



LIFT THE LID!

AND SEE WHAT'S INSIDE ...

July 31th, 2026

Dear Writers of Keneni Stars Academy,

Hello, and congratulations on completing Keneni's 5th Annual Writing Competition, hosted by Lift the Lid! We struggled to choose first- and second-place winners, as well as honorable mentions, because you all submitted well-organized, engaging essays about memories and memorabilia that are dear to your hearts. Every year, we are more impressed by your writing, and this year your hard work truly shows. Well done!

We loved reading about all of your special objects, for example, your best dress that makes you feel like you "have hugged your grandmother," your graduation bangle, a token from a day when your "school felt like heaven," your blue bicycle, which one day you may pass on to someone else, your favorite doll that, "because of its uniqueness, became an object of concern," your storybook that teaches you important lessons, your favorite jacket that your mother gave to you, your Bible that feels like a friend who gives you good advice, and your red water bottle that was given to you for working smart! We will remember all your objects because you made them personal to you, and you described them in detail, creating a clear picture in our minds. We are very proud of you for painting a mental picture with your words, and we look forward to sharing your writing with our Lift the Lid community. They will be proud of you, too!

As I've said before, many careers involve writing and communication, including journalism, politics, editing, speechwriting, technical writing, screenwriting, and authorship, as well as marketing, public relations, and business, and teaching, research, and academia. Writing is

exciting because it offers an ongoing opportunity to learn, think more deeply, and share who you are – and to help others learn, think, and reflect, too. This is why writing is such a powerful tool!

This year, we're honored that our friend Connie Mann, an author and longtime Lift the Lid supporter, spent time with us to thoroughly read and comment on your essays. Connie is from Florida, United States, and has taken a heartfelt interest in Lift the Lid's work. In a separate document for each grade level, you'll find her feedback on your essays. You'll see that she also highlighted her favorite sentences in each of your essays. Now, a note from Connie and the competition results... and please remember that it was very difficult to make these choices when all the essays showed your effort and promise to become exceptional writers! 😊

A note from Connie Mann:

Dear Keneni Students,

I am so glad I had the chance to read your essays for the 5th Annual Writing Competition. You are doing such a great job! I was very impressed with your work.

Let me encourage all of you to read as many books as you can, because we become better writers by reading books. And when you sit down to write your own stories and essays, take a minute to figure out what you want to say and how you want to describe things. Also, take your time as you write so you don't skip words or forget pronouns (which is easy to do when we're in a hurry).

Keep going! Keep Writing! The ability to communicate clearly through the written word will take you far in this world!

Cheering you on in your schoolwork and sending big hugs to all of you,

~Miss Connie

Below, please find the results for Keneni Stars Academy's 5th Annual Writing Competition with Lift the Lid:

First Place Winners: \$75 each (5/\$375)

Grade Six –

* Caleb Kipkoech |

* Allan Cheruiyot

Grade Five –

* Redemptah Chepchumba

Grade Four –

* Mitchell Chepkoech

Grade Three –

* Nimrod Kibet

Second Place Winners: \$50 each (6/\$300)

Grade Six –

* Leah Chelangat

* Braven Kipkoech

Grade Five –

* Abigael Chepkemai

Grade Four –

* Joy Chepkemai

Grade Three –

* Amanda Chebet

* Ivonne Chepkirui

Honorable Mentions: \$25 each (11/\$275)

Grade Six –

* Keith Kipkoech

- * **Salome Chemutai**
- * **Valarine Cherotich**
- * **Laban Kiplangat**

Grade Five –

- * **Precious Cheptoo**
- * **Lindshey Cheptoo**

Grade Four –

- * **Deborah Chepchumba**
- * **Mitchelle Chebet**
- * **Debora Jerono**
- * **Abigael Cherop**

Grade Three –

- * **Ryan Kiprop**

Congratulations to all! You showed courage and dedication just by entering the Competition!!
You're all winners, and we always look forward to reading more of your writing and seeing how much you improve with every essay you write. Feel free to send your work anytime!

God bless,

Sara Goff

Lift the Lid