

# **New Jersey Literacy Association 2021 Writing Contest**



## **Grade 2 Honorees**

**Manjot Banger**, Pvt. Nicholas Minue School, Carteret  
**Nathan Dong**, Mt. Pleasant Elementary School, Livingston  
**Anvesha Gopal**, Riker Hill Elementary School, Livingston  
**Hagan Zenobia**, Union Twp. Elementary School, Hampton

Author: Manjot Banger

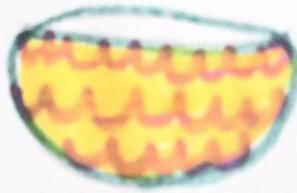
Grade 2.

Pvt. Nicholas Minue School, Carteret

My name is Manjot. I am in grade 2. I have great memories with my friends and family! Recently, I celebrated Easter at my friend's house. My mom dropped me off at their house for an Easter egg hunt. We were in the backyard. My Aunt hid the Easter eggs. We had fun finding eggs! When we found the eggs, we opened them and got lots of candy! Then, we played on the bouncy castle and on the swings. After that, I got tired playing and jumping around so I drank my juice and I ate some snacks. Later, we did some coloring and made beautiful drawings. Finally, it was time for me to go home. I thanked my Aunt for letting me come and join the fun. My mom picked me up from my friend's house and we went home. I had great fun celebrating Easter with my friends!



Mah jot



## Going to My Uncle's House!

By: Nathan J. Dong (2nd grade at MPE, Livingston, NJ)

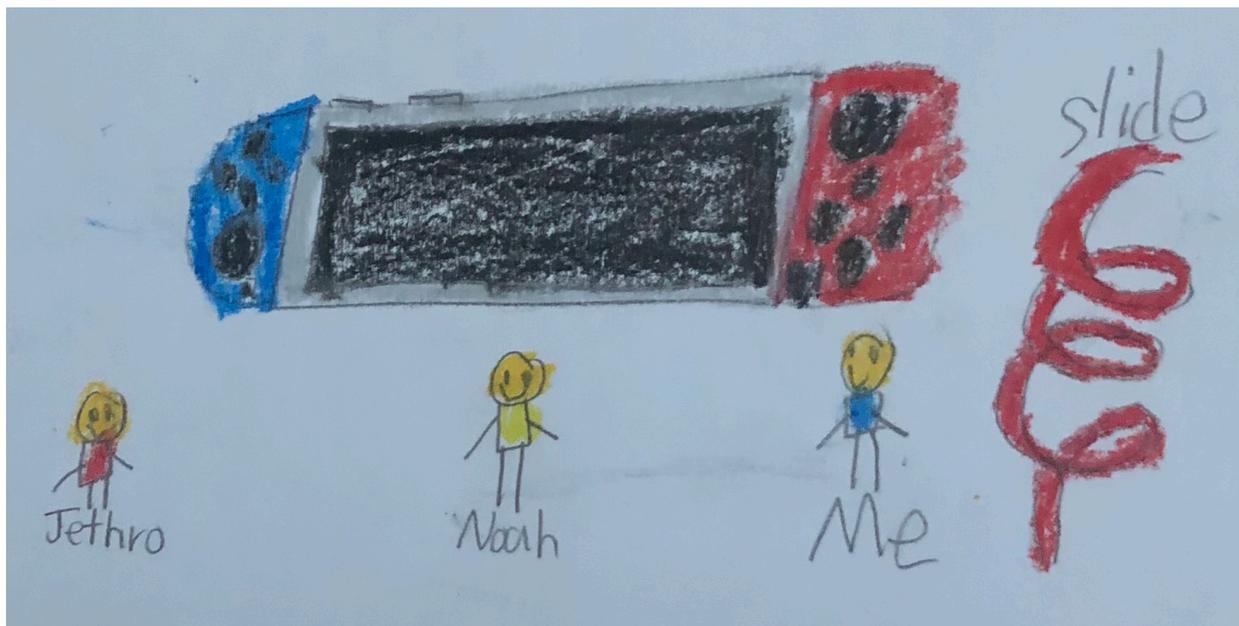
Is your uncle's house so fun that you want to go there every week? That's what I wish I could do. I usually go there with my aunt, Xina and my brother, Noah because my mom has to work.

First, I like going to my uncle John's house because I get to see and play with my youngest cousin, Jethro. He is two years old and he has a huge playroom in the basement. We play in the colorful ball pit and throw balls around. Jethro also like sit on the Thomas train and have us push him down the track. He loves to run in the playroom and have us chase behind him. He is one of my favorite cousins.

