



Courtesy

Duane Beard's first-place entry.

3 first-graders 'Squirt' to top

Three talented first-graders won a Tulsa-wide drawing contest for their colorful renditions of an imaginative young squid that stars in "Squirt" (Stonehorse Publishing, \$15.95), a book written by Tulsan Stacy Nyikos and illustrated by another local, Shawn Sisneros.

Nyikos and Sisneros toured many area schools throughout the last year to promote the book and educate children about marine life — particularly, of course, about life for a squid and its relatives. "Squirt" publisher Stonehorse Publishing and the Oklahoma Aquarium paired up to hold a drawing contest in which first-grade students from 28 local schools competed.

The kids sent in hundreds of illustrations. Winners chosen at each school got a signed copy of "Squirt," but here are the grand-prize winners, their schools and what they won:

First prize: Duane Beard, Holland Hall, a sleepover at the Oklahoma Aquarium.

Family
meeting



Leigh Woosley

Second prize: Riley Cramer, Hodson Elementary in Owasso, a birthday party at the aquarium.

Third prize: Madelyn McDaniel, Eliot Elementary, a year-long youth membership to the aquarium.

Nyikos said she plans to expand the drawing competition to 50 schools next year, when the art will focus on the main character in Nyikos' next book called "Shelby," which is scheduled for release in June 2006.

For more information on the books, the author or the illustrator, visit www.stonehorsepublishing.com.