



# 2012 Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Contest



## ***Where is all the Water?***

*Gabrielle Anderson, age 16*

*Independent Entry*

***Grand Prize–Art–Category 4***

*A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself.*  
~Laura Gilpin

*Tucson's River of Words* Youth Poetry and Art engages young people in science study, exploration of the natural world, and artistic expression of their understandings of watersheds, water resources, and the interrelationships between people and the environment. The vibrant images and lyrical poems contained in these pages convey the durable connections to nature shared by these young artists. *Tucson's River of Words* is much more than a poetry and art contest; it is a cycle of activities each building upon the next. As the 2012 TROW exhibit and booklet is unveiled, we are gearing up for the next round of science study, watershed explorations, classroom workshops, community exhibitions, and celebrations.

### **Tucson's River of Words 2012–2013 Traveling Exhibit Schedule**

**April 11 – May 15, 2012**

Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center • 1660 W. Ruthrauff Rd.

**May 17 – June 19, 2012**

Martha Cooper Branch Library • 1377 N. Catalina Ave.

**June 22 – July 18, 2012**

Agua Caliente Park – Ranch House Art Gallery • 12325 E. Roger Rd.

**July 21 – August 30, 2012**

Pima County Juvenile Court • 2225 E. Ajo Way

**September 6 – September 30, 2012**

Dusenberry-River Branch Library • 5605 E. River Rd., # 105

**October 2 – October 30, 2012**

Quincie Douglas Branch Library • 1585 E. 36th St.

**November 2 – November 29, 2012**

Valdez Main Library • 101 N. Stone Ave.

**December 1, 2012 – January 31, 2013**

Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. Branch Library • 7800 N. Schisler Dr.

**February 5 – March 17, 2013**

Valencia Branch Library • 202 W. Valencia Rd.

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*This book is dedicated to 2012 Tucson's River of Words  
Teacher of the Year, Denice Powers  
from DeGrazia Elementary School and all the teachers and parents/guardians  
that create opportunities for children to connect with nature and promote  
the integration of science, language, and the arts.*

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## ***Sun, Tell Me a Secret***

The moon is in the sky.  
Sun, tell me a secret.  
Who flows and thinks  
about clouds?

*Celestina Rivas, age 7*  
*Robles Elementary • Mrs. Gary*  
**Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 1**

## ***Pond and Road Runner***

You abandoned me pond  
There is a blazing fire road runner watch out  
Save it for the monsoons pond that means shhh  
Take me away  
Get away  
I can't I flow  
The fire hurts  
I told you  
Shhh  
It burns  
I'm blue and it looks like you got a tan

*Aramis Huser, age 11*  
*DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Powers*

## ***Water***

Wet in monsoon  
Air is moist  
Thunderstorms  
Evaporating water drops  
Rivers that flow

*Adrian Celaya, age 9*  
*Mesquite Elementary • Mrs. Knox*

## ***The Tortoise and the Eagle***

It was pouring rain  
the tortoise was walking in the desert  
Its tongue was sticking out to catch the rain  
a big eagle was circling the tortoise  
the rain stopped  
a beautiful pink, blue, purple, orange  
red crystal rainbow was in the sky

*Paige Murnane, age 7*  
*Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Nugent*

## ***Tough River***

A river is like a bobcat.  
It roars and hisses.  
It throws temper tantrums all around.  
It's big and ferocious.  
It makes the biggest sound.

A river is like a wolf.  
It is tough and can fight.  
It gets angry and hungry.  
It has sharp teeth that bite.

A river is also like a turtle.  
It protects itself and  
Can handle anything.  
It has a hard shell.

*Alexandra Lewis, age 9*  
*Mesquite Elementary • Mrs. Urbalejo*

## ***Water of the Desert***

The desert water dries  
the washes are vacant  
people of the desert await the clouds  
to pour some of the desert water  
they wait for the liquid of survival to flow on their tongue  
the water of the desert will pour

The rumbling, grumbling clouds of the Sonoran Desert  
The ground soaks up the tears of the sky  
as the ancient souls of our ancestors awaken  
The children sing and dance with the wind  
The trees wave at their old friend, the rain

The flowers open their eyes to the new guests  
As the adults peacefully drink tea  
as the water of the desert pours down  
The young critters of the desert scurry into their homes  
Seeking safety from the sudden bombing.

