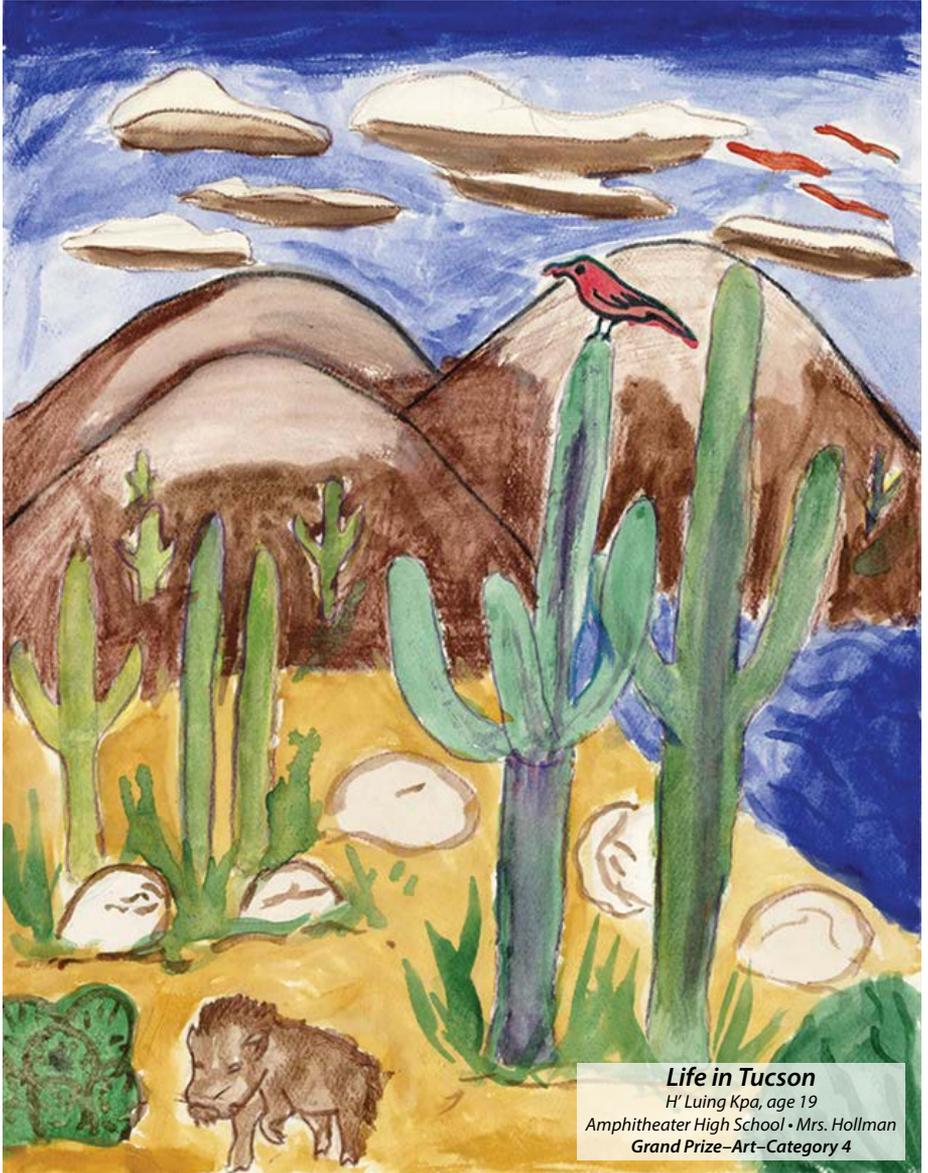




2014 Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Contest



Life in Tucson

H' Luing Kpa, age 19

Amphitheater High School • Mrs. Hollman
Grand Prize—Art—Category 4

"Life in us is like the water in a river."

~Henry David Thoreau

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 2014–2015 Traveling Exhibit Schedule

April 26 – May 16, 2014

Valencia Branch Library • 202 W. Valencia Rd.

May 31– June 25, 2014

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

July 1 – July 31, 2014

Joel Valdez Main Library • 101 N. Stone Ave.

August 2 – August 28, 2014

Martha Cooper Branch Library • 1377 N. Catalina Ave.

