



8400 Fairway Place • Middleton, WI 53562 • (800) 845-0005 • www.americangirl.com

Megan Anderson, PR Manager
(212) 434-3367

megananderson@americangirl.com

Biographies

In celebration of American Girl's 30th anniversary, the History in Making contest announced the winners. The contest required the contestants to write an original illustrated short story featuring an American Girl Doll. Out of 14,357 entries, one story from the age categories of 10-12, 7-9 and 3-6 won. Each winner received a two-day, all-expense paid trip to New York City with passes to visit all the American Girl attractions. The winner's stories will have a permanent display in the New York retail store. Now let's meet the winners!



10- to 12-Year-Old Category Winner Stephanie Smith

Stephanie Smith, 12, lives in Littleton, Colorado. She lives with her parents, Joe and Susie Smith, her two brothers, beagle and anole lizard. Smith attends Littleton Middle School.

Smith's story featured the Lanie doll. In the story, Lanie visited the site of the fallen Twin Towers and decided to make a pen pal network for kids who lost any family members in the 9/11 attacks. Smith's inspiration came from her own interest in helping those affected by 9/11. She said, "Ever since I heard about September 11, I wanted to do something to remember those people who died, and to reach out to the kids who lost people they loved. When I heard about this contest, I knew this was my chance."

Celeste Schwab, Smith's teacher, commented, "Stephanie has always had a creative streak in her. American Girl's contest gave her, and thousands of other children, the opportunity to give expression to her feelings while using her talents." Smith's mother said, "Stephanie always comes home from school and goes straight to her room to write short stories or record her thoughts about the day in her journal. Although she was not even born when 9/11 occurred, she has grown up asking questions about what happened and sharing her concern for the children orphaned that day. This contest gave her the chance to use her writing talents to think of a way to help them."

-MORE-



7- to 9-Year-Old Category Winner
Katie Jones

Katie Jones, 9, lives with her parents, Monica and George Jones, her brother and her pet rabbit in Berwick, Maine. She attends Northeast Elementary School. When she grows up, Jones dreams of becoming a teacher or a news reporter.

Her story featured the Kirsten doll. Kirsten became a teacher on the prairie during the late 1800's. "I love school, and I love the way my teachers are always telling us kids to use our creative talents to make a difference," said Katie. "I wanted to write about a teacher in history who used her creativity to help her students learn in a one-room schoolhouse on the prairie."

Jones's teacher, Michael Enders, commented on her work ethic in the classroom, noting, "Katie is a great student who loves working with her classmates and doing presentations. She can always get a group of kids going with one of her creative ideas, and I expect one day we'll be hearing about her 'teacher of the year' award for inspiring creativity in her students." Her mother also noted Jones's creativity. She said, "When Katie was just a preschooler, she used to pretend her American Girl dolls were her students. She always encouraged them to be creative!"



3- to 6-Year-Old Category Winner
Christie Miller

Christie Miller, 5, lives in Hearst, Texas with her parents, Michael and Sharon Miller. Miller has two brothers, a sister, a parakeet and a calico kitten. She attends Sunshine Valley Elementary School.

Miller wants to become an astronaut when she grows up. She says, "When I get big, I want to go to outer space and build a place for people to go and visit. And if the Earth ever gets too hard to live on we can go to my space place and live there." Her dream of becoming an astronaut gave her the inspiration for her story about the 1970's Julie doll. In the story, Julie gives her uncle who works for NASA the idea of building a

Mars colony.

Miller's first grade teacher, Jewel Janssen, says, "It's so much fun to watch Christie express her ideas through writing and illustrating. She really cares about others and combines that with her sense of adventure as she imagines new places and new ways to help people." Her father expresses his pride by saying, "Christie's imagination keeps her thinking outside the box, while her love for friends and relatives keeps her heart grounded. This contest was a great way for her to put her thought into action while having a lot of fun."

