

Gallaudet University National Literacy Competition Winner

Gallaudet University holds a national competition each year showcasing Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) students' expressive literacy skills in both written English and in ASL in the National Literacy Competition (NLC). The writing contest has been around for years, but after KSD established the ASL Bowl competition 10 years ago, and after it became part of the Great Plains Schools for the Deaf (GPSD) regional triathlon tournament, Gallaudet came and observed. Liking what they saw, they created a national competition in ASL to add to the written contest. Now students submit works of creative writing, essay writing, and poetry writing as well as ASL poetry, ASL storytelling, and ASL presentation. The divisions are elementary, middle school, and high school students, and students with other disabilities. Students must submit written work via email and videos via YouTube. In the previous 4 years of this competition, KSD has won several first places, a second place, and some honorable mentions, but all of them were secondary students. This year we have one elementary student who won first place in the nation in ASL storytelling. Her name is Ava Plummer, and she is in second grade. The theme this year was "survival." Ava's story was about a UFO attacking people on Earth and how she survived the attack by using the, "Live long and prosper" hand gesture from the Star Trek series. Ava received a certificate of accomplishment as well as a \$100 prize. Gallaudet's prize money is all raised through the Phi Kappa Zeta sorority, which is famous for expertise in literature.