

Junior Creative Writing Section

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Once again, the Junior Creative Writing Section proved popular with Science Talent Search competitors, and a number of deserving winners were painstakingly chosen from the large number of quality entries.

This year students seemed to cope quite well with including relevant information on different areas of Astronomy. The most popular topic, *Space School 2100*, gave students the opportunity to have fun imagining how different a day at school would be if the learning environment were outer space, almost a hundred years from now. Both this topic and *the topic I am an astronomer* yielded entries with a strong focus on factual information.

In contrast, the topics *Seeing the outer limits of space* and *We are made of stars* seemed to lend themselves better to a wider variation in creative direction of the pieces. While the majority of the entries were written to the future, interestingly, several students wrote from the point of view of explorers and scientists from the past.

While traditional essays were awarded most of the top prizes, in an unusual and exciting development this year, several of the creative pieces were presented as historical journals, space excursion information packs or log books.

While many of the entries fulfilled the criteria thoroughly, a number of entries, while well-written, were not eligible for bursary awards because they did not satisfy the guidelines. Next year, entrants are encouraged to read all of the listed criteria carefully, and ensure that they support their creative pieces with a complete Appendix and Bibliography.

We greatly appreciate the time and effort all entrants and judges have put in to make this section such a valuable part of the competition, and we look forward to reading further creative contributions in 2010.