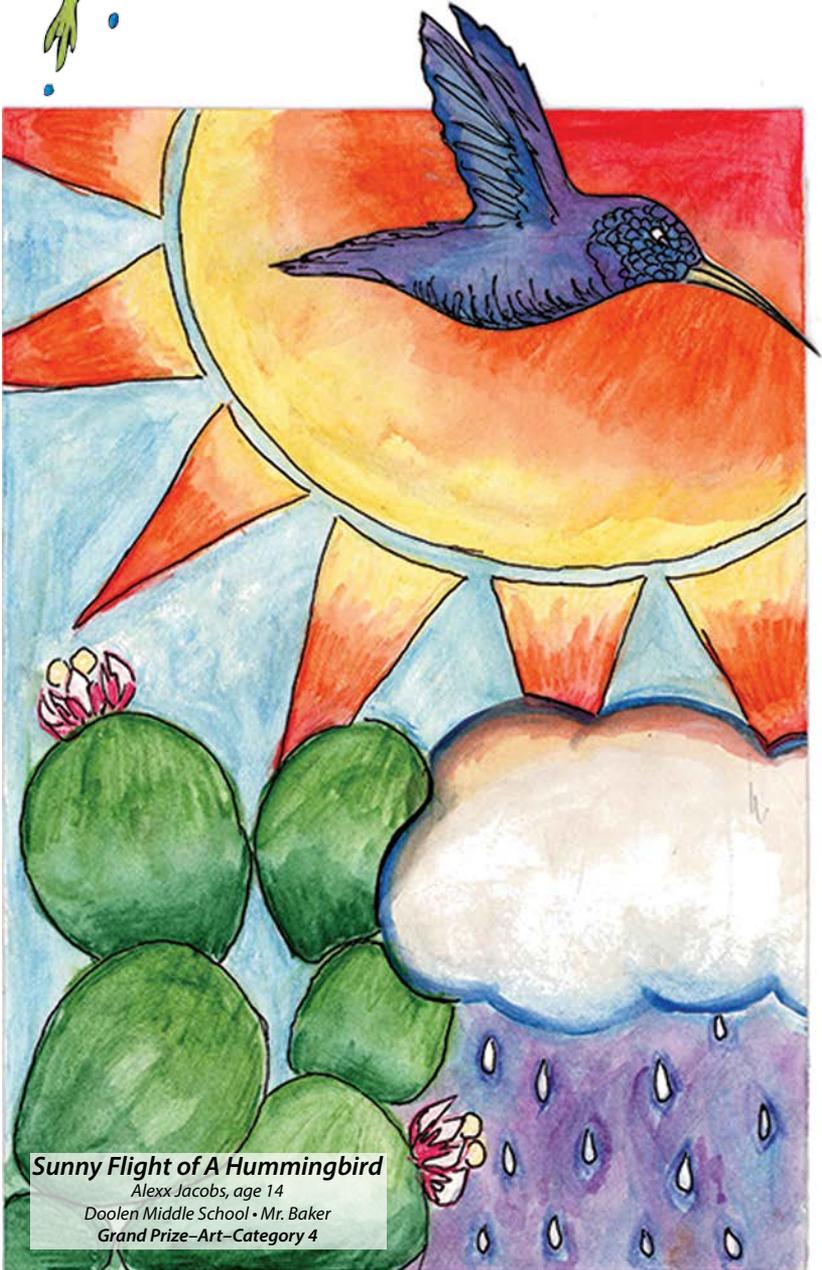




2013 Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Contest



Sunny Flight of A Hummingbird

Alexx Jacobs, age 14

Doolen Middle School • Mr. Baker

Grand Prize—Art—Category 4

*“Let the rain kiss you. Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops.
Let the rain sing you a lullaby.”
~Langston Hughes*

Tucson’s River of Words Youth Poetry & Art Contest (TROW) is a local affiliate and State coordinator for River of Words (ROW). ROW was co-founded in 1995 by writer and activist Pamela Michael and then-US Poet Laureate Robert Hass. One of the program’s most noteworthy events, conducted in affiliation with The Library of Congress Center for the Book, is a free, annual international poetry and art contest for children in kindergarten through twelfth grade. TROW engages local youth 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.

Tucson’s River of Words 2013–2014 Traveling Exhibit Schedule

April 11 – May 15, 2013

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

May 18 – June 18, 2013

Martha Cooper Branch Library • 1377 N. Catalina Ave.

