Cameo Rector recently learned her poem, “Make-up,” had been published by Creative Communication in a compilation of national contest entries. Here, she displays the book that includes her newly published work.

By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

Cameo Rector, a Wauneta-Palisade freshman, was recently notified that one of her poems, “Make-up,” would be published.

Last spring at the end of her eighth grade year, she submitted the poem to a national poetry contest titled “A Celebration of Poets” after her teacher, Betsy Johanson, received an advertisement about the contest.

Johanson said the national contest is hosted by Creative Communication and is held a couple times per year.

According to the company’s website the contest is held as a means to showcase young writers’

works. Each entry is evaluated by a panel of judges, with less than 50 percent of entries chosen to be included in the published compilation.

Only entries deemed within the top 45 percent of all entries in their geographical area are published in the hard-bound compilation.

Rector received notification from the company that her work had been chosen to be published last spring and again this summer. Recently, she received a copy of the company's book, "A Celebration of Poets, Midwest, Spring 2012," in which her poem is published.

Rector said she enjoys writing poetry, "I like to do it, my grandpa writes a lot of poems." She said she entered two contests and has yet to hear from the other.

She was asked to have her works published in another form recently, though she could not remember the name of the publication.

When asked how it feels to be so young and already a published poet Rector said, "I think it's cool, but I wish I could have won. But, it was nice to have the opportunity to have it published and call myself a published author."

She went on to say she received notification that her work would be published right after her grandpa was published in McCook. "It was cool that we got to share, the experience" she said.

Rector isn't slowing down now that she's been published. Currently, she's working on another poem titled, "Devil's Kiss," which she said focuses on her grandma's battle with cancer. She began working on that poem last year after her grandma passed away.