The clouds roll away as  
Our old pal, shines it face at us  
The people of the desert cheer for  
The water of the desert.

*Suwhan Kim, age 10*  
*Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Fisher*

## ***The Rain***

There are scary dark clouds  
in the sky  
Loud angry thunder  
it started to rain  
Flooding monsoon rain  
all the animals ran back home

*Max Balicki, age 7*  
*Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Nugent*

## ***Wishes***

Light streams through clouds  
making some mountains  
shimmer with dew.

A wish becomes pure  
in the twilight.

A fragile tear falls  
into a stream.

*Madeline Cheu, age 8*  
*Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Ratajczak*  
**Grand Prize –Poetry –Category 2**

## ***La Fiesta de la Noche***

Los coyotes bailan al ritmo de la cascada  
splat, splat, splat.

Los grillos cantan a la bonita brillante luna  
El sol comienza a brillar y la luna  
comienza a irse.

Todos los animales comienzan a correr  
a sus casas y esperan la otra fiesta  
de la noche

## ***Party of the Night***

The coyotes dance to the rhythm of the waterfall  
“splat, splat, splat”,

The crickets chirp to the beautiful moon,  
The sun starts to appear and  
the moon starts to vanish

all the animals start to scurry to their homes and  
wait for another party of the night

*Yudaliz Viguie Santini, age 9*  
*Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Fisher*

## ***Soil People***

Soil people look for water,  
They turn to fly through the hot air,  
They ride over mountains,  
They swirl though valleys,  
Soil people listen for thunder.

*Ambrose Houser, age 6  
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter*

## ***Moisturizing Monsoons***

The breeze of desert air,  
Monsoon rain striking the dry ground.  
Rain falling on my head  
Rain falling on my tongue  
Rain falling on the palo verde trees.  
Rain sinking into the ground.  
Rain moisturizing the coughing dirt.  
Monsoon rain in the desert.

*Nicklaus Scott, age 9  
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Gromley*

## ***Peaceful Noise***

A raindrop is like a gumdrop.  
A raindrop can be an icy rock.  
It can fall fast like a hawk.

When it rains,  
It pounds on a window.  
It makes a puddle on the ground.  
A monsoon can be a heaven of rainy rocks destroying my street.

*Gabriella Bermingham, age 10  
Mesquite Elementary • Mrs. Urbalejo*



***A Drop of Water***  
*Cathy Xia, age 9*  
*Independent Entry*  
***Grand Prize–Art–Category 3***



***The Lizard and the Wash***

*Maeve McMahon, age 10*

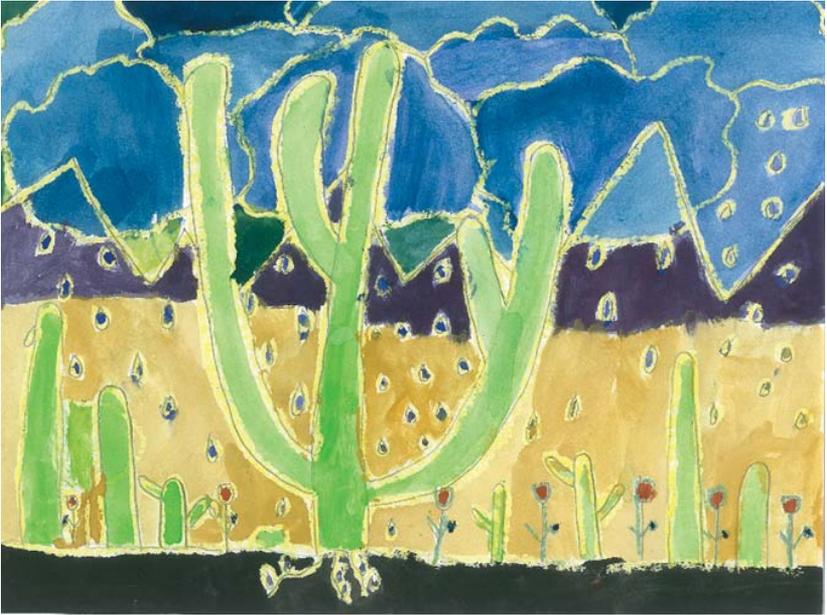
*Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Brown*



