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Wydown Student Has Historical Family Story Published

Wydown Middle School seventh-grader Belle Gage's historical family story has been selected for publication in "Grannie Annie, Vol. 11," to be released in late May by The Grannie Annie Family Story Celebration. A St. Louis-based nonprofit, The Grannie Annie invites students in U.S. grades 4 through 8, and homeschooled and international students of comparable ages, to write about something interesting they discover from their family's history based on their interviews with older relatives.

Belle's story, titled "Sandman," relates her father's childhood experience in first person. The story begins like this: "It was a beautiful summer day in Idaho, and I was rafting down the Salmon River with my family and friends — the perfect way to spend my summer vacation. In fact, if I could go back in time, there isn't a single thing would change about that day. Well actually, come to think of it, I would cut out the part where I almost died

The 36 stories in "Grannie Annie, Vol. 11," represent the 555 submissions received this year from young authors across the country. The published stories took place in 12 countries on four continents over a span of 140 years. Stories in Volume 11 will be published in an eBook, in a PDF book and at www.TheGrannieAnnie.org.

Belle will be honored for her published story at The Grannie Annie's Family Stories Festival at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis on Sunday, June 5, from 2-4 p.m. Also to be honored at that Festival are authors and illustrators of stories included in "Echoes from World War II: Young Writers Sharing Family Stories." The Grannie Annie published "Echoes," its first themed collection, in celebration of its 10th anniversary. Belle had an illustration included in "Echoes," along with illustrations from 2012 Clayton High School graduate P Petermann and WMS seventh-grader Kim Cheng. Stories by WMS seventh-grader Natalie Schuver and Clayton sophomore Amy Tishler have been published in "Echoes" as well.



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