

2014MCC Creative Writing Contest

PoetryCategory

Honorable Mention: “ Little Red Wagon,”by Katelynn Cooper

It's warm and bright, the grass is green
There's my mother, my father, and me
I feel overjoyed, and full of curiosity
My daddy is fixing my wagon, so I can have a ride
Mommy helps me outside, so I can watch daddy work
He finishes the task, and takes care of his tools
Mommy helps me in the wagon and pulls me around
Daddy is enraged because he wanted to pull me
Daddy starts throwing thing, he scares me like this
He throws a hammer, and it sails threw the window
Mommy gets upset, and asks why he did that
Daddy said he didn't mean to, it was an accident
They both walk away, that was the end of my ride
This is also the last time I saw my daddy
All of this because of my little red wagon
That was all beaten up

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

Using present tense gives the poem a real sense of drama. (Don't change to past in the final lines.) The poem also captures the childhood sense of guilt over something the child can't actually control.

Jim Fatka served as judge for the 2014 contest. Mr. Fatka is a recently retired MCC English instructor who taught numerous writing and literature courses, including creative writing.