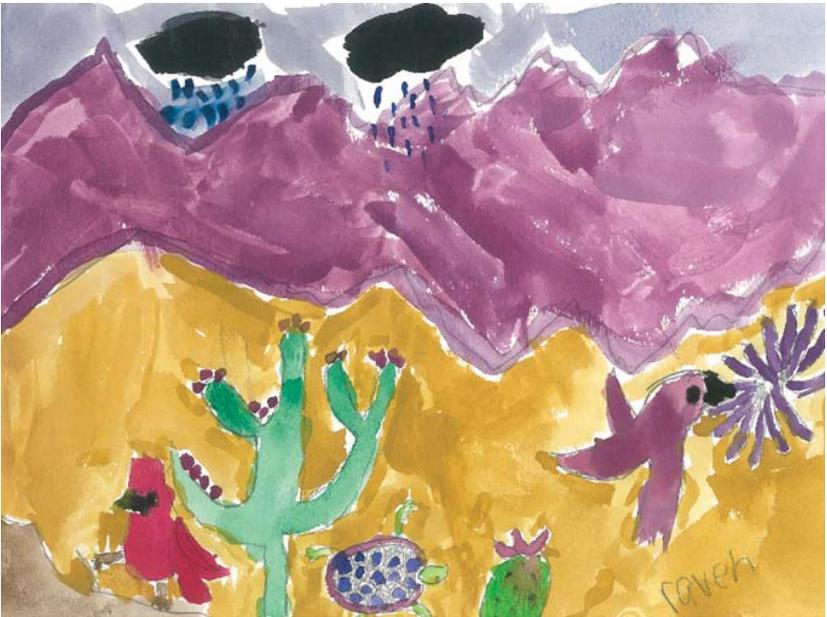
***The Coyotes in the Desert***

*Karah Mayer, Age 8*

*Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Johnson*



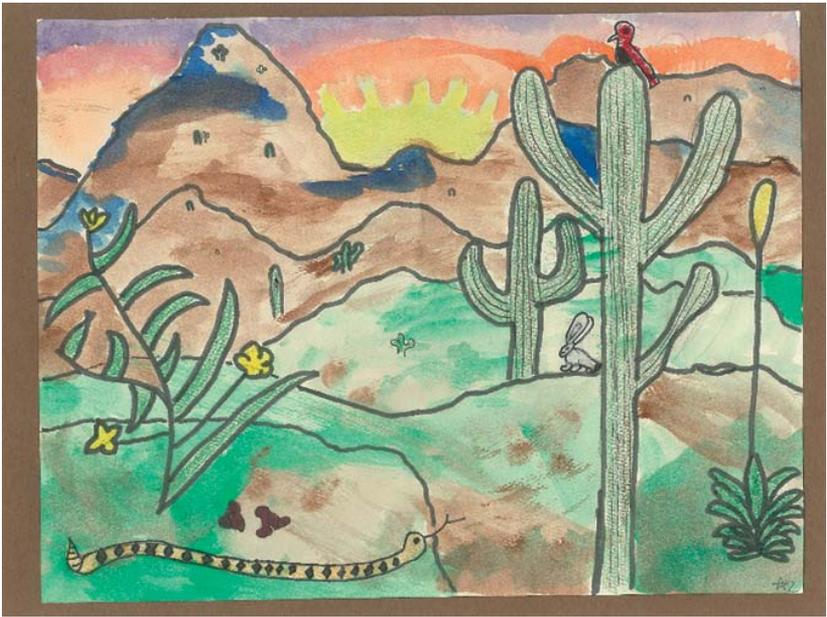
***Saguaro at Night***  
*Sydney Gray, age 9*  
*Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Baine*