June 21 – July 17, 2013

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

July 20 – August 29, 2013

Pima County Juvenile Court • 2225 E. Ajo Way

September 5 – October 17, 2013

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

October 23 – November 30, 2013

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

December 4 – December 30, 2013

Joel Valdez Main Library • 101 N. Stone Ave.

January 4 – February 13, 2014

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

February 18 – March 20, 2014

Valencia Branch Library • 202 W. Valencia Rd.

*This book is dedicated to 2013 Tucson’s River of Words
Teacher of the Year, **Cassandra Dudas**
from Satory Charter 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.*

Desert Water Cycle

The storm comes in when the cold and warm air meet,
They fight and making powerful gray clouds,
Rain pours down from the clouds and pounds the sand,
Water fills washes that strongly flow,
Quick desert rivers dry up too quick in the hot sun!

*Hannah Guthrie, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter*

The Desert Rain

The water evaporated
Leaving the Desert a burned
Empty crate, Dry as dust this burning
Piece of crust, thirsty plants crack,
The steam singses my back,
The sticky arid heat, the
Scorched sand under my feet.

Then

The

Cloud

Comes

Hear the

Joyful

Hum

The Blessing of Rain.

*Gloriana Guillermo, age 11
DeGrazia Elementary • Mr. Mayer*

The Blue Horizon

Yesterday, I cried at the sunlight.
I was sitting under the mesquite tree.
I was walking by the rushing water.
I was running to the mountains.
I was awake under the nightfall
I heard the calling of water
drifting in the air.

*Natalie Cyr, age 7
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Ratajczak
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 2*

CHANGING

Long creeks in the mountains
turn into streams in the evening.

WHITE THINGS

White things always hurry
in the evening.

MONSOON

Monsoons, out-flowing
wildlife.

SILENCE

Wide silence
to the heart
and everywhere.

LOVE

True love
in you heart.

Connor Young, age 7
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Ratajczak

Night of the Butterfly

The butterfly floats through the air
She can find her share of animals there
The cactus wren flying high and the Gila monster below
While her wings put on a colorful show
She flies all day and all night
While the sunset turns the sky into colorful bands of light
The desert never sleeps
As wild animals creep
And cut through the dark
The owl leaves his mark
A coyote howls
While he prowls
For things of the night
Before the first signs of daylight
The butterfly lands on a cactus flower
Which has a certain kind of power
And watches this desert night slip away
For a new kind of desert day

Savana Sasser, age 14
Independent Entry
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 4

Roadrunner
I can hear
you run.

Who says you can't
make a rattlesnake
out of a monsoon?

*Isabel Valenzuela, age 6,
Pima County Drexel Heights Community Center
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 1*

The Owl

An owl swiftly flies past the rising desert sun,
looking across the empty desert,
scouring the land for his prey.
He Stops.
Distressed, he perches himself
upon a tree
resting his tired wings
as a new night begins
he flies past the moon,
casting an ebony shadow
upon the earth

*Enzo Mars, age 10
Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Fisher*

Rain in the Desert

After it rained in the desert

A lizard was resting
on a big gray rock

A scorpion was crawling
on the ground
in the wet desert sand.

Butterflies were fluttering
around bright cactus flowers.

*Lily Hernandez, age 8
Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Nugent*

Million Drops of Water

A million drops of water
falling through the rocks

A million drops of water
sparkling in the sun like
pearls

A million drops of water
ending in a river
find their way to the ocean

A million drops of water creating
childlike happiness laughter
and fun

A million drops of water that
will soon reach the tide of the
tide of the long white beaches.

Millones de Gotas de Agua

Millones de gotas de agua
caen en las rocas

Millones de gotas de agua
Brillando en el sol como
perlas

Millones de gotas de agua
terminando en un río para
luego encontrar el camino
al océano

Millones de gotas de agua
creando felicidad infantil
Risa y la diversión

Millones de gotas de agua
que pronto van a llegar a
la marea de las blancas y
largas playas

*Ana Cristina Sarmiento, age 10
Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Fisher
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 3*

The Wind

It rains.
The rainbow burst
up in the still sky.
The rainbow is calling me.

Everything is still in the breeze.
A saguaro makes the wind deep.

A leaf swoops by me.
It is happiness
to be in the desert.
The world shakes
and glides my way.

*Mariel Homoki, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Johnson*

Where do they go?

Where do they go, animals of the desert?
The water is running out,
The summer is running long,
When will the rain come and fall from the sky?
Animals of the desert are thirsty.

