

Muscular writing and character development are among the strengths of the first-prize profile, a well-paced work whose sharp dialogue and keen attention to detail greatly impressed the judges. In this faintly menacing portrait of a swaggering Russian mixed martial artist, one can see the gym, smell the sweat, and hear body parts collide with pads. The author's observational skills are vividly on display in this description of the subject himself: "Konstantin has no hair to soften his harsh features; instead, his bald head, snaked with blue veins, only intensifies the aura of threatening energy surrounding him. He resembles a weathered version of the sculpted men on boxing posters: chests glistening with sweat and gleams of victory in their eyes." Mrs. Duddy has chosen *Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Nature and Selected Essays* for her student. The first prize goes to *Kicking Ass: A Profile of Konstantin Selivanov* by Christina Knight.

The second-prize profile is notable, said the judges, in its mix of reporting, storytelling, and empathy. In a single rainy day in a dog walker's life, the writer manages to transform a daily routine into a compelling narrative. Precise depictions of Stephen's rigorous approach to his work reveal his deep passion for his clients, among them the "crystal-eyed, coal-colored Husky" and the "glimmering Golden Retriever." Flanked by two dogs on each side, Stephen and the pack move in a "chevron-like formation" through the wet streets. At one point, "Stephen wades through a murky puddle, his raincoat gathering air and floating behind him like a lost balloon, a single bob of yellow on an empty street." For her student, Ms. Getchell has chosen Henry David Thoreau's *Walden and Civil Disobedience*, as well as Elizabeth Kolbert's *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change*. Second prize goes to *Part of the Pack: A Profile of Stephen Power* by Delila Keravuori.

The third-place prize rewards a portrait of an artist—eccentric, driven, complicated—who feels her mission is to raise awareness about the oceans' pollution. The writer adroitly conveys that the artist's innovation and precise printmaking technique allow her to take life's messiness—ink, illness, relationships—and create art out of it.

Meticulous, energetic description of her work, of the process, and of the resulting three-dimensional pieces distinguishes this profile. “The net pattern that Joan etched into the printing plate has been transferred onto the fibrous paper, its immaculate detail exhibited in thick, textured lines of nuclear-waste green that punch off the page.” Ms. Klingler has chosen for her student *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson and *The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal. Third prize goes to *Elegy to the Sea: A Profile of Joan Hall* by Henry Marshall.