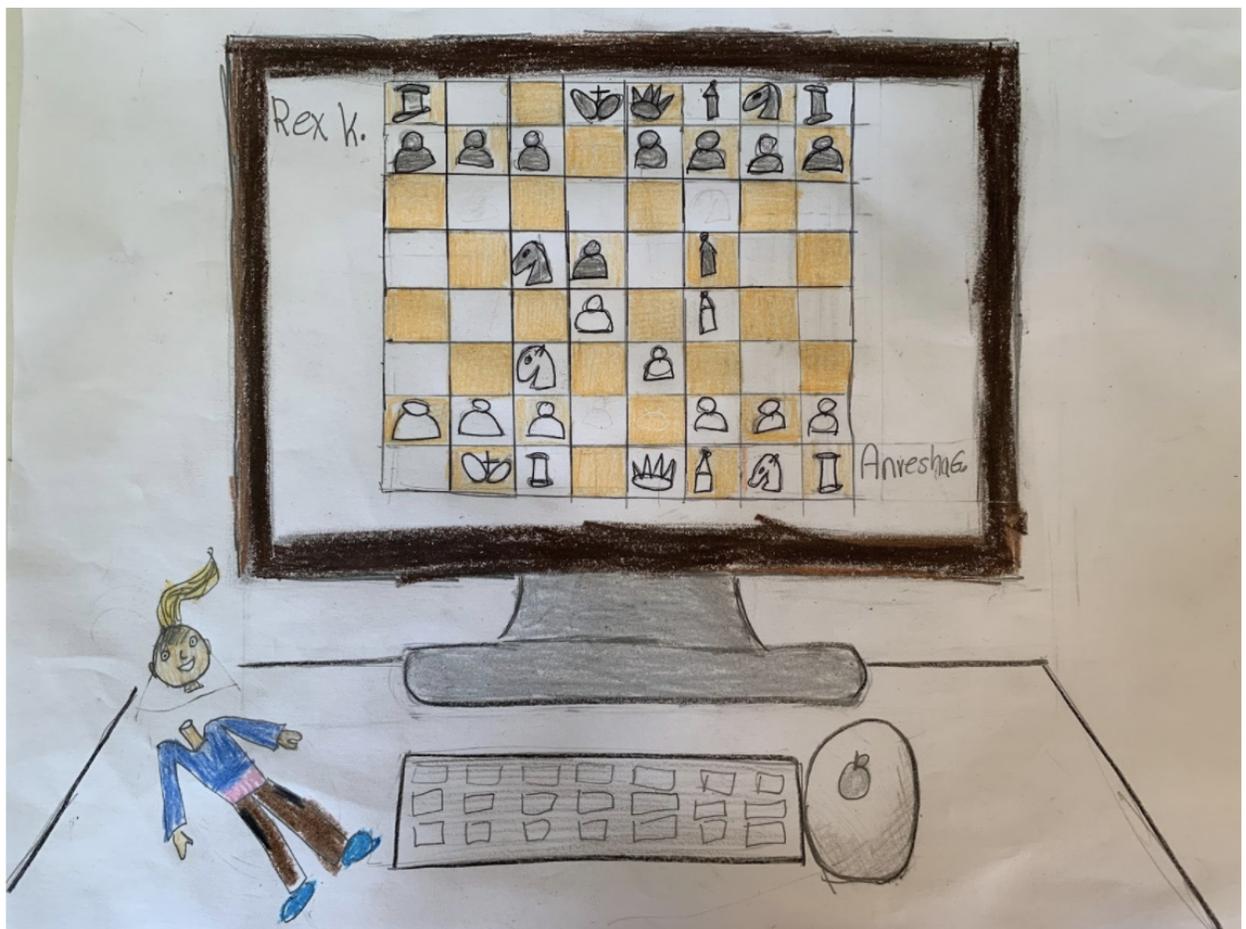
Second, I can play video games against my uncle when Jethro takes his nap. We plays Mario Kart and Mario Party on Nintendo Switch. Even though he keeps winning, I wish to beat him on these video games one day.

In addition, there's a swirl slide in his house from first floor to the basement playroom. We slide down and climbs up from the slide without socks one person after another and again and again.

When it's time for us to go home, auntie Cynthia will pack some homemade cakes and cookies for us. Therefore, going to my uncle John's house is always a full day of fun.



Caption



Have you ever felt butterflies in your stomach? Well I did when I played my virtual chess tournament. Did I win? That's a question which will be answered after you read this.

On Sunday morning I had a chess tournament. The night before I was very nervous. My mother promised that if I win at least 3 games out of 4, she will buy me a new Barbie! You see, my Barbie's head was broken and I wanted a replacement, so I was very competitive about this tournament. Finally, the day came and my stomach was full of butterflies (it's not a feeling I

want anytime soon). The first two games were easy, but the 3rd game was totally opposite.

During this game I began to think the fighting was not worth it because I lost. I viewed this as a setback, but remembered what my teacher always tells me, "have a growth mindset." That mental reminder was what I needed to push through that fourth game! And guess what? I won! Now that I had won three games, I could get my Barbie!

I felt a rush of joy when the results came out and I found out I placed second in the entire tournament. This experience reminded me that when something is challenging I should never give up! Hard work really does pay off! Now time to play with my well deserved barbie!

Hagan Zenobia  
Grade 2  
Union Township Elementary School  
Hampton, NJ 08827

When I was about six years old I was stung by a lot of hornets. It was a foggy morning and I was walking with my mom and dad over our brown bridge. I heard birds tweeting as we were walking in my backyard. I was taking a walk in my jammies until I stepped in a hornet's nest. Hundreds of hornets came out buzzing and stung me all over the place. My mom took off my jammies and ran inside with me. I could not see anything because I was crying so hard. My mom gave me purple medicine to drink and put medicine on my legs where the stings were. I was afraid of hornets for a long time until my friend Carlo gave me an aquarium. I would put live worms, spiders and even hornets in there to look at. But, I am still a little afraid of those hornets!