



2008

**Tucson's River of Words
Youth Poetry and Art Contest**



Swans of the Pond

Nicole Anette Skaggs, age 9

Manzanita Elementary

Teacher: Ms. Stotlar

Grand Prize – Art – Category 3

The vibrant images and lyrical poems from the 2008 Tucson's River of Words are expressions of the durable connections to nature that these young artists share. Tucson's River of Words is more than a youth poetry and art contest, it is a cycle of activities each building upon the next. As the 2008 TROW exhibit and booklet is unveiled, we are gearing up for the next round of nature explorations, classroom workshops, community celebrations, and exhibitions.

TUCSON'S RIVER OF WORDS 2008 TRAVELING EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

April 9 – May 26, 2008

Tucson Children's Museum
200 S. 6th Avenue

June 2 – July 31, 2008

Joel D. Valdez Main Library
101 N. Stone Avenue

August 1 – August 29, 2008

Brandi Fenton Park
3482 E. River Road

September 1 – October 31, 2008

Tucson Botanical Gardens
2150 N. Alvernon Way

November 3, 2008 – January 4, 2009

Pima County Juvenile Court
2225 E. Ajo Way

This book is dedicated to 2008 Tucson's River of Words Teacher of the Year, Jane Martin from Hollinger Elementary School, and all the teachers and parents who make space in the day for the enrichment of science, language, and fine arts education.



Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
3500 West River Road
Tucson, AZ 85741
(520) 877-6000
www.pima.gov/nrpr

A Drum Beating in the Desert

I am in Sells, Arizona listening to the drum beating.
The weather is warm but the wind is slightly blowing.
The bear grass is whistling in the wind.
The deer are eating the fruit off the cacti.
I hear a mountain lion chasing a packrat.
The sun is smiling at me.
I jump into a pond that has been there for hundreds of years.
It makes me think of a time when I was dancing with my grandma.
I am in Sells, Arizona listening to the drum beating.

Amy Spotted Wolf, age 10
Teacher: Mrs. Urbalejo
Mesquite Elementary
Grand Prize – Poetry – Category 3

A Rushing River

Flowing on an endless path,
Feeling as cold as ice.
Salmon fighting the current of the river.
The racing river taking away anything in its path.
Bears swinging their claws in the water,
Hoping to get fish.
Beavers trying to stop the flow of the river,
Adding log after log until the dam is complete.
Plants luster for water as they wait for a drink.
Rain filling up the river,
As the water cycle endures.

Aidan Jackson, age 10
Teacher: Ms. Stotlar
Manzanita Elementary

Amazing Evaporation...Condensation

Lake water sits still and cool in the hot desert.
Slowly evaporating,
Invisible against the clear air.
As the unseen mist floats upward to the sky and clouds,
It will continue its journey.
It reaches its destination and forms a cloud.
There it stays for all to admire until the day it falls.
Falling as snow, rain or hail back down, down.
Down, down to the very place it started.

*Owen Kahler, age 9
Teacher: Ms. Stotlar
Manzanita Elementary*

Coyote

Hot, smelly, no rain,
Laying on a rock,
No food, no water
Hot, cloudy, smelly,
No water, need food
A rat looking for food,
Stay still, need food
Saguaros stand, just standing,
Need the water
Birds chirp, coyotes howl,
Now I'm starving
Hungry and thirsty the coyote is
What's that noise, RAIN!!!!

*Ryan Yee, age 11
Teacher: Mrs. Seeger
Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School*

The Desert is Alive

The desert is alive,
Alive as it can be.
The blue birds are happy
As happy as can be.

The little colorful humming birds
Are getting a drink of nectar;
The little jack rabbit is ready to sleep.
The sun was up
But now it is down.

The brown coyote
Is ready to howl at the moon.
The little brown bats are getting some nectar
And they are light as a feather.
The big mother scorpion
Is protecting her baby.

The sun is rising
And the day is here;
The desert is alive
Alive as it can be.