*D'Angelo Taylor, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter*

Gone

The world is still
Only dryness
Water's rare
Climate changed
Animals die
Humans struggle
Sizzling, Scorching ground
The world changed
To dust

Drip you hear
Drip it gets louder
Drip
You see it
Rain
Plants already look greener
Everyone is happier
Finally
Soon it's gone
Mirage
Should've known
I hear more crackling

The world is still
Only dryness
Water's rare
Climate changed
Animals die
Humans struggle
Sizzling, Scorching ground
The world changed
To dust

*Hannah Schwager, age 12
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Powers*



Kangaroo Rat by a Cactus

Alesha Sprague, age 6

Fort Lowell/Townsend K-8 • Mrs. Aho



I am looking for something to drink. I see something!
It's a frog! I see water...

Alyssa ♥
Flores

Thirsty Coyote

Alyssa Flores, age 9

Presidio School • Mrs. Cohn



The Ducky

*Breana Valencia, age 8
Pima County Catalina Community Center*



A View of the Desert

*Weston Haebig, age 8
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Vengelen*



The River of Life
Anthony Farruggia, age 7
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Johnson



Atreyu Tolson, age 7
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Roberts

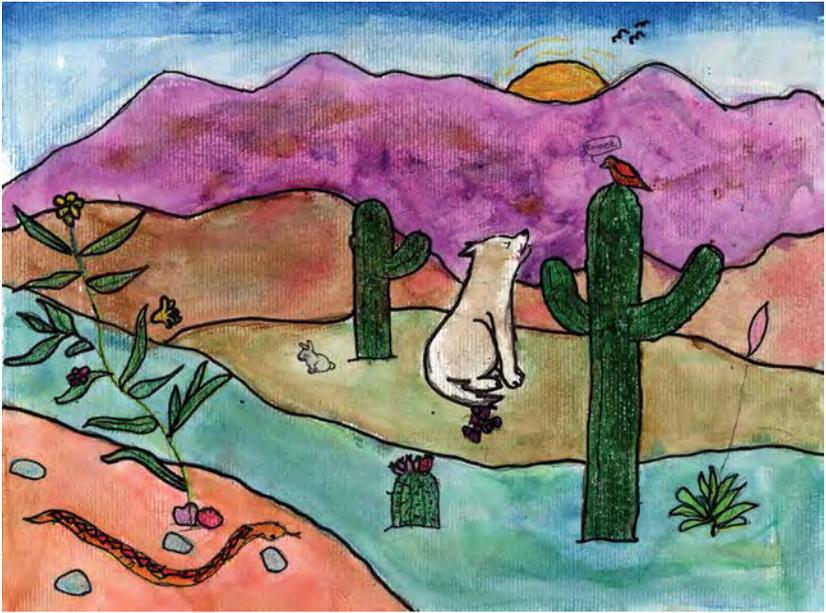


The Lazy Frog and His Friend

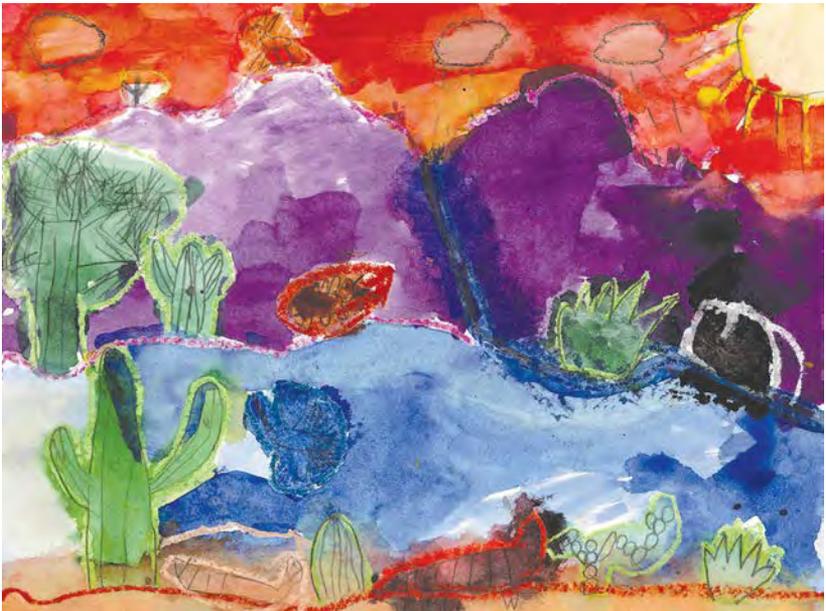
*Delaney Birge, age 9
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Endorf*



Water, the Soul of Our Earth
Ben Anmad Ghemarawi, age 12
Independent Entry



Purple Mountain
Catarina Gonzales, age 11
DeGrazia Elementary • Mr. Mayer



The Desert's Water
Sheldon Southard, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter
Grand Prize–Art–Category 1



