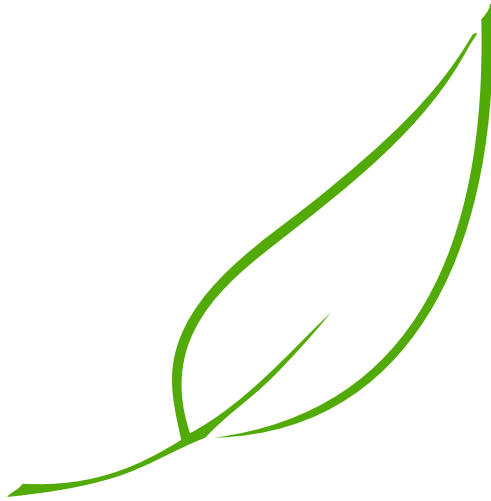


# THE PRIZE

by Robert L. Crowe



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**The Prize**  
by **Robert L. Crowe**

# The Prize

by Robert L. Crowe

*(The speaker is pretending to get an award and pretending that all school students have come to hear his speech. Only at the conclusion does the real audience know that this is a practice run.)* Thank you. Thank you. I am humbled by that introduction, even though everything he said about me was true. I am especially proud to be the first recipient of this award and it makes my little heart go pitty-pat to know that everyone in this school was considered ... but it is my name that goes at the top of the trophy. There sits Maynard Kelp, King of the May Dance and captain of the Sudoku team. And over there is Mary Lou Regis, the prettiest girl in the second row of our social studies class. And there are so many other deserving candidates.

While I have the microphone, I would beg a few minutes of your time to reflect upon my academic career. There have been some ups and downs and perhaps some of you choose to dwell on the negative ... those of you who choose to look at the world as a glass  $3/4$ ths empty instead of half full. Perhaps some notes of explanation will help.

First, there was the unfortunate incident about me not being able to get my locker open. Of course, the fact that I was inside the locker at the time added to my difficulty. I was not ... as some suggested ... hiding from algebra. I was conducting a stake-out to see if I could catch the thief who has been pilfering Milk Duds

from my locker. I strongly suspect that it was the thief who gave me the final nudge that wedged my hips against the sides of the locker. Luckily, the night custodian finally heard my scratching ... and I did have the Milk Duds for nourishment.

The panic in the cafeteria is easily explained. When I went through the lunchroom yelling, "Code Orange. Code Orange" it had nothing to do with national security as hundreds of you



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*PRIZE*

*by Robert L. Crowe.*

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