Erika Cook, age 10
Teacher: Charles Lohr
Manzanita Elementary

Desert Walk

Windy, hot
Walking through
The burning desert,
The sound of a scorpion
Scratching a rock,
Wind whipping across my face,
Tumbleweeds blowing
Through the valley,
Cacti soaking up water,
Mice hiding in their burrows,
Fox hurrying to his hole.
Walking through the desert.

Bredon Poss, age 8
Teacher: Mrs. Pierson
Corbett Elementary

In the Desert

In the desert
Wind blows to the animals
Saguaro cactus stay calm
Clouds drop water
Boom! Boom! Boom!
The thunder rolls.
In the desert.

Abraham Islas, age 7
Teacher: Linda Wiebe
Great Expectations Academy

Monsoon Memory

Up on my hill I sit under a mesquite tree
The wind is calm and speaking to me
I listen to what she has to say
A cardinal gracefully floating in the wind interrupted her
I take a breath
The air is pure and unpolluted
My heart beats to the rushing water in the wash down the hill
It was music to my ears for I know monsoon season had started
I wander down the hill to the edge of the wash
Roaring water tries to grab my feet and pull me in
I refuse the offer
As I look up to a familiar sight I see across the wash
A washed away memory from my past
A fort my sister and I shared was no where to be found

Sydni Heimback, age 13
Teacher: Mrs. Malcolm
Great Expectations Academy

Raindrop

I am a little raindrop
I am falling fast
Ahhh, the black horse is drinking me
I am out
Oh no, the plant is drinking me
I am out and I am hungry
Yea, I am back in a cloud

Victoria Norton, age 6
Teacher: Sandy Herfkens
Schumaker Elementary

The Emerald Duck's Land

The wind blows and rages moving the glistening and
sapphire water, like golden fire,
raising chaos and blowing a dust bowl.

The water, light and silky, glitters and
flutters under the warm
and welcoming sun's shining rays.

A branch floats in the water,
as it searches for land,
like a wandering traveler.

The palm trees glide their fallen leaves
on the smooth surface
of the inviting topaz water.

The ducks invade the creek
to find ruby and obsidian berries,
they taste to them as delicious as
chocolate gelato on a sunny day.

The palm trees guard the lake,
like knights guarding
the king and his throne.

Their trunks are thick castle walls,
which stand tall and protective.

The water ripples into a series of rings,
which carry different secrets
far beyond a mortal's understanding.

Sarah Wernert, age 15
Teacher: Amy Rude/Jeff Hartman
City High School

River

As I calmly walk near a flowing river,
I hear the splashing noises
Of the running water.
The blue and white water gushing through
Kindly flows with beauty.
The flowing liquid
Carves rocks in its path.
Grey rocks deep in the river
Form small hills for the
Crystal clear water to run over.
As I follow the flowing river,
I see a small waterfall,
Pouring down the trickling river,
Continuing its journey.
The river flows, endlessly.

Neil Jha, age 9
Teacher: Charles Lohr
Manzanita Elementary

True Water

Water can save many different trees,
As water is in rivers oceans and seas.
Water can also have currents or flow,
And water's abbreviation is H₂O.
We might drink water almost every day,
As we all drink water every day.

William Reynolds, age 9
Teacher: Ms. Stotlar
Manzanita Elementary

The Nighttime Moon

In the night,
you can smell creosote.
You can see jack rabbits
jumping all over the place.
You can touch cactus and
hold a horned toad that is
as nice as a hamster.
You can pick the good fruit that
grows on prickly pears and
tastes as good as ice cream.
You can drink the water that
tastes as fresh as a bottle of juice.
You can hear the rain dropping.
It sounds like water
dropping out of the sink.
You can hear the waterfall
going down the mountain.

*Estrella Zamora, age 7
Teacher: Ms. Martin
Hollinger Elementary*

Waiting

As I wait under a rock for the slightest drop of rain.
All the other animals wait.
All the other plants wait.
Everyone waits.
Waiting for the slightest drop of rain.