August 29 – September 29, 2014

Tohono Chul Park • 7366 N. Paseo del Norte

October 1 – October 30, 2014

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

November 5 – November 30, 2014

Pima County Juvenile Court • 2225 E. Ajo Way

December 4 – January 5, 2015

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

January 8 – March 12, 2015

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

This book is dedicated to 2014 Tucson's River of Words

Teacher of the Year, Janet Collins

from Mesquite 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.

Cactus in the Rain

One spiky cactus
One huge flower
One drop of water
One puddle of mud
One strike of lightning
One falling cactus
Drip-Drop! Plop!

Solomon Saxton, age 7
Mesquite Elementary • Ms. Baca and Ms. Collins
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 1

The Monsoon

The sky is grey,
The clouds are black,
The lightning sends a shock.

The thunder goes **BOOM, BOOM, BOOM!**

How many animals are there tonight?
Oh, I know none.

The sky is grey,
The clouds are black,
The lightning sends a shock.

How many animals are there tonight?
Oh, I know none.

The thunder goes **BOOM, BOOM, BOOM!**

How many animals are there today?
The animals are finally awake.

Audra J. Werner, age 8
Mesquite Elementary • Mrs. Thack

Oh, the Water Cycle

Oh, the water cycle
How I wonder what it would be like
To be a water molecule going on
Journeys throughout my life

Falling asleep in a quiet little pond
Then waking up in a nice soft cloud
Falling down from the sky as rain then
Getting slurped up by a baby cow
Taking a nap then a few minutes
Later I'm in a puddle near a beautiful rose
A few days later I'm in a little girl's
Glass of water then I'm a tear
Running down her cheek not far from her nose

Oh, the water cycle
How I wonder what it would be like
To be a water molecule going on
Journeys throughout my life

Shelsy Martinez, age 11
Challenger Middle School • Mrs. Oliver

Animales Nocturnos

Coyote, búho y el murciélago
Tarantula y de la araña usted
Maravilloso para el
Suero de desierto

Nocturnal Animals

Coyote, owl and bat
Tarantula and spider
You are wondrous
For the desert's slumber

Emmeline Close, age 9
Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Fisher

A Desert Sunset after the Rain

As blue as water
As green as a toad
As orange as a fox
As soft as a lion's fur
As loud as a tiger's roar
As dark as night

Desiree Blute, age 6
Mesquite Elementary • Ms. Collins

The Storm

The water falls
On my blonde hair.
It comes down the mountain
Slithering like a snake.
The saguaros soak up water
Like a sponge.
The animals come to get a drink.
The river water is getting higher.
I can hear the big bang of thunder.
I see the flashes of lightning.
The storm becomes calm.
The desert is refreshed.

Steve Acker, age 9
DeGrazia Elementary • Ms. Gromley

The Rain Has Stopped

The rain has stopped
The sun is shining
The quail are coming out again
The ocotillo are blooming
The water holes are filling with shining water

Theresa Lockwood, age 7
Erickson Elementary • Ms. Martin

Rain - A Haiku

Rain, please come visit
We really miss seeing you
It has been too long

Kenneth Strong, age 9
Independent Entry

Fresh and New

From my bed I hear the sound of rain
Pounding on my roof
The rain seems like it will never end
Suddenly I jump out of bed!
I tell my mom I am going outside
I inhale deeply the scent of soil and leaves
I walk awhile and enjoy the smell of creosote
Lizards and rabbits scurry about
Everything seems happy and fresh
I still feel raindrops on my face and hands
The washes are full and puddles are everywhere
I take off my shoes and socks
And run back home, splashing all the way

Ursula Denholm, age 9
Howell Elementary • Ms. Martin

The Sonoran Desert

This desert grows saguaro cactus
hummingbirds come to feed
off its flowers.
The saguaro stores water for the
long, dry summer.