***Rainy Day in the Mountain***  
*Raven Rose-Cowle, age 8*  
*Presidio School • Mrs. Judd*



**Wild Scorpions**  
Kevin Cobb, age 7  
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter



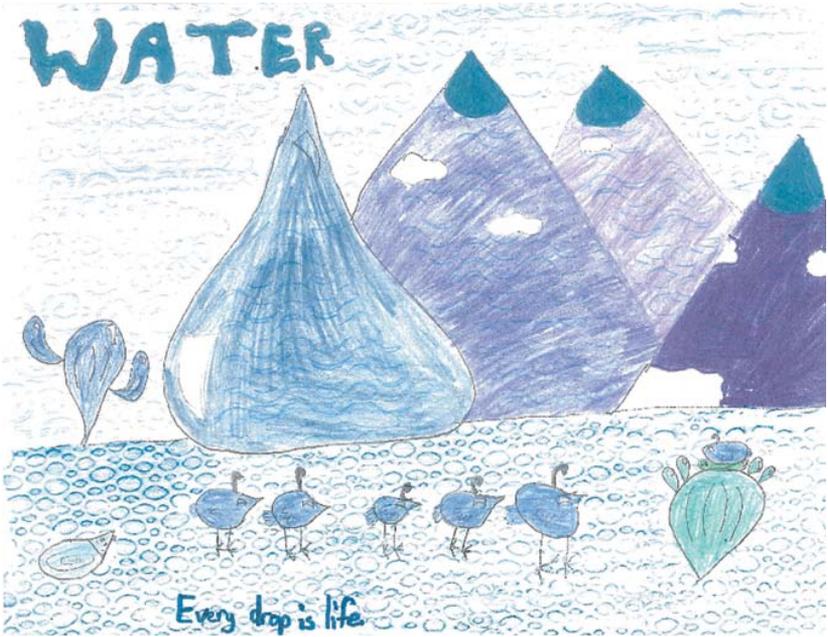
**Sweet Desert Dessert**

Ashlee Zaragoza, age 12  
DeGrazia Elementary • Mr. Mayer



**The Coyote in the Desert**

Celeste Liniero, age 6  
Pima County Drexel Heights Community Center



**Water – Every Drop is Life**

*Cameron Strong, age 9*

*Independent Entry*



**Happily Playing Animals in the River**

*Kaitlyn Yom, age 6*

*Independent Entry*



**The Hummingbird**  
Triniti Echols, age 7  
Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Graham



**Mountains**  
Nick Rider, age 6  
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter



***Para - Para - Paradise***

*Anika Howe, age 13*

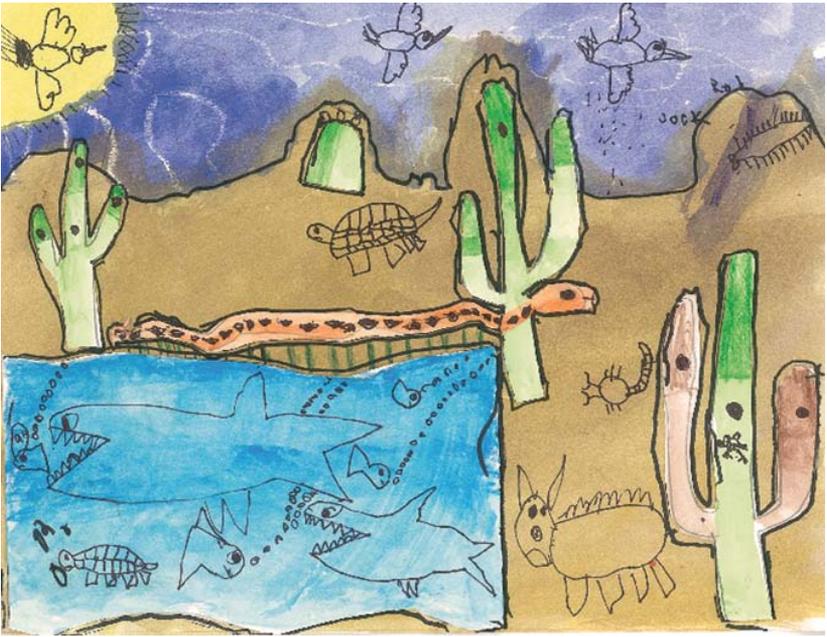
*Academy of Math and Science • Mrs. Hunter*