Roadrunner

Darius Jones, age 6
Fort Lowell/Townsend K-8 • Mrs. Aho



Going into the Sunset

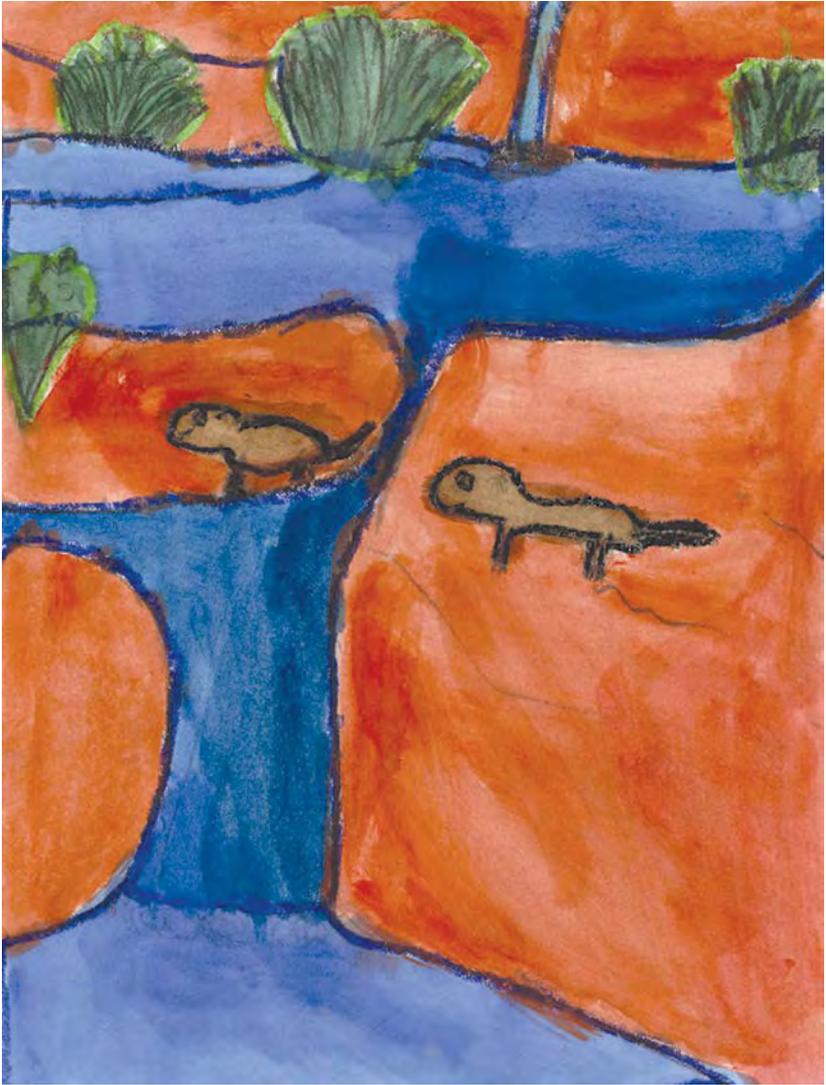
Edgar Peralta, age 14
Doolen Middle School • Mr. Baker



*Banesa Valencia, age 7
Pima County Catalina Community Center*



It's Raining
*Emily G. Bailey, age 8
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Roh*