Caleb Harris, age 7
Carden of Tucson • Ms. Nichols

The Water Rap

Transpiration

A ghost rising from the trees

Evaporation

The radio waves goodbye

Condensation

An apple hitting the ground

Precipitation

A blue ball falling from my hand

Orion Shaub, age 9

Carden of Tucson • Mrs. Bennon

Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 3

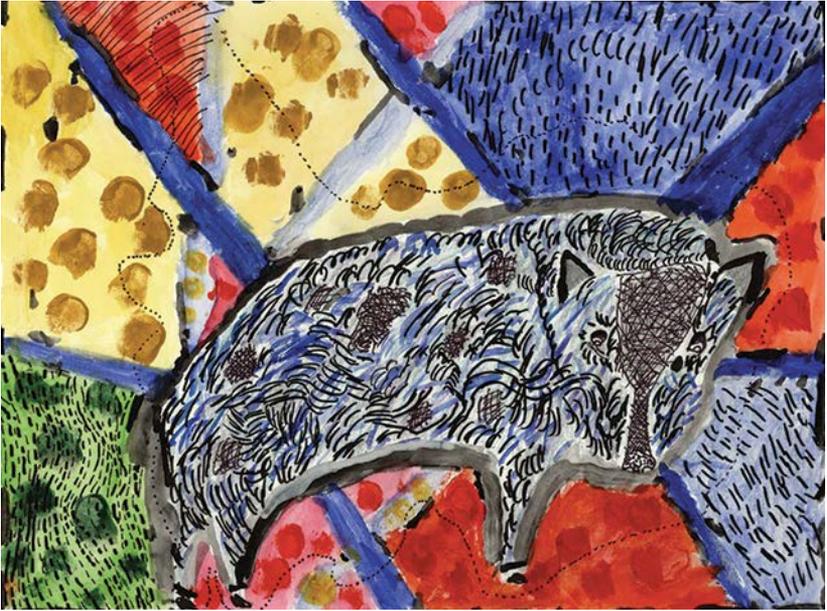
The Snake

The snake slithers out of the hole
to feel the soft sand
with the wash that had a little bit of water.

It was still sprinkling
and making the sand cool.

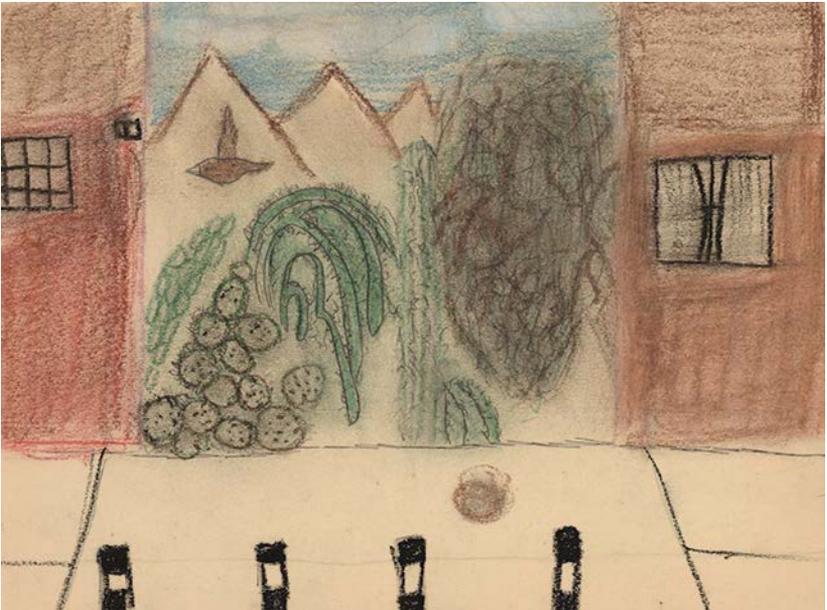
William M. Joyce, age 7

Carden of Tucson • Ms. Nichols



Sweet Emotions

Alexander William Cohen, age 16
Amphitheater High School • Mrs. Hollman



The Desert Opening

Carson Redmon, age 12
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Powers