***Sunset Dew***

*Toni Vega, age 10*

*Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. McCarthy*



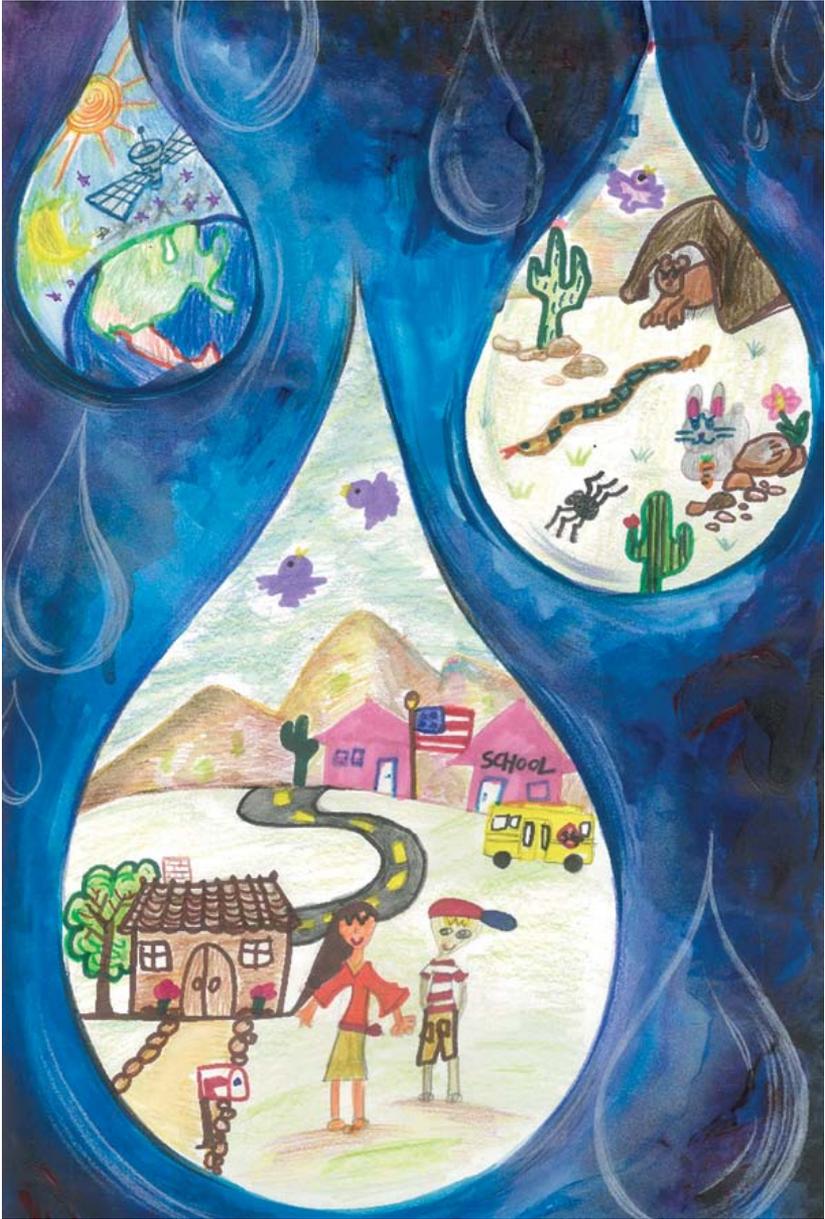
***The Sonoran Desert***

*Jack Roberts, age 8  
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. LaRose  
Grand Prize–Art–Category 2*