Gophers and Water

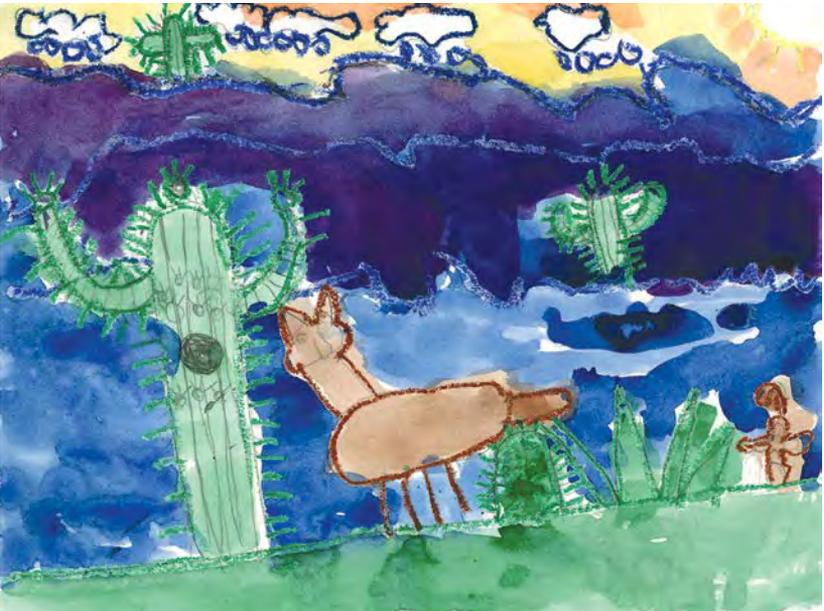
Ella Brown, age 8

Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Sanchez

Grand Prize–Art–Category 2



Nice Day in Arizona
Israel Garcia Solorio, age 10
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Gordon



Cactus Mountain
Gino Veneziano, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter



Water Brings Life
Hazel Worobey, age 10
Borton Magnet Elementary • Mr. Wagner



Joshua Schoene, age 11
Pima County Catalina Community Center



Mountain Deer

*Luis Isaiah Williams, age 9
Ochoa Community Magnet • Mrs. Lynch*



Contaminated Life
Joelle, age 14
Sky Islands High School • Ms. Lantz



Bobcat in the Rain
Skyler Wallace, age 8
Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Nugent



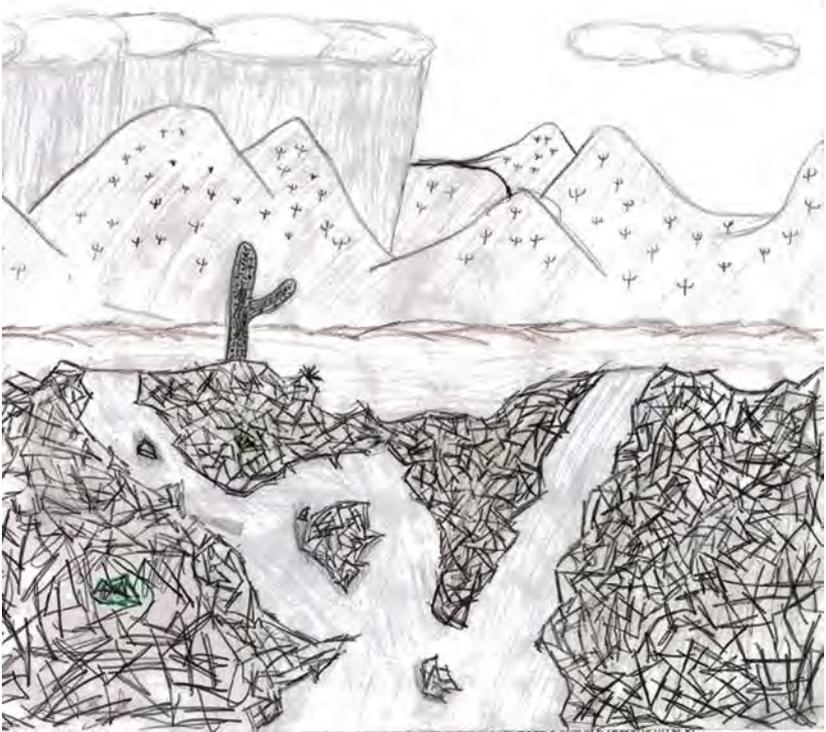
The Desert in Action

Jillian Calloway, age 9
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Baine



The Rainstorm

McKenna Whisenart, age 7
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Ludeke