Borton Water Harvesting

Athena A. Leeks, age 9

Borton Elementary • Mr. Wagner



Alison Waldsmith, age 8

Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Johnson

Grand Prize-Art-Category 2



If Tomorrow Never Comes

Cynthia Witham, age 15

Amphitheater High School • Mrs. Hollman



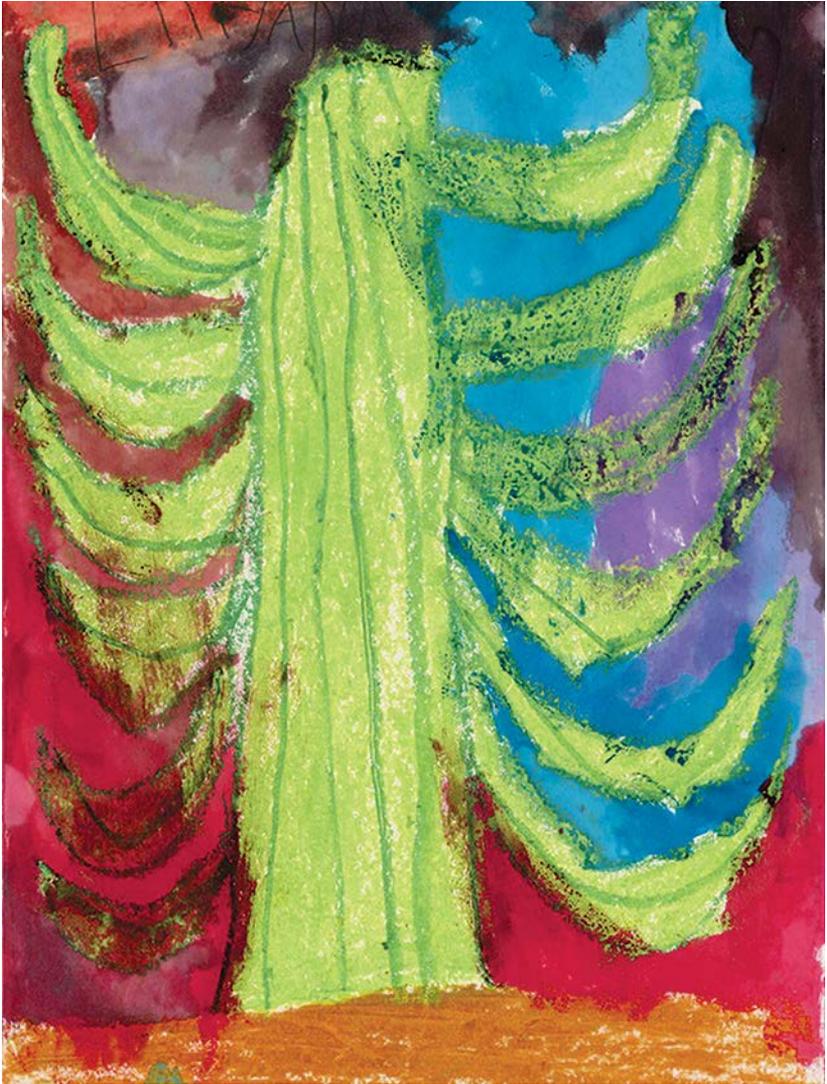
Dylan J. Johnson, age 8

Butterfield Elementary • Mrs. Roberts



What it Looks Like in the Desert

*Carson Grams, age 8
DeGrazia Elementary • Ms. Katz*



Colors of "Uncle Grandpa"

Lillyana Carmona, age 6
Sewell Elementary • Ms. Payton
Grand Prize–Art–Category 1



