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**Pensacola Opera Announces *Little Women* Reading Project Essay Contest
Winners**

Pensacola Opera is proud to announce the winners of the *Little Women* essay contest:

First Place: **Joanna Dykes** - Pyramid, Inc.
Second Place: **Kirsten Cederstrom** - Avalon Middle School
Third Place: **Aly Bly** - Avalon Middle School
Honorable Mentions: **Emma Bowland** - Avalon Middle School
Kadeidra Golden - Pace Center for Girls

These winners were recognized at the student performance of *Little Women* at the Pensacola Saenger Theatre on Wednesday, January 19.

The essay contest was a part of a reading project was designed to engage community members and students in reading this American literary masterpiece and learning about its transition from the page to the operatic stage. An essay contest was an integral part of this project designed to promote literacy through the arts.

Over 600 participants from area middle schools and community organizations were enrolled the reading project. The project began September 1, 2010 when all official participants received a copy of the novel in either the original or adapted version. After reading the book, participants learned about the basics of opera production and the art forms that make it up.

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All participants were able to enjoy a special Reading Project celebration at Barnes & Noble and a special performance of *Little Women* at the Saenger Theatre.

The mission of Pensacola Opera is to enrich the culture of Northwest Florida by producing professional opera performances, educational programs and other opera-related community events for people of all ages, interests and backgrounds.

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