



Academic Magnet High  
School

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**For Immediate Release**  
April 23, 2025

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## Media Release

### **Academic Magnet student named 2025 Scholastic Art and Writing National Winner**

**Charleston, S.C.** – Harper Woodlee, a freshman at Academic Magnet High School, was named a 2025 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Winner. The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers is the nonprofit organization that presents the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

"I am so incredibly excited about this award," said Woodlee. "It means so much to see that a poem about my struggle with growing up resonates with so many people. Writing this poem was so much fun, and I cannot wait to continue writing more!"

Nearly 110,000 teens entered more than 310,000 original works of art and writing to the 2025 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Woodlee's work was selected by some of the foremost leaders in the visual and literary arts for excellence in originality, skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. Since 1923, the Awards have celebrated teen artists and writers from across the country. Woodlee is now part of that legacy, joining the ranks of notable alumni including Tschabalala Self, Stephen King, Kay WalkingStick, Charles White, Joyce Carol Oates, Amanda Gorman, and Andy Warhol, all of whom won Scholastic Awards when they were teens.

Monique Collins, Harper Woodlee's English teacher, said she is proud of Harper for earning this honor.

"She's a deeply creative and kind student whose unique imagination and voice shine in every piece she writes," said Collins. "I first recognized her incredible talent when I read her poem 'Letter to My Dad as He Works,' which was written for an English assignment. It was moving, honest, and unforgettable, just like her award-winning poem, 'Elegy to a Pink Ceiling Painted White.'"

Woodlee's work will be published in an [online gallery](#), and her name will also be listed in Yearbook 2025, a companion to the annual art and writing anthologies that feature selections of works by National Medalists.

*'Elegy to a Pink Ceiling Painted White'*

*Under a canopy of orange sky, I watch two owls sit on a branch.  
I almost miss the silent flutter of wings as one departs,  
a lone feather hitting the dead grass the only sign it was ever here.  
It was so beautiful, the way things were before it left.*

*I almost missed the silent flutter of a part of me leaving;  
grass up to my ankles and cuts kissed well again, my childhood supposedly  
infinite.  
Life was so beautiful, the way things were before it left,  
Disney princess dress stained by silver paint.*

*Grass up to my ankles and cuts kissed well again, my childhood supposedly  
infinite.  
The girl who built a rocket ship to meet the man on the moon,  
Disney princess dress stained by silver paint.  
Where have you gone, sweet girl? When will you be back?*

*The girl who built a rocket ship to meet the man on the moon,  
a lone piece of cardboard lying in the dead grass the only sign she was ever here.  
Where have you gone, sweet girl? When will you be back?  
Under a canopy of orange sky, a lone owl sits on a branch.*

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.