The Red-tailed Hawk

Eli Clausen, age 8

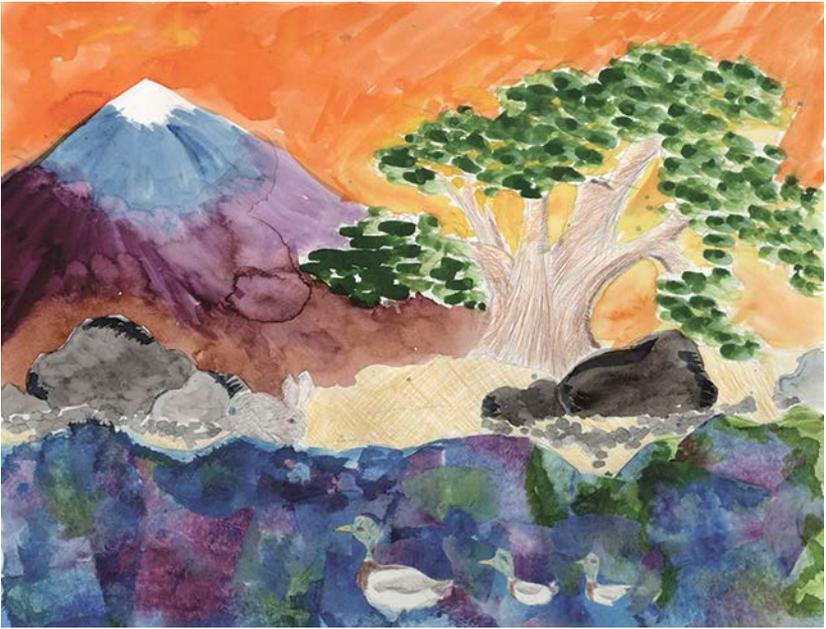
Tanque Verde Elementary • Ms. LaRose



Drinking at the Water Hole

Greer Stokes, age 11

Sam Hughes Elementary • Ms. Chuc



The Glow of Sunset and Pond

Hannah Wu, age 9

Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Larson



Raining Desert

Jacob Meindl, age 7

Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Roh



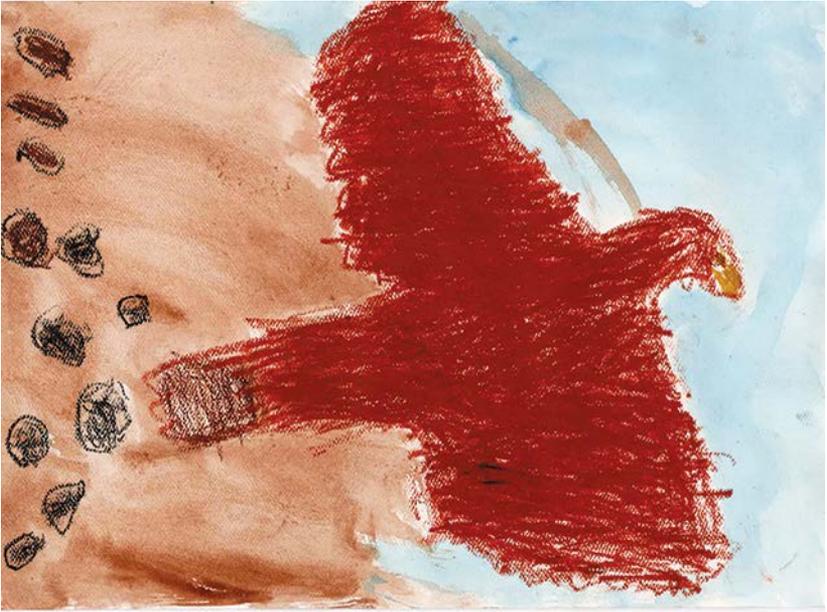
Untitled

*Jesus Trujillo, age 8
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter*



Desert Rain

*Julio Espinoza-Acuña, age 8
Presidio Schools • Ms. White*



Red-tailed Hawk Flying Over the Desert

Ibrahim Adel, age 5
Sewell Elementary • Ms. Aho



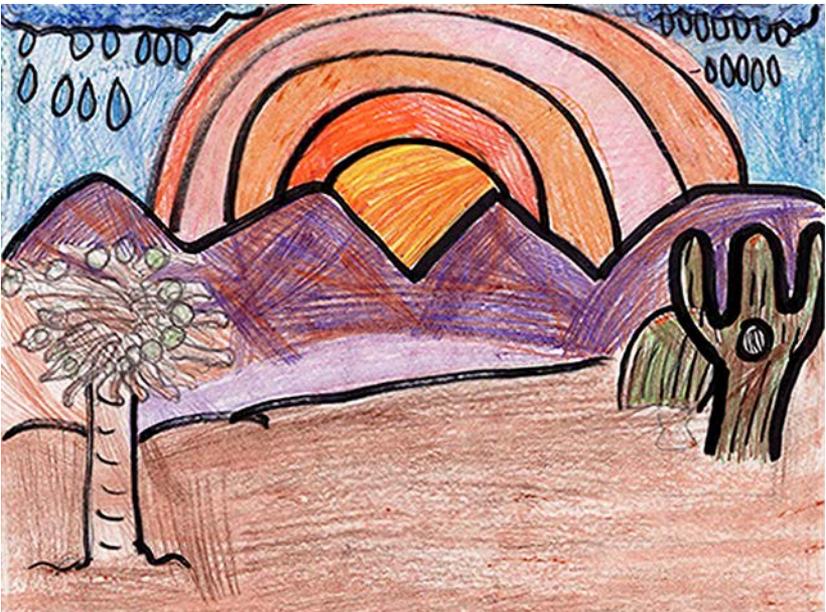
The Flight

Selena Sanchez, age 12
Challenger Middle School • Mrs. Oliver



Desert Sunset

Sammie Oligmueller, age 9
Tanque Verde Elementary • Ms. Baines
Grand Prize–Art–Category 3

