

English

Milo Williams

Submitted by Melissa Menendez

In his essays, Milo demonstrates an astonishing ability to synthesize and transition among different ideas, all the while weaving in specific evidence with incredible grace. Although Milo's insights into literature are unusually nuanced and complex, Milo is also genuinely interested in his fellow students' responses: during class discussions, he solicits others' ideas and references them in his own comments. In fact, he often gains the respect of his peers because he gives credit to others, articulates differing interpretations with objectivity, and invites additional reflection for others to ponder. Milo wants to be a professional writer, and, in our eyes, he has the talent, work ethic, and drive to be one. Milo's passion for the craft of writing and his profound engagement with and enjoyment of literature make him a perfect match for this award.

Milo's Words of Gratitude

When first notified of the award by email I thought it was mistakenly sent as I have never been the kind of student who wins awards, but I am deeply grateful to the school both for the accolade and for being there for those who seek to better themselves. Literature is a uniquely special discipline as out of all the arts it has the most to teach us about ourselves, and about the world through which we travel. And exploring literature and its lessons with my teachers and peers has undoubtedly been the highlight of this difficult year. I'd like to express gratitude to Professor Menendez for taking mercy on this tardy sinner's soul in Fall and helping him navigate his way through returning to school; all the way while expanding his literary horizons. An additional, special thanks to Professor Monda for the compassion she shows her students, the exceptional care she puts into responding to our work, and for being the teacher who has perhaps more than any other helped me improve my writing craft. And a final thanks to my father, Ken Williams, for forever being my biggest supporter.