*Donovan Hoover, age 11
Teacher: Mrs. Mohler
Great Expectations Academy*

Water Fall Dreams

As I lay my head down
I close my eyes
And dream of a world of waterfall.
I look into the water and
See my reflection as a
Young woman strong and full of life.
I look up at the cloud then
I see a bright light upon me
Then I know it is time to wake up from
My wonderful dreams of waterfalls.

Alina Felix, age 12
Teacher: Mrs. Oliver
Challenger Middle School

A veces el agua hace un charo
se hace tambien te ayuda para que vives.
Sin agua te mueres.
El agua se puede estar mirado por lluvia y nieve.
El agua hace sus uijes en los montes y los calles.
El agua tambien se moja los valles.
El agua se corre por la cierra y se moja las tierras.
El agua se va en todas partes.
De los ríos se empieza desde pajo de de la tierra.
Agua en el cielo nunca esta seca.
Agua en el aire nunca se falle.
Es cada lágrima que lloramos.
El agua nos ayuda vivir la vida.
Agua es un importante cosa.

Maria Luz E. Flores, age 11
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson
Challenger Middle School



Sunset in the Desert

Miette Leslie, age 6

Tucson Family Arts Festival

Teachers: Alexandra Fisher/Kevin Johnson

Grand Prize – Art – Category 1



Shadows at Sunset

Celeste Martino, age 10
 Tucson Family Arts Festival
 Teachers: Alexandra Fisher/Kevin Johnson



River of Words

Jordan Newhouse, age 15
 Independent Entry



Owl Birds

John Kramer, age 15

City High School

Teachers: Jeff Hartman/Amy Rude



Deerae's Cove
Deerae Cummings, age 17
Westwood High School, Mesa, AZ
Teacher: Don Gilboe
Grand Prize – Art – Category 4



Deer at the River
Kevin Choi, age 7
Corbett Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Gibson



The Frog Eats the Fly

JD Winger, age 8
Corbett Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Gibson
Grand Prize – Art – Category 2