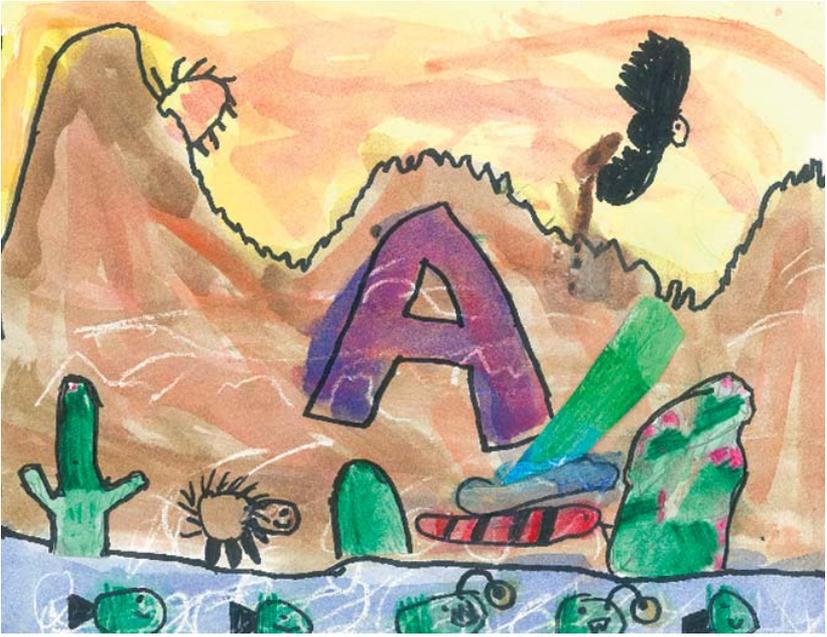


***Saguaros with Rain***

*Gweneth Landis, age 10  
Independent Entry*



***Water in Life***  
*Sydney Kim, age 6*  
*Independent Entry*  
***Grand Prize–Art–Category 1***



**Untitled**

*Billy Kimmins, age 7*

*Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Sanchez*



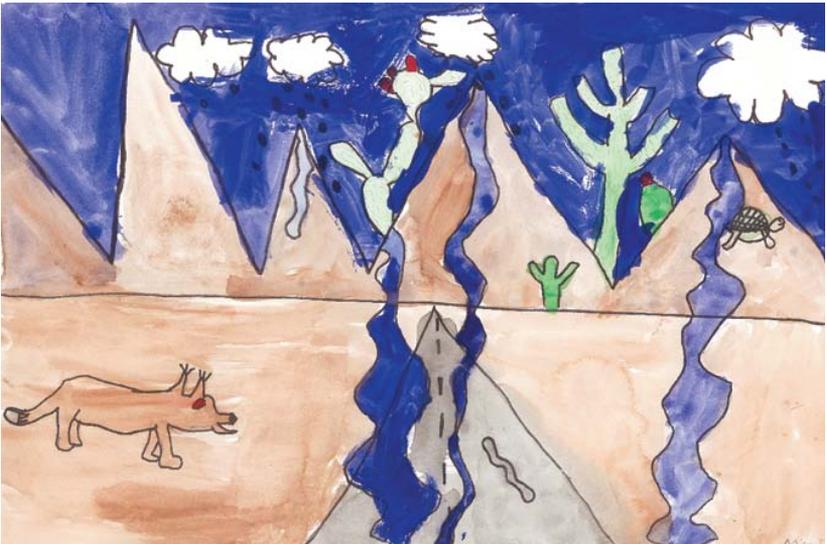
**Animal's Desert**

*Malahah Gamez, age 6*

*Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter*



**Perfect Harmony**  
Finn Aajakos, age 10  
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Baine



**Desert Road**  
Ivy Lowrance, age 8  
Robles Elementary • Mr. Hill



***Where the Coyote Lives***

*Abeni Hernandez, age 8*

*Pima County Drexel Heights Community Center*



### **The Desert**

*Gabriel Valenzuela, age 10*

*Pima County Drexel Heights Community Center*



### **A Day Out**

*Aaron Wentz, age 8*

*Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Vengelen*



### **Summer**

*Jennifer Cardenas, age 10  
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Brown*



