

CORNERSTONE

INTEGRATED LIBERAL ARTS

Cornerstone Spring 2026 Contest “Growing Up”



“We changed again, and yet again, and it was now too late and too far to go back, and I went on. And the mists had all solemnly risen now, and the world lay spread before me.”

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

As we grow up, we often do feel as if the world is spread before us, as Pip does in Dickens’s *Great Expectations*. You might not have read *Great Expectations*, but you might have read other novels or seen their film versions about the trials and tribulations of growing up, such as *The Yearling*, *Little Women*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *A Separate Peace*, *The Outsiders*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, or *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. This semester, Cornerstone offers you the opportunity to see *Great Expectations* staged at Loeb Theatre on February 11 and 12, as well as a film version on January 27. And you may also be reading a transformative text on “coming of age” in SCLA 101 or 102.

So, our contest this Spring seeks submissions about growing up. What does it mean to you, and how has your reading this semester inspired you to think about it?

Eligibility: Any student currently enrolled in SCLA 101 or 102.

Criteria: Artwork, essays, short fiction, videos, and poetry inspired by Transformative Texts. All contest entries must be a student’s own work without *any* use of generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, DALL-E, Midjourney, DeepSeek). A committee composed of Cornerstone faculty will judge submissions based on originality and creativity.

Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards. First Place: \$95; Second Place: \$65; 3 honorary mentions: \$35. Winners will automatically be nominated for publication in *The Cornerstone Review*.

Timeline: Submission deadline: **Wednesday, April 8, 2026**. Please send your submissions to cornerstonecontest@outlook.com. **All files must be labeled with your last name. In your entry, please list your full name and your professor’s name.** Winners will be announced on **Friday, April 24, 2026**.