



Spotlight on Excellence: Robinson School Stranger Sagas Young Writers' Competition

TO: Jeannine Durkin, Acting Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Robin Desmond, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment *R.D. Desmond*

DATE: April 5, 2019

RE: *Spotlight on Excellence: Robinson School Stranger Sagas Young Writers' Competition*

The *Spotlight on Excellence* presentation on April 10th will feature Robinson Middle School students who had stories recently selected and published as a part of the Young Writers' Stranger Sagas writing competition.

In pursuit of trying to give students more opportunities to write, especially in writing narratives, Michael Rossetti, Robinson School Instructional Specialist, found that the Young Writers' organization runs frequent writing competitions that are highly engaging, relevant to students' interests and experiences, and could be scaled up to a school wide level, which made the experience more memorable. An added bonus, the best student work would be published and be made available to parents and the wider school community.

This particular competition, called Stranger Sagas, was made to look like the popular *Stranger Things* television show and featured spooky prompts that students could choose to base their 100 word stories on. Teachers facilitated the writing in one class period, and they were able to review important skills such as suspense, mood, tone, and theme.

After submitting, teachers nominated stories for special recognition at a grade-wide level, and then we waited to hear back if any of our students were chosen for publication.

We are incredibly proud that 48 Robinson School students were published in the Stranger Sagas: Stories from Massachusetts! The students and teachers worked hard to get to this point, and they will continue to find ways to raise excitement for writing!

I would like to thank Bridget Dowling, Robinson School Principal, and Michael Rossetti, Robinson School Instructional Specialist, for providing the information contained within this report.