

LASLIAM Testimonials 2023 Netherlands and Flanders

Expressing yourself on paper doesn't have to wait until a second language learner has reached level A2. Also for true beginners in writing, LASLIAM presents a scale for creative writing.

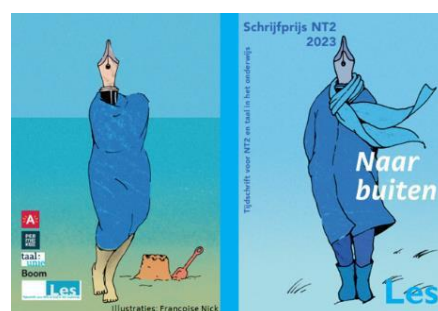
One of the descriptors at LASLIAM level 3 is: *"Can produce a descriptive or narrative text consisting of a few simple sentences."* An example in the Educational domain is: *e.g. a simple poem or narrative about the home country.*

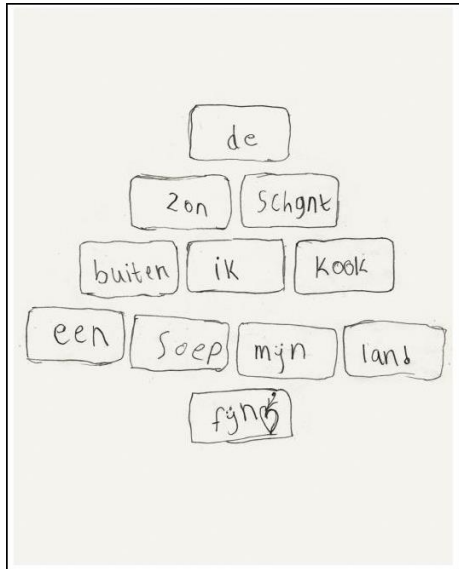
In Dutch and Flemish L2 literacy classes this creative writing has been put in practice. All learners can participate in a Dutch L2 writing contest. The writing contest is for free for all language levels up to B2, but there are separate prizes for young (13-18 year) and adult L2 literacy learners. Many teachers and learners love to participate in the contest and are eager to work on it and discuss which self-made products to submit.

In 2022-2023 the theme was *Go out/To the outside*. In total 557 learners did submit a story or poem, a panel of teachers selected about ten nominations in each category, and an impartial jury determined the winner. Criteria were originality, creativity and the joy of writing.

Again, most stories and poems were beautiful and sometimes heartbreaking to read.

Here are the three prize winning texts of the LASLIAM learners 2023, with some quotes from the jury report.





This poem has just eleven words, but the author tells a lot with those eleven words. We feel the sun, we smell the soup she is cooking outside, and for a moment we are in her home country and everything is fine. Or did she mean her home country is a (messy) soup?

This author starts with a sentence a true poet could have written: 'Palestine is honey'. He uses a lot of aromatic and tasty images of his country: thyme, fish, olive oil, mint, dates, falafel. The weather is mild, and so is his heart.

Palestina is honing
 gaza is de zee
 de vis is lekker
 gaza is mijn land
 olijfolie en tijm
 munt dadels falafel
 Het weer is mild
 Mijn hart ook
 palestina is honing.
 gaza is de zee

Ik geliefd
 ga naar zee alleen
 om mijn hoofd te laten
 rusten van de zorgen
 van het leven

The last winning text is short, but very powerful. The author is going to the sea, not to play on the beach or to swim, but only to give her head some rest from the life's worries.