### **The Sunset**

*Tory Shulman, age 8  
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. LaRose*

## ***Water is Life***

All of our water begins in the ocean.  
And once it heats up it gets into motion.

Evaporation puts it high in the sky,  
Forming it into gargantuan clouds that slowly fly.

Once it gets thick, it begins to fall,  
Single droplets one-by-one bringing water to all.

We drink it up and we're now alive.  
Giving us energy to go for the things we strive.

Without water we would all die,  
Having life slip through our fingers with a final sigh.

Thanks to water we are all here,  
Knowing we have water available near.

*Miguel Cordova, age 15  
Academy of Math and Science • Mr. Armstrong*

## ***Small Puddle***

A puddle far off  
It is overflowing fast  
on a monsoon day

*Wesley Maloney, age 8  
Castlehill Country Day School • Mrs. Meyer*

## ***Fundamental***

The immortality – of Life, of Nature  
Nature and Life living  
forever – but within, mortality  
That alliance never falters  
An Ocean of Happiness they bring  
Unfortunate mortals fail  
to grasp its Beauty  
The Water cycle itself, an expression  
a confirmation  
In every refreshing – relieving  
drink of its clear liquid  
A taste of Tour  
through humans, though plants, through animals  
Sweet taste of Nature, of Life  
Yet all characters  
are just a small component  
Of an unknown Cycle

*Melissa Carrillo, age 14*  
*Academy of Math and Science • Mr. Armstrong*  
***Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 4***

## ***The Red Ladybug***

So much depends  
upon  
the red lady  
bug  
glazed by the yellow  
sun  
next to the red  
wheelbarrow.

*Keri Oldham, age 6*  
*Carden of Tucson • Mrs. Ram*

Ah...  
When the monsoon seasons come around  
Pitter---patter---pitter---patter  
All around  
All the little creatures  
Hiding in their dens  
Waiting for the rain to end  
When it stops-  
All goes quiet  
For all around  
Everything is in bloom

*Isabel Ehlerman, age 9  
Green Fields Country Day School • Mrs. Miller*

### ***Darkness of Light***

I see a light through the dust  
As the wind blows the trees.  
I hear a sound  
The water is coming.  
I see a coyote drifting out of the darkness  
Darkness is coming  
I wait,  
I see the moon.  
I find horses  
A heavy wind blows through my hair.  
I am alone  
I listen  
I hear steam coming  
I wait  
It is raining on me  
I shiver  
I am cold  
The water flows through my feet  
And I turn around.

*Cailin Randolph, age 7  
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Door*

## ***The River***

The River,  
Flowing,  
Rushing,  
Smooth and clear,  
Cool and sweet,  
Refreshing,  
Fish swimming,  
Plants growing.  
Stones shining.  
I know the river.  
Because I am the naiad.  
The river is my life.  
It keeps me alive.  
Wider here,  
Thinner there,  
Still,  
It is my river  
And I am its spirit.  
I feed the fish.  
I purify  
And filter  
The water.  
I visit the ocean  
And bring back  
Fresh water.  
For I would die without  
The river  
The river would die  
Without me.  
For I am the river.  
And the river  
Is me.

*Amelia Miles, age 10*  
*Satori Charter School • Mrs. Dudas*

## ***The Monsoon***

How blue the monsoon pours.  
It splashes through the week.  
How soft it drops from the sky.  
It fills me with delight.

*Vivian Montalvo, age 8  
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Northrop*

## ***The Mountains Go By***

I see horses galloping  
over the waterfall.  
I see coyotes  
on the blue mountains.  
The waterfall goes by.  
The horses go by.  
The mountains go by in time.