Desert Renewal

Cera Stanley, age 13
Independent Entry



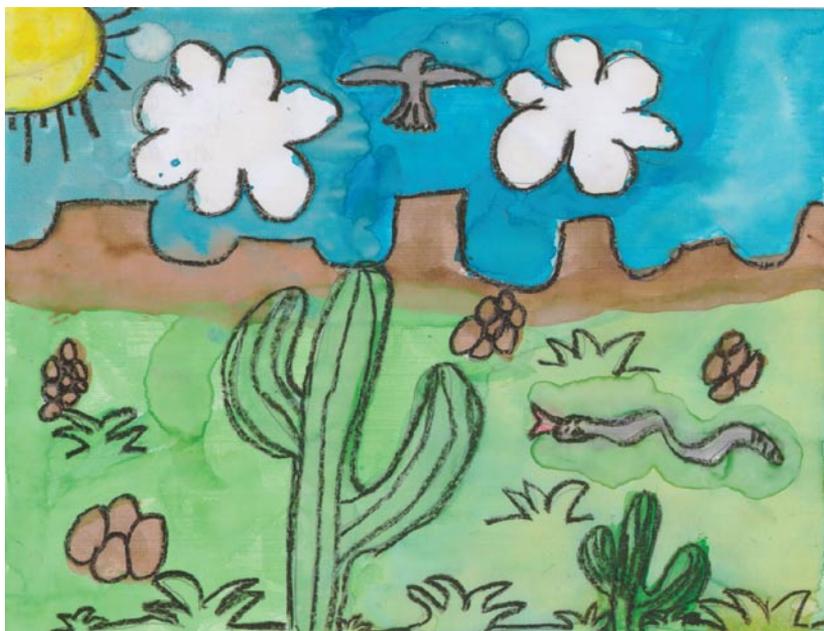
Waterfall

*Lauren Schagel, age 9
Manzanita Elementary
Teacher: Charles Lohr*



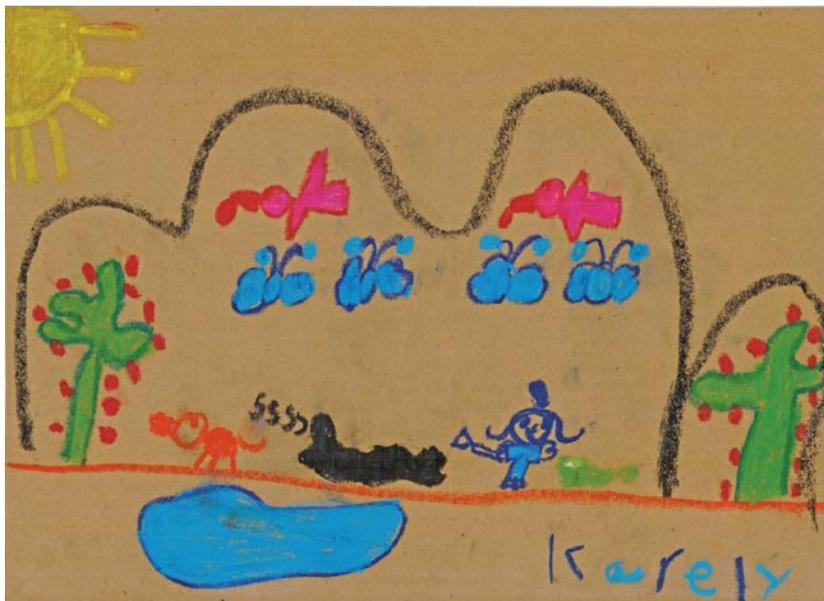
How Water Runs

Jarlene Ramirez, age 12
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson



The Chase

Kaleb Royer, age 8
Desert Winds Elementary
Teacher: Mr. Hasse



*Laiza Karely Cantua, age 6
Tucson Family Arts Festival
Teachers: Alexandra Fisher/Kevin Johnson*



Desert Eagle
*Raiin Rodriguez, age 8
Desert Winds Elementary
Teacher: Mr. Hasse*



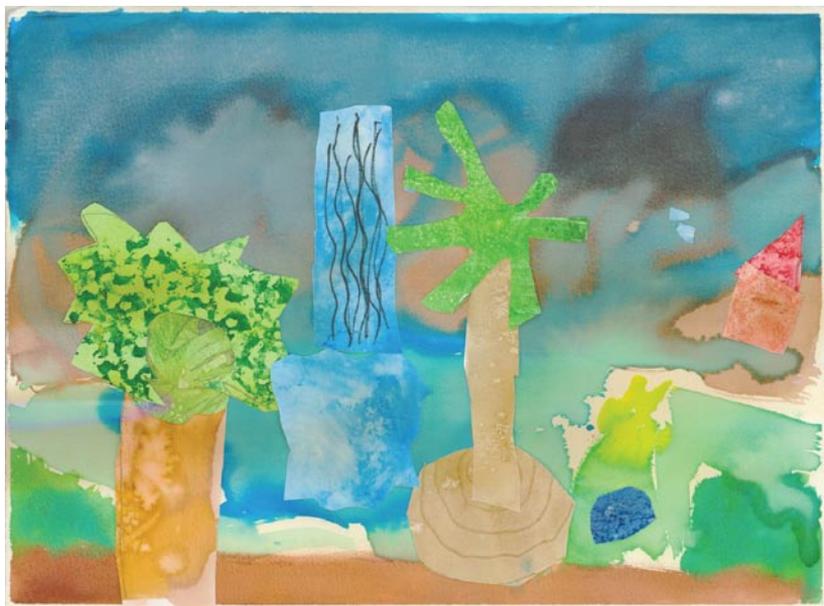
Away

*Selena Pablos Leyva, age 12
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson*



