

My Favorite Teacher winner chosen: Barnes & Noble selects winner of annual contest

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By Hilary Bolton

(WPRI) -- We all remember our favorite teacher in school, and Barnes & Noble held a contest to honor those positive role models.

Every year, Barnes & Noble nationally conducts the [My Favorite Teacher](#) contest. The contest is open to middle and high school students and provides an opportunity for students to tell their communities how much they appreciate their teachers.

Students nominated their favorite teacher by writing essays, poems, or thank you letters. Students explained why they admire their teacher and how he or she has influenced their lives. The entries were judged on the compelling nature of the teacher's qualities, the sincerity of the student's appreciation, and the quality of expression and writing.

Approximately 80 nominations were entered at the Warwick Barnes & Noble. Teacher Mary Lou Bettez from Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School has been named the local winner of the My Favorite Teacher contest. Bettez received a special award acknowledging her achievement during a ceremony at the Warwick Barnes & Noble. Student Adriana Sevant nominated Bettez and also received a certificate of recognition.

"It's every exciting anytime that you touch a life of a child and you see that sparkle in their eyes. That is why I teach," said Bettez.

Bettez will be entered into the regional competition with a chance to win a NOOK Tablet and a \$500 Barnes & Noble gift card. Five regional winners will be chosen and Barnes & Noble will name one teacher the Barnes & Noble Teacher of the Year. The winning teacher will receive \$5,000 and will be recognized at a special community celebration at a local Barnes & Noble. The winning teacher's school will also receive \$5,000.