*William Simpson, age 7  
Robles Elementary • Ms. Del Valle*

## ***One Desert in Joy***

One desert in joy,  
new storm and moons  
over the homes of the animals.  
The trees the stars,  
the world falls in the pool.  
The world sees the stars.  
I would fall a long way.  
I'm at home.

*Madison Davis, age 7  
Robles Elementary • Mrs. Gary*

## ***The Desert Monsoon***

The sun is very hot  
The hawks fly away  
The cacti are burned  
In the summer  
A monsoon comes and refreshes the desert  
The heat is washed away.

*Nick Zaninovich, age 11*  
*DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Powers*

## ***Desert – River***

a Rabbit by the river  
an Iguana inviting friends  
a jaVelina is joyful  
a coyotE passed my cactus  
and I saw a packRat running around  
In the bright sunlight

I think I know  
What they are trying to tell:  
Drink the same water, breathe the same air  
Live by the same river, under the same sun  
We are the family, we are the friends...  
Keep our river running  
Keep this home clean...

By the light of the moon, Tonight  
I woke up with big open eyes:  
A RIVER running  
Outside my door...

*Cathy Xia, age 9*  
*Independent Entry*  
***Grand Prize–Poetry–Category3***

## ***Moon Rain***

Rain on the moon's wing.  
Wilderness is now  
far away, earth-lined.  
Moon's wing flying  
to horses on the earth.

*Lorelei Michaud, age 6  
Robles Elementary • Mrs. Gary*

## ***Water in the Rincons***

Oh no!  
There is a flood in the Rincons  
But wait ....  
Why are we complaining?  
This is great!  
It spawns new life  
Like a new beginning  
And  
Hydrates the dry environment

*Chris Schiff, age 11  
Independent Entry*

## ***The Little Fuzzy Prairie Dog***

So much depends upon that  
Little fuzzy prairie dog  
Sitting near some water  
Looking at me  
Its eyes are blue  
And it is tan  
The water it is near  
Is sparkling.

*Kolby Weaver, age 8  
Carden of Tucson • Mrs. Yecies*

## ***The Desert is Just Right for Me***

Some people live in the mountains and some by the sea  
But I like to live in the desert because it is just right for me!

Summer monsoon storms come to the desert

Rain is everywhere

Splashing on the mountains, splashing on the wash

The desert monsoons are just right for me!

Cactus is awesome in the place where I live

I like their fruit and beautiful flowers

The desert cactus is just right for me!

Sunset is beautiful in the purple mountains

That's the time that I like the sky best

The desert sunsets are just right for me!

Desert animals are cute where I live

Javelinas, coyotes, quail and rabbits

The desert animals are just right for me!

Some people live in the mountains and some by the sea  
But I like to live in the desert because it is just right for me!

*Michael Xia, age 7*

*Independent Entry*

## ***River Flow***

River flow, I don't know  
I don't know which way to go  
river flow, oh how it bends  
all people's waste now ends  
river flow, now I know  
now I know which way to go

*Jack Reynolds, age 10*

*Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Fisher*

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, and Pima County Public Library.

Many thanks to the 2012 Tucson's River of Words coordinators, educators, poetry and art judges, graphic designers, and volunteers: Wendy Burroughs, Yajaira Gray, Leia Maahs, Axhel Muñoz, Elizabeth Quinn-Worrall, Gavin Troy, Kimi Eisele, Candace Greenburg, Neil Diamente, Carolyn King, Christina Vega-Westhoff, Roberto Bedoya, Suzanne Dhruv, Drew Burk, Tamara Choudhury, Julia Gorden, Charles Jenson, Sharon O'Brien, Rafael Otto, Amanda Salir, Joy Mehulka, Edie Price, Helen Gardner, Linda Howard, Eudene Lupino, Jack Monahan, and Laura Cotter.



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



## 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 2013 contest is February 1, 2013.

## How do I enter?

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

**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**