Rain Going to Other Places

*Reece Chmelik, age 6
Great Expectations Academy
Teacher: Nancy Tompkins*

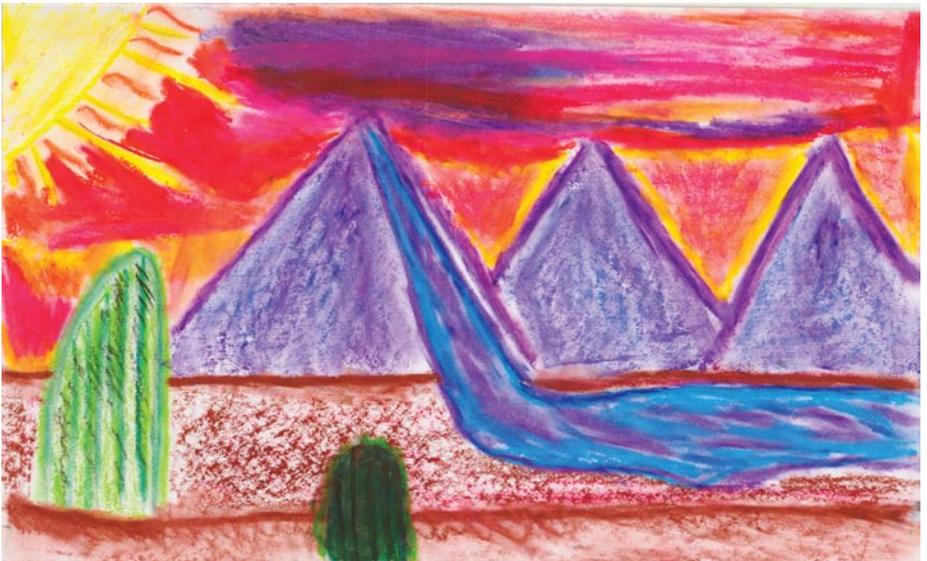


*Maggie Oliver, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Ratajczak*



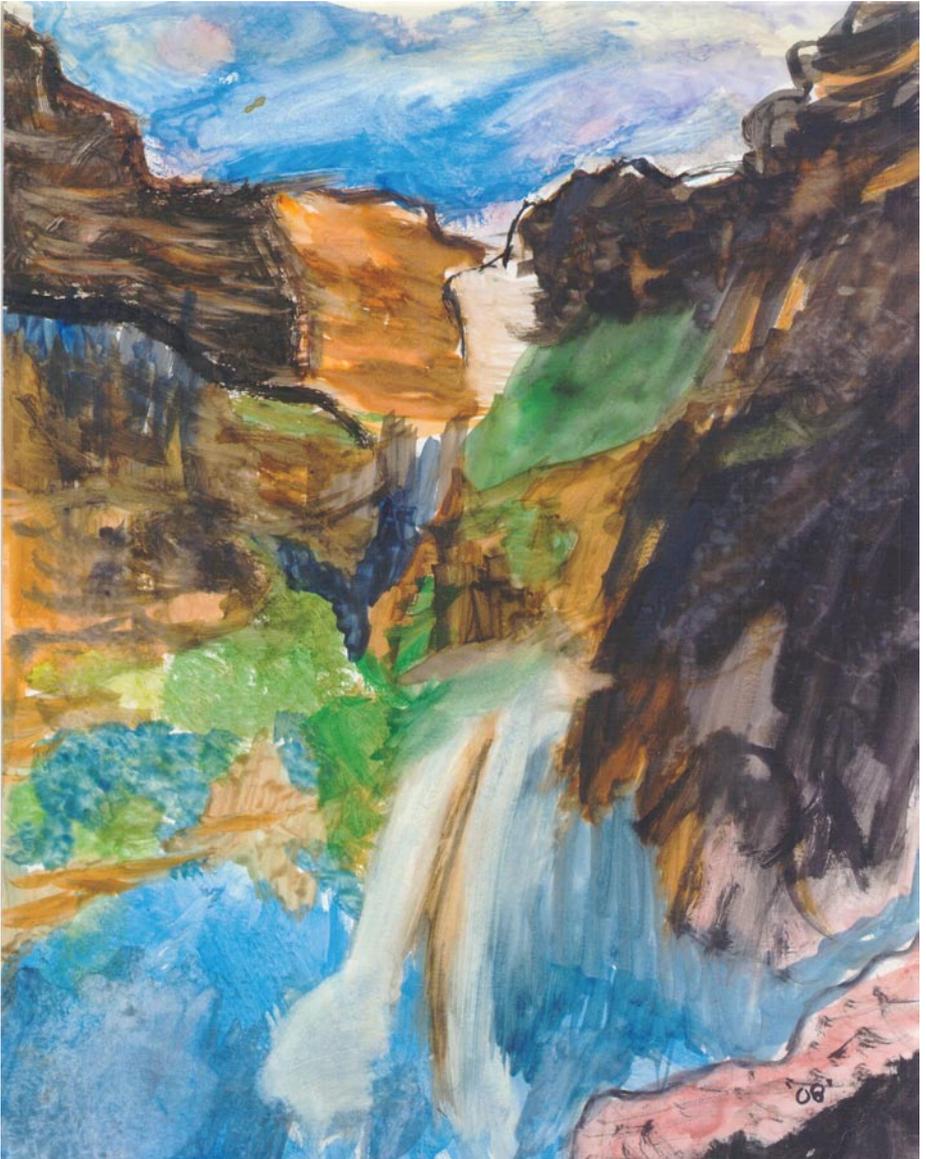
The Waterfall

*Rachel Risley, age 8
Mesquite Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Marko*



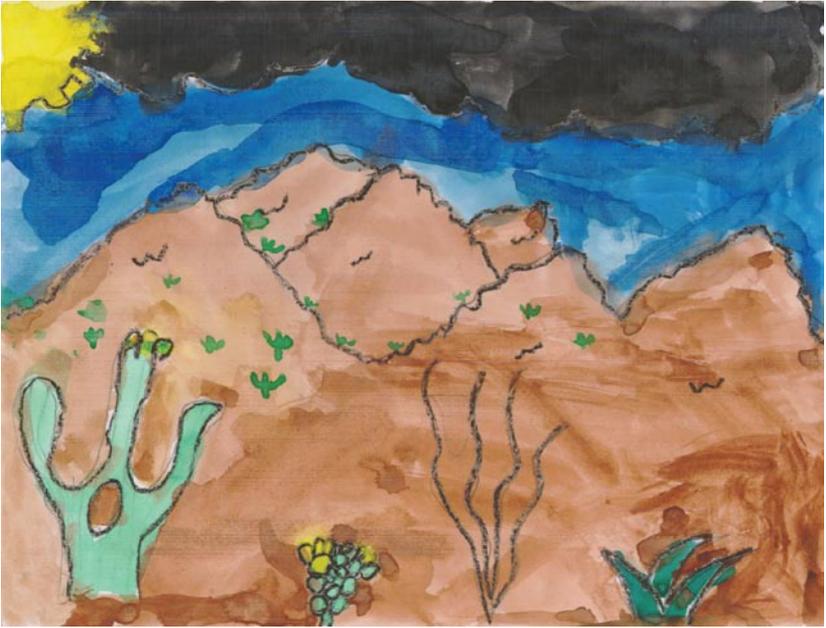
Purple River

*Naomi Eve Orchard, age 10
Manzanita Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Stotlar*



Waterfall

*Sergina Ortega, age 16
Westwood High School, Mesa, AZ
Teacher: Don Gilboe*



Desert Storm

Zachary Allbright, age 8
Desert Winds Elementary
Teacher: Mr. Hasse



Water Is Life

Raymond A. Pro, age 12
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Karen Oliver



Brown Desert

Sarah Arnold, age 11

Tucson Family Arts Festival

Teachers: Alexandra Fisher/Kevin Johnson



Monsoon Memory

Sydni Anne Heimback, age 13

Great Expectations Academy

Teacher: Mrs. Malcolm

The Water Travel

Have you ever wondered where water can travel?
It can go through many kinds of gravel.
It goes down through the deepest sand,
and it goes up again to higher land.

