

Judging comments about

***Butter for Papa* by Kayla Bjorn**

From Jennifer Johnson Garrity:

Wow, this story (*Butter for Papa*) had me on the edge of my seat. Kayla has done an absolutely excellent job of drawing the reader in and dispersing historical detail throughout the story. The panther chase scene was well-paced, keeping the action moving and not getting bogged down with too much description. The characters are very true to their time period, making it obvious that Kayla did her research well. I enjoyed reading it!

A job well done!

From Kathryn Mattingly:

This is a beautifully written story, active and with great imagery. The characters are endearing and true to life for the time it is set in, as is the scenery. Dialogue is realistic and flows well. The structure of the story is well developed, with clear growth of understanding in the main character and great tension in the plot from beginning to end.

Make every effort to have this story published for others to enjoy. One can google online venues and upcoming anthologies taking submissions.

...and keep writing!! You have a gift. (:

Comments from Kim Kautzer coming soon.

Judging comments about

***The Long Walk* by Deborah Gronquist Gates**

From Jennifer Johnson Garrity:

This was indeed a lovely story. Deborah did an excellent job of taking a few known facts and family lore and weaving them into a moving, beautifully crafted work of fiction. I like the way she sprinkled Swedish words, customs, names, place-names, and foods into the narrative, drawing the reader into another land and culture. The main character, her ancestor, was portrayed in such a way that the reader identifies with and cares about him. What a beautiful story about the unusual act of taking someone else's name - though only sparse facts are known about the real-life incident, Deborah has given us a plausible, if fictional, story of how it might have come

to be.

Thank-you for the privilege of reading "The Long Walk."

From Kathryn Mattingly

This is a beautifully penned story- articulate and compelling. It was especially enjoyable to read the facts behind the fiction piece at the end. The characters are interesting, dialogue moves the story forward, and the setting is detailed to the point of feeling as if there. There is obvious growth in the main character and the plot is expertly unraveled from beginning to end. The themes of the story are rich and prove to be thought provoking. This is obviously a gifted writer who should continue to create more stories of such depth and at the same time, of simple entertainment and inspirational value. Lastly, be sure to collect these themed stories based on real people in history and then get them published for the world to enjoy and appreciate!

Comments from Kim Kautzer coming soon.

About our judges:

Jennifer Johnson Garrity is author of *Family Fiction*, *Calendar Quest* and six other historical novels, two of which are based on her ancestors. Visit her author page here.

[<http://jenniferjohnsongarrity.com/books/>]

Kathryn Mattingly, award winning author of *Benjamin* and *Fractured Hearts* can be found on Amazon here, [<http://www.amazon.com/-/e/B00EILN6YE>]or read her blog at Edgy Words Unleashed[<http://kathrynmattingly.com/>]

Kim Kautzer is author and co-owner of WriteShop: An Incremental Homeschool Writing Program. You can visit Kim's website and investigate her outstanding array of writing products at WriteShop. com.[<http://www.writeshop.com/>]