The Desert

*Gabriel Neal, age 10
Satori Charter School • Mrs. Dudas*

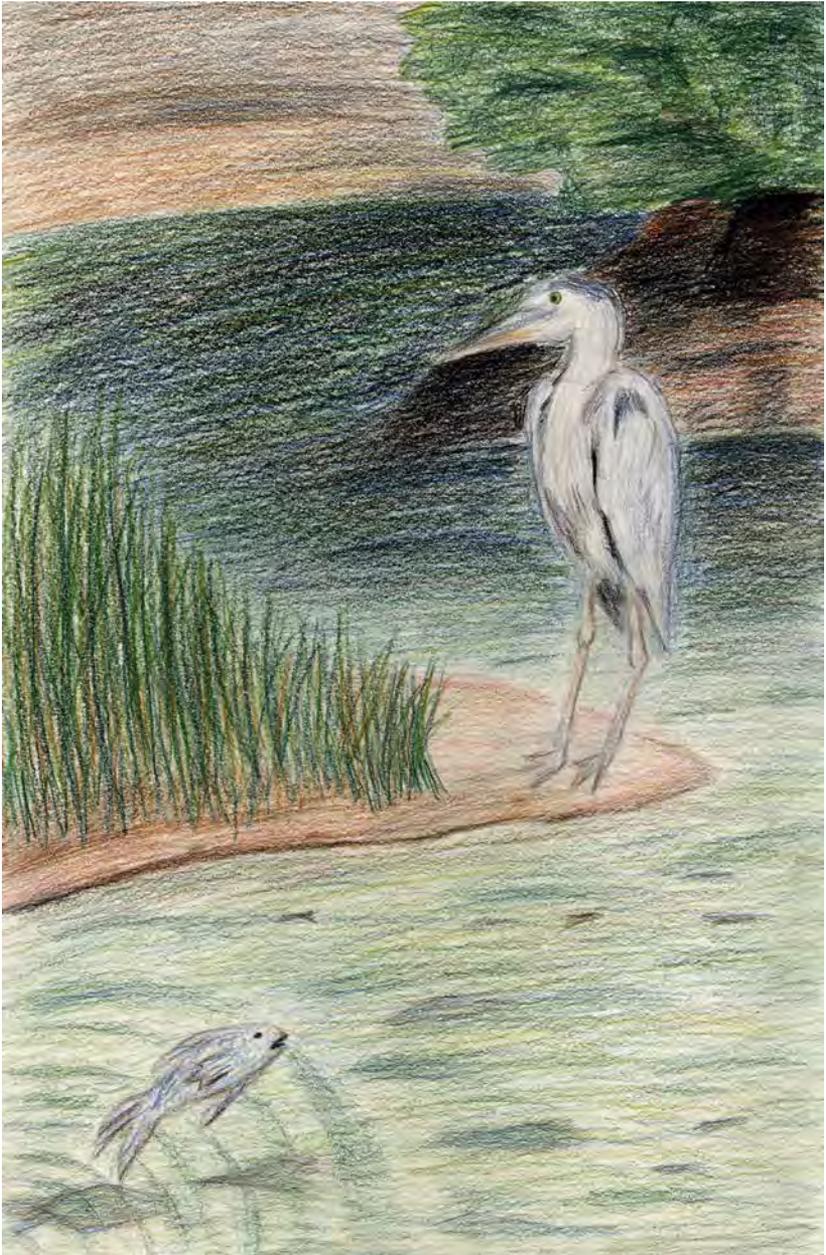


Watching Carefully, Slowly, and Quietly

*Hannah Shealy, age 10
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Endorf*



The Amazing Waterfall
Lexi Martinez, age 9
Tanque Verde Elementary • Miss Marr



Tucson's Tranquil Treasure

Micaela Zachmeier, age 13

Independent Entry



The Rain in the Desert

Cruz Ureña, age 7

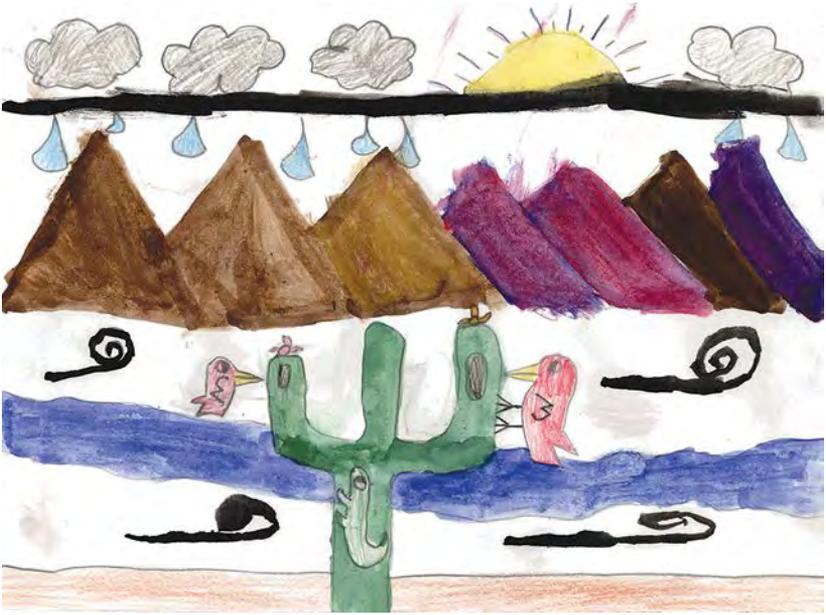
Davis Bilingual Elementary Magnet • Sra. Hernández



Night Desert

Sam McDowell, age 8

Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. LaRose



Donde los Chumpas Viven en el Desierto

Samuel Padilla, age 8

Davis Bilingual Elementary Magnet • Sra. Hernández



The Red Rocks

Reid Foster, age 7

Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. LaRose



Feed of the Hummingbirds

Sean Runkle, age 10

Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Baine

Grand Prize–Art–Category 3

The Dancing Word

The Drip, Dripity, Plop, Plop of water.

