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SHORE POETS WIN IN REGIONAL COMPETITION



Robin Butler (left), a patron of Eastern Shore Public Library, receives a first place plaque presented by internationally renowned regional author Kwame Alexander for her poem in the Tidewater Reads poetry contest.

ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA (May 1, 2018) – Eastern Shore Public Library recently announced that two of the winners in the Tidewater Reads regional poetry contest are from Northampton County. Kayla Durst placed third in the teen competition and Robin Butler placed first in the adult competition. Both attended the awards ceremony at the Slover Library in Norfolk, Virginia on Saturday, April 28th, 2018. Tidewater Reads is a literary collaborative of libraries on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and in Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and York County along with the Muse Writing Center and the Suffolk Art League.

In its third year, Tidewater Reads' goal is to build a sense of community by encouraging people across the region to read and talk about the same book or author and participate in related activities. Kwame Alexander was chosen this year as the selected author because he writes children's, teen, and adult books as well as poetry. Alexander was the guest speaker at the awards ceremony and spoke about growing up in Tidewater and how his parents instilled in him a love of reading and writing.

Prior to the regional poetry competition, the Eastern Shore Public Library held a local contest. Fifty six poems entered the local competition with entries from all four libraries in Accomac, Cape Charles, Chincoteague and Nassawadox. First place winners in the Eastern Shore competition are: Currin Burrell for grades K to 2, Ava Siegrist for grades 3 to 5, Josephine Kohler for grades 6 to 8, Kanijah Brickhouse for grades 9 to 12, and A'Marie Bailey in the adult category. The poems of these first place winners as well as the second and third place winners in the Eastern Shore Public Library contest were submitted to the regional

Tidewater Reads competition, making a total of local fifteen poems competing against entries from six other Tidewater library systems.

The Friends of Eastern Shore Public Library supported printing a compilation of the fifty six local poems. Winning entries in the regional competition will be compiled into a digital poetry book and available at tidewaterreads.org. To read books by Kwame Alexander and for more information about library programs, contact the Eastern Shore Public Library at (757) 787-3400 or visit online at www.espl.org.

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