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Lyme Student Named New Hampshire's 2008 Robert Frost Youth Poet

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September 4, 2008

DURHAM, N.H. -- The 2008 Robert Frost Youth Poet for the state of New Hampshire is Ellie Pschirrer-West, a fourth-grader at the Crossroads Academy in Lyme.

A student of Cynthia Williamson, Pschirrer-West's winning poem is titled "Home." The poem was selected from the 600 poems submitted to the 2008 Robert Frost Youth Poet Program, sponsored by the Trustees of the Robert Frost Homestead and the University of New Hampshire Library.

Home

Someone lifts me from my shelf.
My pages worn from the calloused fingers
That have turned me over countless times.
I have been many places,
But my true home is a house,
Number six on a street called Pine.
I have been on planes to Italy,
And boats to Maine,
Yet I do not call these places home.
My home is warm.
An electric light flickers on above me.
I have been cuddled up with in a big
Warm bed on a rainy March day.
I have felt the SWOOOSSHH of warm
Summer wind on my pages
As I rested on the lap of my avid reader.
Home is my shelf in a bedroom,
In a warm New Hampshire house.

The judges also selected county poets and honorable mention poets: Belknap County Poet, Alise Shuten; Belknap County Honorable Mention Poet, Emily Hudson; Carroll County Poet, Ethan Floyd; Coos County Poet, Emily Galasyn; Coos County Honorable Mention Poet, Gabrielle Scott; Grafton County Poet, Izzy LaBombard; Grafton County Honorable Mention Poet, Pete Knox; Hillsborough County Poet, Sydney Brackett; Hillsborough County Honorable Mention Poet, Brock Higley; Merrimack County Poet, Anna Heindl; Merrimack County Honorable Mention Poet, Maggie Jensen; Rockingham County Poet, Zack Kelley; Rockingham County Honorable Mention Poet, Noam Hantman; Sullivan County Poet, Georgia Houde; Sullivan County Honorable Mention Poet, Lauren Anikis. Full texts of all the winning poems can be viewed at <http://www.robertfrostfarm.org/poet.html>

The winners will be honored Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008, at 1 p.m., at the Robert Frost Farm, Route 28, Derry.

The contest was open to all New Hampshire fourth-graders who submitted poems on the theme of "My Home." Students wrote poems about their homes whether it is the house they live in, their communities, or, especially, the natural world, that makes them feel at home. Like Robert Frost at his family farm in Derry, they wrote about the many ways families in New Hampshire create a strong sense of home.

William Ross, UNH Library director of special collections, and UNH professor David Watters, trustees vice chair and director of the UNH Center for New England Culture, announced that the poems will be kept in a permanent archive at the university, which houses a distinguished collection of Robert Frost's works. Ian Veitenheimer, Jen Gentile, Ann Bienvenue, and Sue Easter, members of the faculty at Pinkerton Academy, where Robert Frost taught, served as contest judges.

The Robert Frost Youth Poet Program was established to foster the writing of poetry by New Hampshire children. In his years at the Derry Farm from 1900 to 1910, Frost wrote some of his best-known poems, such as "Mending Wall," "The Pasture," "Ghost House" and "Hyla Brook." He encouraged his own children, who were schooled at home, and his students at Pinkerton Academy, to write poetry. The contest keeps Frost's legacy alive and recognizes the talents of New Hampshire school children. The Robert Frost Youth Poet Program is supported by funds from the Finisterre Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

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