

2023 Sijo Competition Winners

The East Asian Studies Center at The Ohio State University presents the winners of the 2023 Kentucky-Ohio Sijo Student Competition for K-12 students to honor the traditional Korean form of poetry.

High School Division (Kentucky and Ohio):

First Place:

Axel Bidlack

9th Grade, Wayne Trace High School

Art comes in different forms
Most think of drawings and paintings

Poems are also a form of art
The creators imagination

To make their own view of the world
Known to others like you.

Elementary/Middle School Division (Kentucky and Ohio):

First Place:

Willow Wilson

8th Grade, Ironton Middle School

O'Mighty Tree, ancient creature, solemnly, you gaze above.
Stature gleams, stoic and true, coarse with knowledge unknown to man.
Saws whirring; trunk buckling. Returning to Earth, born anew.

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Second Place (tied, listed alphabetically):

Kenzie Henry

8th Grade, Ironton Middle School

Books, papers bound together, creating worlds different from mine,
Worlds I can escape to when reality is too oppressive.
I get lost in these worlds, sometimes confusing them with mine.

Riley Winters

8th Grade, Ironton Middle School

There is a caged canary in my chest that sings sweet songs.
“Sing for me,” you speak, ready to listen; ready to set it free.
So it does; it sings of sorrow and rips you apart, bit by bit.

Honorable Mention (tied, listed alphabetically):

Alyssa Clark

8th Grade, Ironton Middle School

A pluviophile walks as a mellifluous serenity
Fell that evening. The aroma of petrichor flowed,
Unmindful, until the shower slowly drizzled away.

Jenna Compliment

8th Grade, Ironton Middle School

My cousin Emily, fun, bubbly, creative, witty:
She’s brave, determined and my favorite cousin. I have eight.
Land of the Free because of the Brave, oh soldier come home