Wheeeeeee!

The fox went tap, tap, tap.

Plop is the moon and the moon is me.

The river is dancing in its water.

Throwing water on plants creating life.

More and more animals are dancing on the ground.

Word comes up to life and to see the party!

The animals head back home.

It is a party on the moon.

Ooh! Awe! The animals say.

They faced into the moon.

The Drip, Dripity, Plop, Plop of water.

Dancing words!

Angel Soqui, age 8

Ochoa Community Magnet School • Mrs. Lynch

The Big Storm

A good day
playing outside
clouds getting dark
clouds were crying
loud thunder
In the desert sky
crashing clouds
MOM CALLED US
and yelled to get inside
even the animals dashed
to their holes
out of the thunder and lightning
and loud rain

*Jonathon Witte, age 8
Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Nugent*

Frog Wars

Wet waves flow in the cold clear
Pond in a heat-wave with clouds
After rain and hydration, you hop
In with green mucus covered skin known
as the frog and see a Sonoran snake
that's hungry. You trick him out of the
water while you suck up water
in your mouth. When you travel far
and he's about to hear you, spray
your water in his face and hop
away fast all the way to the dry pond.

You look for your pond, but all you see
Is evaporated crusty sand in your pond.
You curse the sun's heat for making you
Sweaty, thirsty, and having a heat stroke.
You hide, under some mold and it's surprisingly
Cold underneath and then you fall into
A very deep sleep and pass away.

*Ayse C. Killough, age 11
Sonoran Science Academy • Mrs. Cansler*

As the Rain Falls

As
the first
drip comes
down a
coyote scampers
back to its
den.

The
rain
thickens
A small
fawn awakes
who had never
seen such a
thing.

Rain
slows colors
appear in
the sky an
Anna's hummingbird comes out
to find a flower
to quench her
thirst

The
last
drop that
the Sonoran
Desert will
see for a year
Falls!

Anna White, age 10
Khalsa Montessori • Mrs. Sheldon

Cheers to Water

Cheers to water in the desert!
Its refreshing taste helps thirsty animals.
Also, it gives to the crazy to the lazy
to the creepy to the sleepy and to the fuzzy.
It gives to plants. That's why water is
our ally. It's more than our ally, it's our family!
It also helps the winners, the losers
and the bluesers and everything thankful for it.
We share it fairly so that everybody can use it.
There's a way to reuse it, a resource we must use
wisely, use it to help the planet.

Nicholas Portell, age 8
Khalsa Montessori • Ms. Star

Monsoon Storms

Black clouds of monsoon season,
Kicking rain across the valley,
Booming and bursting from the black clouds,
The desert gets a drink.

Jennessa Lara, age 7
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter

Desert Storm

Gray clouds fill the sky
The wind blows way up high
Flash, flash lightning strikes
The thunder shouts at my side
When will it come to I
Pitter patter pitter patter
Streams are racing drips are pattering
Birds are singing, bugs run to hide
Flowers are dancing and so am I
After a pouring rain
The sky turns bright and light
Radiant colors from red to purple
A colorful arch that meets my eye
What a wonderful day in desert life!

Willow Yong, age 9
Khalsa Montessori • Mrs. Bodenhemier

The Flood

The water falls like its
pouring from the sky.
The water slithers
like a snake into the house.

Ssss.

The house is flooding!
The people's things
are floating away.
Lightning goes flash!
Thunder goes
BOOM-BOOM-CRACK!
The rain stops.
The flood waters go down.
Then the flood slithers
to another place.

Ssss

Manuel Delgado, age 9
Ochoa Community Magnet School • Mrs. Lynch

Water

Water trickles
Out of streams
Swashes water out
To the cracked desert floor
Rain comes down
In a swirly motion
Comes down to give water
To the earth
The rain dries
The sun evaporates it in a spiraling
Motion

Amaya Mortensen, age 9
Mesquite Elementary • Mrs. Hernández

Shower of Flowers

When the rain falls. The flowers
open their eyes as they reach
their delicate arms. To the rainy
sky. And as the moon falls, one
by one they close their eyes
to the night sky.

