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## Perception

Cele Bona

*College of DuPage*

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# 1984 Poetry Contest

## First Place Winner

### PERCEPTION

By Cele Bona

I rest my fingers on the dusty screen,  
look out. Grandma chased by a bear,  
she told me that

story. She was little,  
running under pine trees  
in the North Woods. She tore

her yellow pinafore on  
thorns and was punished  
for the tear, sent

to the hay mow for supper.  
My old grandmother who  
smelled like a rusty pump

pinned that story into  
the hem of my green  
skirt one October night.

I saw her frightened face,  
her small feet flying over  
brown pine needles to her aunt

who shook her, told her  
not to make up stories.  
Always before, seeing the

pins marching between her lips,  
steely hairs growing on her  
chin, I thought she was always old.

## Second Place Winner

### A SHIFT IN TENSE

By David D. Richard

Someday a man  
on a mission to collect  
stardust and rainbows  
shall gaze from beyond  
the sky  
at a brilliant blue  
orb  
set in the velvet  
of space,  
at a country  
majestic  
from sea to shining —  
yet see how easily  
crushed  
beneath the  
close-fisted clouds  
and think of  
a small house  
in a small town  
poised  
on the Great Lakes'  
very fingertip  
and know  
the buttons have  
been pushed  
and the atoms  
have screamed their  
primordial scream  
and only the hiss  
of the radio —  
active remains  
and realize:

There was no place  
like home.