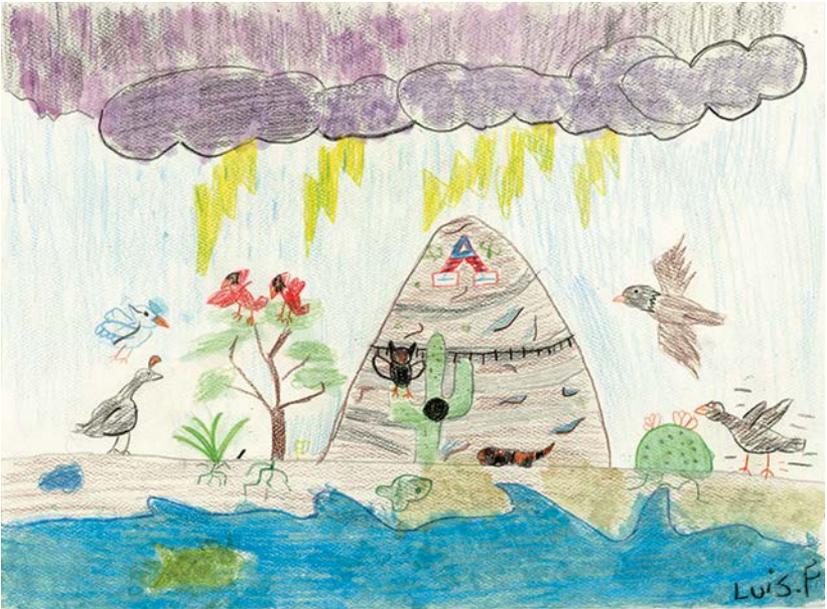


Raindrops Falling

Madeline Betz, age 6
Mesquite Elementary • Ms. Collins



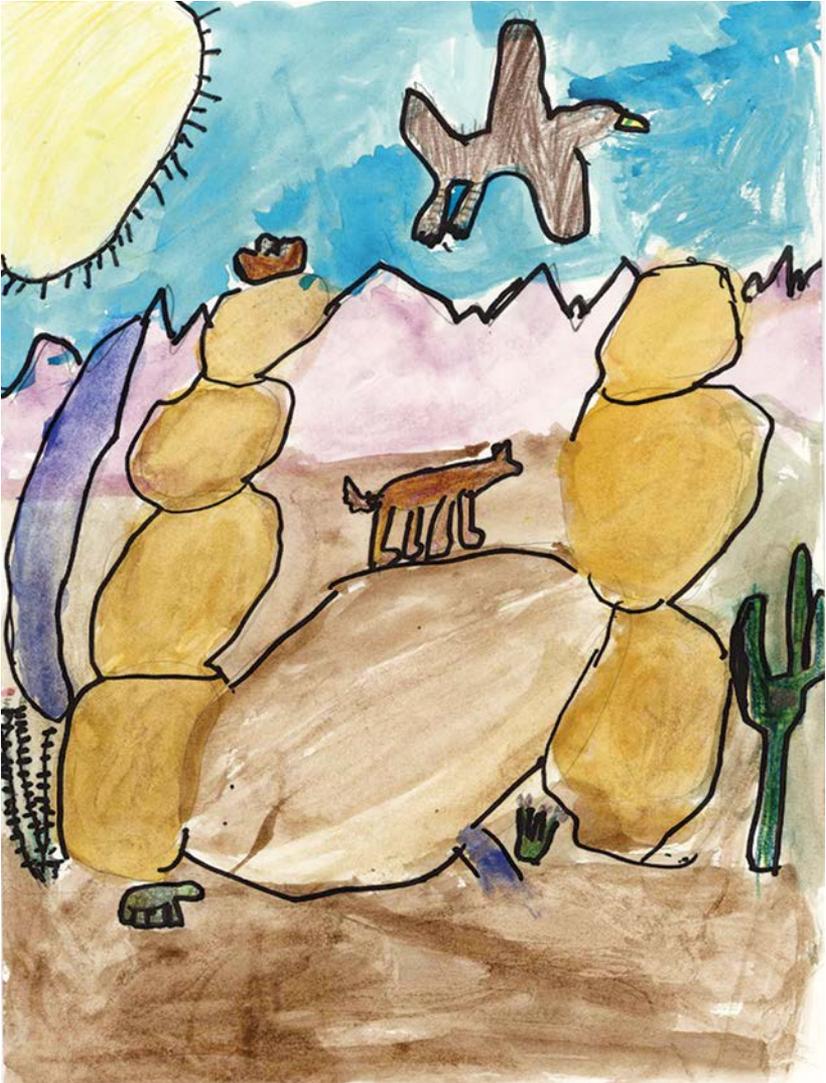
Ringtail Cat Looking
Phillip Rosado, age 6
Sewell Elementary • Ms. Aho



