



NEWS RELEASE

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4 BCPS students honored in Baltimore County Public Library's short story contest

Recognized students represent George Washington Carver for Arts and Technology, Hereford Middle School, Perry Hall High School, and Pikesville Middle School

Towson, MD – Four Baltimore County Public School students have earned honors in the Baltimore County Public Library's "Exercise Your Write 2022" short story contest.

The annual contest challenged students in Grades 6 -12 to write original stories inspired by quotes related to social injustice, inequity, civil rights, or the experiences of marginalized communities.

The BCPS winners and the Baltimore County Public Library descriptions of their stories follow:

Middle School Winners

- **Second place:** "[The Red Door](#)" by Annabelle Kroart, Grade 6, Hereford Middle School — "This story serves as a sobering reminder of the viciousness of capitalism and pays homage to the people who came before and fought for workers' rights to safety."
- **Third place:** "[Mr. Porter, Sir](#)" by Zoe Deese, Grade 8, Pikesville Middle School— "Told through the eyes of a teenager, this tense short story grapples with the ever-present threat of police brutality that faces people of color."
- **Staff pick:** "The Red Door" by Annabelle Kroart, Grade 6, Hereford Middle School

High School Winners

- **Second place:** "[Hair Covered Barrier](#)" by Yakhare Gueye, Grade 12, Perry Hall High School— "Cruel words from friends cause a young girl's hair to grow until it completely encases her; it takes her mother's love to remind her of the beauty and power of natural hair."
- **Staff pick:** "[When you're Autistic](#)" by Jenna Nesky, Grade 10, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology— "This short story offers a frank look at the way the structures of our society ostracize people with neurodiversity and shows the way our differences can be our strengths."

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).