



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mary York, a ninth-grade student at Ross S. Sterling High School, participated in the Scholastic Writing Contest during the 2008-09 school year. Her short story, "Gathering Dust," won a National Silver Medal. Mary was honored by the Goose Creek Board of Trustees on June 22. Mary is shown with Board president Agustin Loredo III, left, and Superintendent Dr. Toby York.

RSS 9th-grader pens award-winning story

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In early June, Mary and her teacher, Tammy Meigh, traveled to New York City to participate in the award ceremony held at the world-renowned Carnegie Hall. Mary, 15, is the daughter of Goose Creek CISD teacher Ms. Martha York.

Mary said she started writing this story when I was 14, and that "Gathering Dust" is really pieces of a novel that she is working on.

"My inspiration for this story was learning about annotating pieces of literature. So, I wrote something, just based off of good literary elements, just as a writing exercise, but that night I had a dream with the characters, and I had to finish telling the story," Mary said. While her novel was in development, Mary was in 8th grade, and her English teacher, Mrs. Poston, helped her process the story, and writing in general. "I would often stay after school to get advice from her to help the reader understand more," Mary said.

"When I entered high school, I wanted to enter the scholastic writing contest, because I knew it was a good opportunity. I gave Mrs. Meigh, my English teacher last year, a part of the novel as an example of my writing. She said it would make a good short story, and helped me edit it, even though it was probably hard for her, since I was very reluctant to shorten it," Mary said.

Mary's plans for the future are college (preferably the University of Texas, Rice University, Angelo State or Harvard), and hopefully earn some sort of degree in creative writing.

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