.
Their sweat and tears over many years
Brought our vibrant town together.

They were our true-blue heroes
Long before my time.
And here is my list of heroes
As seen below in rhyme.

In kindergarten at the Ward school
We had a lot of fun.
The teacher was like our mother
...our dear Miss Cuthbertson

One day she piled us in her car
And took us...to a matinee.
The “Wizard of Oz” was playing
...this I remember to this day.

Mr. MacKenzie was our neighbor
When I was just a kid.
Ingersoll Cheese employed him
And I so admired the work he did.

We left our home and moved downtown
Victory Memorial was so cool,
Where we learned the “Yes Sir” habit
From reading signs in school.

Mr. Walton was our principal
And we loved it when he’d sit in.
With a glass of milk, he’d stand up front
Telling tales of where he’d been.

Reading was a pre-requisite
Where we all studied en masse.
Kenny Piper was a passionate reader.

The very best one in our class!

Our pipe band was entertaining
And their popularity soared off the chart.
We kids would march beside them
Until the parade ended at the park.
Mr. Collins, the veteran Pipe Major,
Would lead the band so proud.
The skirl of the pipes...breathhtaking
To the pleasure of the crowd.

Constable Holmes was a gentle man.
He was always on the beat.
His presence was reassuring.
He kept crime off all our streets.

It was during World War II back then,
We thought spies were in our town.
We'd go out at night with flashlights and
Constable Holmes discreetly stood us
down.

Harold Wilson and Miss Canada III
Made our country and townsfolk proud.
They had the fastest Gold Cup boat
And thrilled every racing crowd.

Oscar Judd was a pro ball player.
He's in the Canadian Hall of Fame.
A long time resident of Ingersoll.
A true student of the game.

The war was over in '45.
Our troops were home at last.
The tearful crowd kept waving
As our heroes marched on past.

My mom was my biggest hero, and
My best friend for all those years.
I dreaded the day she would leave us
Lovingly accompanied by our tears.

She was always there when needed
With warm hugs and endearing smiles.
She was very honest, kind and friendly,

And her patience measured miles.
My heroes were special people and
They responded to life's beckoning call.
It was a long time ago but I do recall
My days as a child in ol' Ingersoll.