Leopold’s Ice Cream thanks Live Oak Public Libraries for their amazing collaboration in making this challenge possible every year! We also thank the dedicated teachers and parents that find time to advocate for this creative writing challenge and the students that put their efforts into this project.

Creative writing develops writing and cognitive skills, demonstrating to our young students the power of persuasion in writing.

“For there is always light,
if only we’re brave enough to see it,
if only we’re brave enough to be it.”
- Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!
AND THE WINNERS ARE.....

Grades K-2:
1st Place: “My Family and Friends” by Amay Reddy
Kindergarten, Godley Station Elementary School

2nd Place: “Love and Friendship” by Carson Stack
1st grade, Hesse Elementary School

Grades 3-5:
1st Place: “Friends and Family Are My Crew” by Kasey Rodgers
5th grade, Heard Elementary School

2nd Place: “Family and Friends” by Joy Hall
5th grade, Haven Elementary School

Grades 6-8:
1st Place: “The Ultimate Gift” by Hudson Christopher Miller
7th grade, Esther F. Garrison School of the Arts

2nd Place: “The Woods” by Ethan Crowe
6th grade, Veritas Academy

Grades 9-12:
1st Place: “Friends and Family” by Julian Wells Deveaux
9th grade, Homeschooled, Springfield, Georgia

2nd Place: “The Sayings” by Krystell Sanchez Romero
12th grade, Sol C. Johnson High School
My Family and Friends
By Amay Reddy

I love my Mom and Dad.
They do not make me sad.
When I am with them, I am so glad.
My sister is my best friend.
I can hug her super tight.
We play games day and night.
My friends are so many,
I can count them 1 to 10.
Some are big, some are small.
I don’t care if they are small.
They are all so much fun.
I also have family far away.
They love me the same way.

1st Place: “My Family and Friends” by Amay Reddy
Kindergarten, Godley Station Elementary School
Grades K - 2

2nd Place

Love and Friendship
By Carson Stack

Your friends and family can be boys or girls,
can be brown, peach, tan or any color in the world.

Your friend can feel like a sister to you,
and your brother can feel like a friend, too.

Friends and family can be adults or children,
but usually not bullies.

Everybody in the world is someone’s friend,
even pets, that’s true.

Friends and family can become a blend,
and their love will never end.

2nd Place: “Love and Friendship” by Carson Stack
1st grade, Hesse Elementary School
Friends and Family Are My Crew

By Kasey Rodgers

Now for one my family is crazy,
And it’s pretty big too.
Actually it’s crazy big,
But I’d do anything for my crew.
They’re the nicest people ever.
They have that title claimed.
But don’t mess with us,
Because we don’t play games.

And don’t forget my friends.
Yeah, they’re cool too.
I met every single one of them on the playground at school.
We go traveling together
Because that’s what friends do.
Some people give us looks,
But you do you.

So, shout out to mom, dad, grandmoms, granddad, and
all my aunts and uncles too!
Because right now my best friends will forever and
will always be one of you.

1st Place: “Friends and Family Are My Crew” by Kasey Rodgers
5th grade, Heard Elementary School
Family and Friends
By Joy Hall

I love my family and friends
And they love me too.
Grandma, you are no longer around, and I miss you.
And even though my brother can be sickening,
    I love him still!
Mom and Dad, I love you to the moon and back.
    And Auntie, you know you rock!
Don’t get me started about our special bond.
My friends, they know how to make me snap
    And of course, how to make it stop.
So, they will always have a place in my heart
    Just like they did right from the start.

2nd Place: “Family and Friends” by Joy Hall
5th grade, Haven Elementary School
**The Ultimate Gift**

**By Hudson Christopher Miller**

The things that you own matter not.
If you have a little or you have a lot.
For it’s not what we have, but rather, it’s who.
The people who stick with us through and through.

Family means no one is left behind.
It means together, for we’re stronger combined.
Friendship completes us, it makes us feel whole.
It only lifts up and relieves the soul.

It is the comfort we have when we occasionally fall,
And the strength in us when we give it our all.
The compass that guides us when we are lost.
The ultimate gift, that comes at no cost.

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1st Place: “The Ultimate Gift” by Hudson Miller
7th grade, Esther F. Garrison School of the Arts
The Woods
By Ethan Crowe

The woods are my favorite place to be.
There is no limit to what you could see.
Although being alone is not the best.
Bringing a friend along is a great quest.
So I go running knock to see who’s free.
Thankfully many can come play with me.
So off we go and head back to the woods.
And now we will explore its many goods.
We all find trees and build teepees so tall.
Then we make a huge bridge that will not fall.
Our parents then came and joined us that day.
Then we gladly invited them to play.
That day was the best time I’ve ever had.
Because friends and family make you glad.

2nd Place: “The Woods” by Ethan Crowe
6th grade, Veritas Academy
Friends and Family
By Julian Wells Deveaux

What is a friend?
The one you talk to each day,
The one that you go to school with and play,
The one that we go to when we need to smile,
The old, the new and the one that we haven’t seen in awhile,
The one we’d walk a mile to see,
The one who we’d love like family.
Then what is family?
The ones who we’d travel to be with,
The ones with whom we love to sit,
The ones to whom we’d always give a call,
The old, the new, and ones we haven’t seen at all.
The ones to whom we could never lie,
The ones to whom we hate to say goodbye,
It seems to me,
That friends and family are much the same
With similar attributes, these should have a new name.
One that fills you with joy and glee.
How about, one big FRIENDAMILY!

1st Place: “Friends and Family” by Julian Wells Deveaux
9th grade, Homeschooled, Springfield, Georgia
Grades 9 - 12

2nd Place

The Sayings
By Krystell Sanchez Romero

The sayings go
“there’s a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow” and
“you can’t get a rainbow without the rain.”
Two very true statements that apply to family and friends.

They’re the gold the pot holds,
And they are the ray of sunshine that makes the rainbow show.

Even on the days that your eyes become heavy clouds that
Can’t hold any more tears back
A single sentence from either can make your smile crack.

There’s something magical about the bonds you share
There’s so much sweetness in all the ways they show they care.
Even an act as simple as removing something from your hair.

Someone you can call in the middle of the night
When there’s been a dream that’s caused you quite some fright.
And if you’re lucky they just might stay up with you until the
Sun is back in sight.

It’s harder to see each other now,
But this pinky promise is my vow.

We’ll soon be seeing each other again.
Meanwhile, don’t forget to look outside when it rains.
Remember there is always a rainbow somewhere to be found
Sometimes unexpectedly, not in the sky, but on the ground.

2nd Place: “The Sayings” by Krystell Sanchez Romero
12th grade, Sol C. Johnson High School
Since its beginning in 2011, the Creative Writing Challenge continues to underscore Leopold’s Ice Cream’s commitment to literacy, art, education and fostering creativity and expression in young people. In line with previous years, owners Stratton and Mary Leopold were delighted to receive hundreds of entries from local schoolchildren across Chatham, Effingham, and Liberty counties.

Leopold’s Ice Cream was founded in Savannah, Georgia in 1919 by three immigrant brothers from Greece. George, Peter and Basil passed their tradition of making super-premium, handmade ice cream in the shop, one batch at a time, down to Peter’s youngest son, Stratton. Stratton and his wife Mary own and operate Leopold’s today. Their commitment to arts and education in the community is second only to their dedication to unparalleled customer service and creating the highest quality ice cream possible in a fun, family environment.