Water can evaporate and travel
to the clouds up high,
and it could have fallen into a river
that may have run dry.
It goes up the filtration system to get cleaned up,
and it may even end up in your puppy's cup.

The drop could go down in rain and
end up in the ocean.
The volcanoes underwater make it
go up with erosion.
It will get evaporated by the sun and turn into gas,
and when it rains it may end up in the grass.

It will get pumped up again and
end up in your shower.
Then the process will begin again and
the rain will water your flower.
Now you know where the water gets to travel.
All over the earth and through all kinds of gravel.

*Jaime Guillermo Arenas, age 11
Teacher: Karen Oliver
Challenger Middle School*

Condemned to Die

Up or down
Smile or frown
Clear or brown
Does it really matter?

Trees to fields
Fields to rivers
Rivers to oceans
Oceans to clouds
Clouds to ground
Ground to bills
Bills to ground
And back around again!

Energy
Sun
Gravity
Humans and
Animals
We all move water.

Carina Goodman, age 11
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson
Challenger Middle School

Water – a Haiku

Rain so glorious
I wake up to the sweet smell
Like watermelon

Moriah Newhouse, age 11
Teacher: Kim Newhouse
Independent Entry

Floating in a Cloud

Black cloud
Pouring rain
Rattlesnake
White rose
Hanging on a vine
Grey cloud

Skyler Lull, age 6
Teacher: Sandy Herfkens
Schumaker Elementary

Living Longing Winding Stream

Living longing winding stream
Crystal river and spring light beam
Beautiful dancing secret strain
As loving hands begin to gain

Crystal river and spring light beam
To be a purple golden scene
As loving hands begin to gain
Looking watching flowers rain

To be a purple golden scene
Spicy reddish beautiful scent and stalks unbent
Looking watching flowers rain
Amber elegant song for all

Spicy reddish beautiful scent and stalks unbent
Beautiful dancing secret strain
Amber elegant song for all
Living longing winding stream

Benjamin Davidson, age 8
Teacher: Ms. Winsberg
Tucson Hebrew Academy
Grand Prize – Poetry – Category 2

A Poem on How Things Change

Rattling.

The sound of rain falling.
Drops of partially frozen water riddle my back as
I simply stand on the sidewalk,
listening to the storm.

Anxious to be on its way.

Out of a cloud and then falling, falling,
falling to land in its home away from home.
A pool, a puddle, a pond or a lake.
To forever be a part of the world.
To forever be involved in the water cycle.

Intelligent.

Knowing when to fall, or when not to fall.
Whichever, wherever, and whenever it wants.

Neglectful in a time of need.

Not caring if it gets you wet.

*Na-il Ali Emmert, age 15
Teacher: Amy Rude/Jeff Hartman
City High School*

Oceans

I am the deepest of blues
The widest of waves
The deepest of waters
The ocean's currents yell as they
Rush through my deep blue sea
My body is cold
But my heart is bold.
I am the deepest of blues.

Rebecca R. Estrada, age 13
Teacher: Mrs. Malcolm
Great Expectations Academy
Grand Prize - Poetry - Category 4

Ringtail

I am a ring-tail, sitting in a tree
Watching the coyotes run by.
I wait until they pass,
Then I jump down next to the river.
I run through the desert,
Looking for a hiding place.
I take cover in a cat claw bush,
And I do not move.
I hear the predators approaching,
So I stop breathing and thinking.
I am a ringtail, sneaky, smart, stealthy, and sly.

Jenna Hanson, age 13
Teacher: Mrs. Malcolm
Great Expectations Academy

Solution for Pollution

Pollution has an illusion
To be very clean,
It has a solution
To be clean like I've seen,
It has too much trash
And cost a lot of cash
To see it sparkling,
It can be clean with a filter
But not if people litter,
The water's pollution
Has an illusion
So make a conclusion

Cynthia Nieblas, age 11
Teacher: Karen Oliver
Challenger Middle School

The Desert

Once I was in the desert and it was sunny.
The birds were flying.
I hear some water coming down the waterfall.
I feel good inside.
I was in the desert.

