

2007 Children's Essay Contest

A love of roses rooted early in the young rosarians participating in our annual Children's Essay Contest. The judging was tough, but the following pieces were selected from the dozens of entries received. Our blue ribbon winners will receive a certificate, a rosebush of their very own provided by Earth-Kind™ Roses, and a year's youth membership in the American Rose Society. Honorable mentions will receive a certificate and gift from our American Rose Center Gift Shop. For information on how to enter the 2008 Essay Contest, see the FYI Column of our January/February issue.



Art by Jack Boyce



Art by Kelly Houghton.

Why I Love Roses



by Taylor Evcic, Age 10,
State College, PA

There's a bunch of reasons why "I Love Roses". One of them is getting roses and sending them. For example on my birthday my dad always gives me roses.

You don't have to get them every day to make you feel special. I only get them once a year and I feel special that day. Instead of just getting roses you can send them too. Maybe to a sick friend to cheer them up. Roses are also a very delicate flower. Their velvety soft texture sets them aside from the others. When they open they never stop. Roses have a way of putting you in a positive mood with their gentle look. Those are a few reasons why "I love Roses".

Why the Rose is America's National Flower



by Korey Taylor, Age 11, State College, PA

The rose is our national flower. Americans have always loved the rose. Lots of people think they are our national flower because of how they look and how they smell but there is more history behind the rose.

We have studied fossils that reveal that the rose has been in America for many, many years. The rose is also the most common and favorite flower to grow in our garden. It's true! We grow roses in our gardens all over the United States. We find the rose as a symbol of love, life, beauty, and peace.

For a long time we have held a special space in our heart for the rose. I hope we will always love and keep the rose our national flower. It is very beautiful and it is just right for America!



Art by Maya Gouw.

The Blanket of Roses

by Jessica L. Tinker, age 10, Houston, TX



The Kentucky Derby was started in 1874. It is the second oldest horse race in America. The race track was built on farmland in Louisville, Kentucky. The first race was held on May 17, 1875. Ten thousand people were in the stand anxiously awaiting the start of an American tradition. An African-American named Oliver Lewis rode the winner, Aristides.

Roses were first introduced to the Derby as a result of New York socialite, E. Berry Wall. Wall started the tradition of handing roses to ladies at a post-Derby party. Col. M. Lewis Clark, the grandson of Col. William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition, made the rose the official flower of the Kentucky Derby. Later in 1896 the first rose blanket was awarded with a trophy to the winner of The Derby. This is how the Kentucky Derby received its nickname, "The Run for the Roses." The Governor of Kentucky awards the winner with the trophy and the coveted blanket of roses.

Kroger Florists is the official maker of the rose blanket. More than eighty people are involved in the project. They use five hundred and fifty-four "red classy" roses to make the blanket. The roses are grown near Louisville, Kentucky. One thousand roses that are still in a bud are harvested and delivered to Kroger Florist. The team of specialized florists selects five hundred fifty-four of the best roses. While their selections are being made, a seamstress sews together the backing of the blanket to a special sponge. The stems of the selected roses are then cut to one inch and inserted into the back of the blanket. The roses are hand-sewn into the blanket by the team of florists. The teams takes turns sewing the roses into the blanket while working in a very cold room. The roses stay fresh because of the damp sponge that is in the backing. During the process, the buds of the roses begin to bloom. It takes five days, working in shifts of four people for eight hours a day to complete the special project.

The Run for the Roses blanket has been on the backs of famous horses such as Secretariat, Seattle Slew, War Admiral, and Street Sense. Around the world, people stop to admire the beauty of the roses on the back of the winner of the "Run for the Roses."



Art by author, unless otherwise noted.



Why I Love Roses

by Madison LeRoy, Age 6.
Bethlehem, GA

I love roses because my Mom grew them with my Gran when she was 6. I really like being with Gran in her garden. I love the roses Ballerina and St. Patrick. I have four great rose friends. Their names are Paul, Danielle, Mrs. Bobbie and Mr. Don. I love my four great friends plus my other friends in the ARS!



*Art by
Zachary Moats*

Rose and the Beautiful Flower



by Carrington McDowell-Walsh, Age 8,
Santa Monica, CA

Once a ladybug named Rose was coming home from tea at the grasshopper's house, Lily. Rose lived in a pink, sparkly, soft, beautiful flower. Rose didn't know what this beautiful lower was called. Rose wanted to name the flower something everyone would admire. The bug club said that Rose shouldn't name this one and only flower. Lily thought that dear Rose should name this flower. But to Rose it was special, perfect, and ... magical. She thought about the name magic. Everyone thought that this name was no good.

One day, a boy picked up Rose's house!!! Rose started to panic. She felt the flower move. She soon after that got extremely angry. She then zoomed out her window like a flash. Rose followed the boy. "Mommy! Look! I have a rose for you!" said the little boy. At that moment, Rose learned that she shared the same name as this beautiful flower that was her home.

Soon Rose found a new home in the family garden. It was still a flower. It was the same type of flower. It was still a flower. It was the same type of flower. But instead of the color pink, it was a reddish purple color. This color sparkled in the most beautiful garden. Rose told the bugs club that the flower was named a rose. They were all quite surprised. But his new rose that Rose had was no ordinary rose. This rose was extra magical because it was the biggest symbol of love.



Thanks to our judges — Sue Jones and Emily MacDonald.

Artwork, clockwise from top left, by Tiffany Peters, Haley Bosley, Kylea Summers and Sarah Grace Rose.

Dawson Houghton,
Age 5, East Longmeadow, MA

Annabelle Houghton-Smith,
Age 2, East Longmeadow, MA



Special Honorable Mention



Honorable Mention

Amanda Geidroc, Age 11, State College, PA

Honorable Mention - Classes

Beth Atkins' Kindergarten Class, Little Birch Elementary, Little Brich, WV
Patricia McPherson's Third Grade Class, Little Birch Elementary, WV

