

# 2014 MCC Creative Writing Contest

## Poetry Category

**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 things, he scares me like this  
He throws a hammer, and it sails through 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.*