Elizabeth Hoover, age 7
Teacher: Mrs. Salerno
Great Expectations Academy
Grand Prize – Poetry – Category 1

The Dry Desert

Deep in the dry, dry desert,
Lies a village.
Everything is dry.
Everything has died.

It hasn't rained in months
The villagers are desperate.
Each and every day they await
For rain clouds full of water to come.

Soon they begin to lose hope.
As a mere child keeps all hope
She begins to perform
Her rain dance as her mother taught her.

She is criticized, but not for long
They begin to see the purple dark sky,
Dark clouds rolling in, and the loud thunder
Begins to roar.

The rest join her in her dance
Rain begins to pour.
They smell the sodden dirt.
Feel the breeze the rain brings.

They have never seen so much hope.
One by one they thank the young girl
For bringing the rain to the village.

Abby Gallego, age 13
Teacher: Ms. Frederick
Challenger Middle School

The Mountain

I am running on the mountain
by the big and tall saguaros.
I am in the foggy clouds.
The animals are sleeping.
The plants are old.
I hear other animals.
I see a mountain in the distance.
I am feeling cool.
Water has good stuff in it.
I am running on the mountain
by the big and tall saguaros.

Cayley Sprung, age 8
Teacher: Nancy Jindrick
Agua Caliente Elementary

The Raindrop

Falling, falling a raindrop falling
Faster, faster
More, more
A little squirrel hides to keep from the rain.
A saguaro is fattening
Drip, drop,
Drip, drop
Oh, here it goes again
Swoosh, swoosh
Oh, up, up, up again back where it started
Drip, drop,
Drip, drop

Rose Schoenfeld, age 7
Teacher: Mrs. Meyer
Castlehill Day School

The Bird and His Brother

I'm flying with my brother while in the night sky.
Snow is falling every second of life.
I see a coyote, a bobcat and
a rabbit looking at me.
I see mesquite trees with thorns
as sharp as needles.
There are coyotes singing
to the stars with beetles all around.
I'm landing on the arm of a saguaro cactus.
It reminds me of my older brother.
There is water coming down every second of life,
as free as it can be.
I'm flying with my brother while in the night sky.

*Reid Gubler, age 10
Teacher: Mrs. Know
Mesquite Elementary*

Desert Toad

Deep under the sand,
Wet and cool,
Here comes mama toad,
A root comes down,
Pit pat, pit pat,
Finally. Rain.
Puddles! Washes filling up!
In a wash!
Splash! Spray! Splash! Spray!

*Bianca Sultan, age 7
Teacher: Mrs. Meyer
Castlehill Day School*

Tucson's River of Words is a local affiliate of the national River of Words program — A California based non-profit, dedicated to the connecting of children to their watershed through poetry and art. All submissions to Tucson's River of Words are also submitted to the national River of Words contest.



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Tucson's River of Words is a community collaboration made possible with support from: Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Tucson-Pima Arts Council, Central Arizona Project, Tucson Children's Museum, and International River of Words.

We also thank the educators and poetry and art judges: Wendy Burroughs, Leia Maahs, Katy Goudschaal, Axhel Muñoz, Steve Russell, Carol Tepper, Joy Mehulka, Edie Price, Barbara Terkanian, Kimi Eisele, Cristina Cardenas, Vanessa Bracamonte, Shinsuke Higuchi, Alexandra Fisher, Kevin Johnson, Cameron Conaway, Drew Burk, and Lisa Bowden.



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What is it?

Children ages 5 to 19 explore nature to learn about watersheds and life cycles and express understandings with original creations of poetry and visual art.

When is the contest?

Entries are accepted anytime. The submission deadline for the 2009 contest is February 1, 2009.

How do I enter?

Additional information and entry forms are available at Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation office.

3500 W. River Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85741

(520) 615-7855

education@pima.gov

Online entry forms available at

www.pima.gov/nrpr

www.tucsonpimaartscouncil.org

