

Imagining Tomorrow: Alternate Energy Futures™

A Short Story Contest for Massachusetts High-school Students

Presented by NESEA  Northeast Sustainable Energy Association

About the Author — Joanna R. Grubman, "Bedtime Story"



Joanna R. Grubman is 18, and a senior at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Northfield, MA.

She says "I'm from the small but lively town of Northfield, MA, which is where I attend NMH. I've been playing guitar for four years and plan to study music in college. Taking Environmental Studies, which is an area that I have never taken any other classes in, has sparked an interest in me, and I plan to take some more environmental classes in the future."

In her afterward, Joanna writes:

"Many of the main ideas of what I have learned in my Environmental Studies course with Becca Leslie this term are narrated by the main character in this story, either in the bedtime story she tells to Jewel or what she is thinking.

I wanted to create a character that was extremely mindful of the environment and made connections in her head about where energy sources come from. For example, she begins thinking about the Alaskan caribou and oil drilling in their environment, a thought that stemmed from simply recognizing that she was taking the bus home. This represents my conscious thoughts of the environment, as a driver, and a user of heat, electricity, and home appliances. By studying environmental issues, my mind has opened to my surroundings and I am now better able to understand the origin of such things that I use on a daily basis, which I reflected through the thoughts of the main character of this story, and even through the questions that Jewel asks about the environment.