

# **St. Mary Middle School's Olivia Gehrig's poem 'Fashion' hits the national stage in St. Louis**

by Dan Brannan, Content Director  
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**ALTON** - One of **St. Mary's Middle School's** "best and brightest," **Olivia Gehrig**, recently was selected as a winner of the 2016 7GP 7th Grade Poetry Contest in St. Louis.

The competition is nationally based with entries from all over the country, so it is quite a prestigious honor, said her teacher, **Nina Phillips**.

Phillips, Gehrig's literature teacher, submitted the poem and it was published in the "Poetry on Our Terms: Winners of the **2016 7GP 7TH Grade Poetry Contest**," foreword by famous U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera.

“Writing comes so easily to Olivia,” her teacher said. “The poem was fabulous. She is extremely bright. This is a very competitive contest. Her poem was so right on and it comes so easily to her. She can write in formal or creative fashion. She definitely has a gift.”

Gehrig was invited to attend the award ceremony held at the **History Museum in St. Louis**. She received a copy of the book, an award certificate , and \$25 cash. The book is now also in the library at St. Mary’s Middle School in Alton.

Olivia’s poem “Fashion” was submitted to the annual contest by her literature teacher, Mrs. Phillips.

**Olivia’s poem reads:**

## **Fashion**

*People dressed in black*

*Shirts, jeans, and shoes*

*Do have a knack*

*For singing the blues.*

*But those covered in yellow*

*Clothing shining bright,*

*Are quite mellow*

*And provide a dim light.*

*And the politicians,*

*Their outfits grey,*

*Do enjoy petitions*

*That do what they say.*

*But the point is that the clothes you wear*

*Usually reflect what your feelings bear.*

**Olivia Gehrig**