Sonoran Desert
Luis Fernández Escalante, age 8
Ochoa Community Magnet School • Ms. Bennett



Cycle of Life
Damitta, age 16
Independent Entry



The Peaks from Far Away
Owen Brock, age 7
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Roh

Sister Monsoon

I'm the same monsoon,
I cry raindrops,
I scream thunder,
I shake lightning,
I show a ray of colors when I'm done,
We are the same monsoon,
I'm your sister monsoon

Ashlee Zaragoza, age 13

Independent Entry

Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 4

Coyote

Orange-red lanky tail
Searching, eating, howling
Takes abundant naps by day
Curious, quick
The trickster

Analysa Wood, age 7

Grijalva Elementary • Ms. Chuc

One World

Has trains traveling, cars honking
And, foists running and, tractors digging
And, air conditioning keeping people cool.
The other world
Hides in the foggy
Forest waiting to be found and rivers, streams and lakes
Moving and evaporating everyday till the water
is eventually gone.

Carlos Canez, age 12

DeGrazia Elementary • Ms. Minninger

An Adventure

Here I am on a tiny piece of grass.
From once forming a cloud.
To smashing a tree leaf.
Then sliding on a piece of grass.
Thinking I would stay here forever.
I feel warmth.
I begin to float up.
High up in the sky I fly.
I'm coming home I gasp.
Again forming a cloud as white as an angel.
But later again I fall.
I see no tree.
Only a mountain appears.
A grey mountain as grey as the moon.
I fall as others fall too.
I splat on the top of the mountain.
After that I slide down quickly.
Gravity chooses where I go.
I suddenly fall into a hole.
The hole quickly flows up.
I become brown as others do as well.
For 100 years I've done the same.
I have traveled the world many times.
I enjoy what I do for a living.

Citlali Enriquez, age 12
Challenger Middle School • Mrs. Oliver

Desert Sounds

Hissing snakes and running
mice are quiet.
Howling coyotes and pinching
scorpions are loud.
Gila monsters are hissing and
turtles are rattling their shells.
Those are the desert sounds,
quiet and loud.

Owen Green, age 7
Tanque Verde Elementary • Ms. LaRose
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 2

Love for Different Things

It's easy to love a horse
But try to love a scorpion or a red ant.
Love the tall, green forest trees
For they live there,
Leave the beautiful, white, wild flowers alone.
Also the crisp creeks and hills,
People adore the sensory,
Get close to the creepy crawlies as they wander at dawn.
Be grateful even for the street signs we make,
They seem to make our world worse and worse,
Think of the twigs,
That
Will
Snap
Our
Hearts
Nearly
Too
Soon.

Jessica Anne Albright, age 12
DeGrazia Elementary • Ms. Minninger

After The Rainstorm

After the rainstorm
The coyotes and mountain lions come out
and smell the moist soil and dirt
They go for a drink at the waterhole
When they take a drink
They see nopales, ocotillos, juicy fruit
and the most beautiful flowers

Ebly Cureses, age 11
Erickson Elementary • Ms. Martin

Animals Vanish

Before a rainstorm, crickets chirp
And all of the animals find shelter
Cactus wrens go to their homes
And all of the animals vanish

Cassius Tamietti, Age 7
Hollinger Elementary • Ms. Martin

Before The Rain

Listen to cicadas buzz
Smell the rain coming
Watch the scorpion
Come out of its hole to drink
Roses, dry and dull
Bats getting ready for rain
Nopales secos sin agua
Saguaros dry and shrunken

Joseph Felix, age 11
Van Buskirk Elementary • Ms. Martin

The Rhythm

Trust the flight,
Tower before the deep,
Invisible constellations,
While following
The deep, long calling
Rhythm in the rain.

Nicholas Cusson, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Ratajczak

Desert

Caliente, sunny
Sudando, running roadrunners, hunting on
Weekends
Monsoon humid, winter early
Mornings, bare feet in the summertime
Helados mangolladas from the ice cream man
Chilly, shivers
Monsoon puddles

Miguel Angel Barriga, age 11
Grijalva Elementary • Ms. Chuc

Why Does the Wind Blow?

