

## Hildene Announces Statewide Writing Competition Winners

In the fall of 2008, based on the successes of the 2006 and 2007 Lincoln Writing Competitions for eighth graders in Bennington County's public, private and homeschooled, Hildene went statewide with an invitation to this same grade level. The expansion is significant and comes at a historic time, during the national Bicentennial Celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Essays were submitted by students from across the Green Mountain State and then scored by a panel of judges from Vermont's four corners. The Lincoln Family Home congratulates the winners of the 2008 Hildene Lincoln Writing Competition; First Place, Lillian Dear from Long Trail School, Dorset; Second Place, Julia Gilbert, Main Street Middle School, Montpelier; Third Place, Danielle Liguori, Essex Middle School, Essex Junction; Honorable Mentions, Eliza Farley, Arlington Memorial High School, Arlington and Jordan LaMothe, Long Trail School, Dorset.



Lillian Dear reading her essay

The challenge for participating students was to write an essay exploring the meaning of a key sentence from President Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, arguably his greatest. He wrote, "If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives both the North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a Living God always ascribe to Him?"

- From Hildene's website