Erin Kelaher, age 10
Khalsa Montessori • Mrs. Sheldon

Water

Animals of all kinds will drink
Not one of them has to think
You could say it's an instinct
Like a bird eats an insect
To drink water

Clean, fresh, and drinkable
Not to have that is unthinkable
Every living thing will cheer
The importance of water is clear
So drink water
Rain is so precious in the desert
To the plants it's like a desert
But the animals might groan
As the rain flood there home
The rain, is water

A rainbow stretches across the sky
The birds fly alongside, and say hi
A burst of color that makes them sing
Water can bring such beautiful things
A rainbow, from water

A beautiful sight, after a grey day
Some things may look up and say yay
Others will miss the dark grey clouds
The lightning bolts and thunder that's loud
And the-water

Sophia Laing, age 12
Khalsa Montessori • Mrs. Bodenhemier

The Breathtaking Winter

Winter in the desert.
It feels very cool.
Lots of animals come out to see me.
Thousands of them come out
I can't even count.
When winter is over
Lots of water starts to drip.
I go out to play, then I fall and slip.
Next thing I know I'll be hurt.
Someone! Someone! Can anybody help?
No one. No one. No one.
Sorry you're hurt, said the wind.
I can't help. I'll have to let you be.
So don't come looking for me
Until you die. Sorry.
I'll see you in heaven.
Take care of yourself.
Please. Please. Please.
When you die I'll give you
A special blessing and you'll become me.
And take the powers of the weather.
If you can't handle it, I can.

*Maya Cordova, age 8
Khalsa Montessori • Ms. Star*

Flowers

Our flowers need the water,
Their stems and leaves fall,
Their roots go looking for old rainwater,
Their colors look to the sun.

*Leila Condoy, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter*

Entries from River of Words

Tucson's River of Words (TROW) is a local affiliate and State Coordinator for River of Words. All of the entries submitted to TROW are forwarded on to a separate judging process at the national level. The following are entries that were selected for award by River of Words 2013.

Shadows from the Moonlight

The shiny moonlight
Coming up
From the mountain
Releases shadows from the universe.

How does the valley open up?
A lifetime
Of wind and shadows
Surrounding me.
I hear the calling of the invisible waters.

Taylor DePrincipe, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Ratajczak
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 2
River of Words

Go Inside a Snake's Tooth

Let someone be a flower or a dove but I like being a snake's tooth.
It's a venom world with a song of bravery.
Maybe it's a riddle, maybe there's light.
Perhaps it's sweet and colorful.
Maybe it's like a haven, a home, a crazy world of song and color.

Sienna Carpenter, age 8
Carden of Tucson • Mrs. Gardner
Finalist–Poetry–Category 2
River of Words

Dear Ant,

I am expecting you! The bats are working on the cave. The rattlesnake is helping. When are you coming?

Yours,
Frog

Brooke Luoma, age 8
DeGrazia Elementary School • Mrs. Roberts
Finalist–Poetry–Category 2
River of Words

PEACE

Summer horses, hawk on saguaro.
Life speaks to the moon and sky,
trees, a river, it seeps like fields,
a snake slithering within
spirit and peace.

Yesenia Romero, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Door
Finalist–Poetry–Category 2
River of Words

Tucson's River of Words (TROW) is a community collaboration made possible with the support from Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Tucson-Pima Arts Council, and Pima County Public Library. We thank Central Arizona Project for a charitable grant in support of TROW.

We would like to express our gratitude to the individuals that made this a successful project.

Coordinators: Wendy Burroughs, Yajaira Gray, and Leia Maahs

Educators: Yajaira Gray, Axhel Muñoz,

Poetry and Art Instructors: Norah Booth, Neil Diamente, Kimi Eisele, Paul Fisher, Candace Greenburg, Alex Jones, Carolyn King, Elizabeth Quinn-Worrall, and Gavin Troy

Visual Art Judges:

Lynn Fleishman, Executive Director – The Drawing Studio

Morgan Wells, Education Director Tucson Museum of Art

Poetry Judges:

Sarah Kortemeier, University of Arizona Poetry Center

Eric Magrane, Poet, Ecologist

Ellen BJORQUIST, Poet Educator

Roberto Bedoya, Tucson Pima Art Council

Sharon O'Brien, Literacy Connects

Rebecca Seiferle, Tucson Poet Laureate

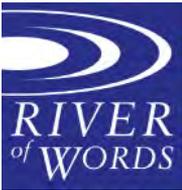
Graphic Designers: Edie Price, Helen Wilson, and Joy Mehulka

Volunteers: Laura Cotter and Linda Howard



Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Contest

www.pima.gov/nrpr
www.tucsonpimaartscouncil.org



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Rafael Payan, PhD., Director



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