Why does the wind have to blow
down the sand dune mountains
and open a curtain of rain?
Tomorrow
the sands
will speak to
the quail.

Grant E. Morales, age 7
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Johnson

The Water Cycle

Drip

Drop

Drippity

Drop

Down the drops come to Earth

The animals have a party

What? What?

Ten thousand drops

Down they go,

Drip

Drop

Drippity

Drop

Now they splash on Earth.

Drop,

Splash,

Drippity,

Splash

Then the sun comes out again,

Now the water evaporates in the air

And goes up, up, UP.

Some of the water goes down into the Earth

And some runs off into the sea.

Then the cycle begins again.

Jan Carlo Bonilla, age 10

Ochoa Community Magnet School • Mrs. Elvick-Mejia

When It Rains

One dark smoky cloud
One little glassy raindrop
One wet mint-colored cactus
One opening saguaro blossom
One slow-coach desert tortoise
A bright lightning flash
One falling tall tree
One wash moving swiftly
One wet colorful umbrella
BANG!

Jordan Hilden, age 10

Mesquite Elementary • Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Collins

Tucson's River of Words (TROW) is a community collaboration made possible with support from Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Tucson Pima Arts Council, Pima County Public Library, Tohono Chul Park, and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. 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 and Axhel Muñoz

Poetry and Art Instructors: Neil Diamente, Rebecca Seiferle, Carolyn King, and Gavin Troy

Visual Art Judges:

Wendy Burroughs, Pima County-NRPR

Yajaira Gray, Pima County-NRPR

Sally Krommes, Tucson Pima Arts Council

Marie Long, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Leia Maahs, Tucson Pima Arts Council

Tanya Rich, The Drawing Studio

Morgana Wallace, The International Sonoran Desert Alliance

Poetry Judges:

Roberto Bedoya, Tucson Pima Arts Council

Emily Duwel, Tucson Pima Arts Council

Lisa Falk, Arizona State Museum

Sally Krommes, Tucson Pima Arts Council

Leia Maahs, Tucson Pima Art Council

Eric Magrane, Poet, Ecologist

Logan Phillips, Poet, Educator

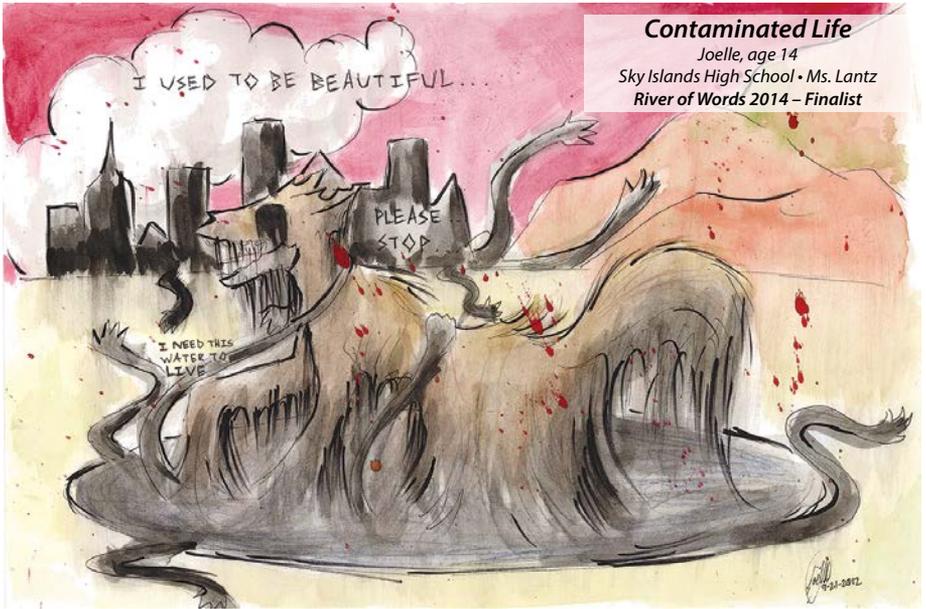
Holly Schaffer, The University of Arizona Press

TC Tolbert, Casa Libre en la Solana

Erin Zwiener, University of Arizona Poetry Center

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

Volunteers: Laura Cotter, Linda Howard, Eudine Lupino, and Jack Monahan



Contaminated Life

Joelle, age 14

Sky Islands High School • Ms. Lantz

River of Words 2014 – Finalist



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



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