

press release

THIRTEEN/WNET AND WLIW21 HONOR YOUNG AUTHORS AT BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

A Dozen Winners From Long Island To Short Hills Take Home Honors In 12th Annual ***Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest***

In a festive reception, winners of the New York City-regional ***Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest*** were honored on May 6 by Thirteen/WNET and WLIW New York at Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library, Grand Army Plaza. Twelve future J. K. Rowlings were selected by the staff of Thirteen and WLIW's Education Department for their original, fully illustrated stories in the annual competition which encourages literary and artistic creativity in young people.

"Stories have so much to teach us throughout our lives, and those people – like you – who are the tellers of stories have very special talents," Ron Thorpe, vice president and director of education for Thirteen and WLIW, told the winners in a congratulatory letter. "On behalf of everyone at Thirteen, WLIW, and *Reading Rainbow*, we thank you for participating in this year's contest."

The first-place winners are Kindergartner Clara Rosenberg of Stony Brook, NY; first-grader Francesca Lawless of Massapequa, NY; second-grader Shivani Shanmugadas of Short Hills, NJ; and third-grader Lydia Wu of Oakland Gardens, NY. The top prizewinners each took home a prize bag of school and art supplies donated by Staples, a goody bag from Thirteen Kids, a certificate of achievement signed by *Reading Rainbow* host and co-executive producer LeVar Burton, and a congratulatory letter.

Second- and third-place winners also received the Thirteen Kids goody bag, certificate and letter. Those winners include second-place winners: Kindergartener Matthew Lark of Oceanside, NY; first-grader Theodora Siegel of Centerport, NY; second-grader Max Tunney of Long Beach, NY;

and third-grader Muse Giacalone of New York, NY, as well as third-place winners: Kindergartener Brittaney Gui of Livingston, NJ; first-grader Andrew McDermott of Wurtsboro, NY; second-grader Aditi Desai of Lincoln Park, NY; and third-grader Alana Watkins of Jersey City, NJ.

Reading Rainbow can be seen Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. on Thirteen.

To view the winning entries online, visit Thirteen Ed Online at www.thirteen.org/edonline/students.html after June 1.

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About Educational Broadcasting Corporation

Educational Broadcasting Corporation, headquartered in New York City, is the parent company of public broadcasters Thirteen/WNET and WLIW21 New York. Thirteen is America's most-watched public television station and WLIW21 has the fourth-largest public television audience in the nation. Both stations are major producers of programming for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) seen on public television stations across the country. In addition to its well-known analog channels, EBC is the provider of a number of digital public television services, including Thirteen HD, Thirteen World, Kids Thirteen, WLIW Create, Thirteen On Demand, and Thirteen/PBS Kids On Demand. EBC also creates, manages and distributes a wide range of educational outreach and online programs, projects and services that extend the power and relevance of public television programming at the local, national and international levels.

About Brooklyn Public Library

Brooklyn Public Library is an independent New York City library system serving the borough of Brooklyn. It is the fifth largest in the United States. Its Central Library, Business Library, and 58 neighborhood libraries offer free information, programs and computer access to people of all ages. You can reach the Library's resources of over 70 reference databases, catalog information and news 24 hours a day at www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org

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Press Contact:

Edward Gregory

212.560.3021

gregory@thirteen.org

Natasha Padilla

212 560 8824

PadillaN@wliw.org

Stefanie Arck

718.230.2458

S.Arck@brooklynpubliclibrary.com