



Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry & Art Contest

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 accepted anytime.
Last day for 2007 contest entry
February 1, 2007.

How do I enter?

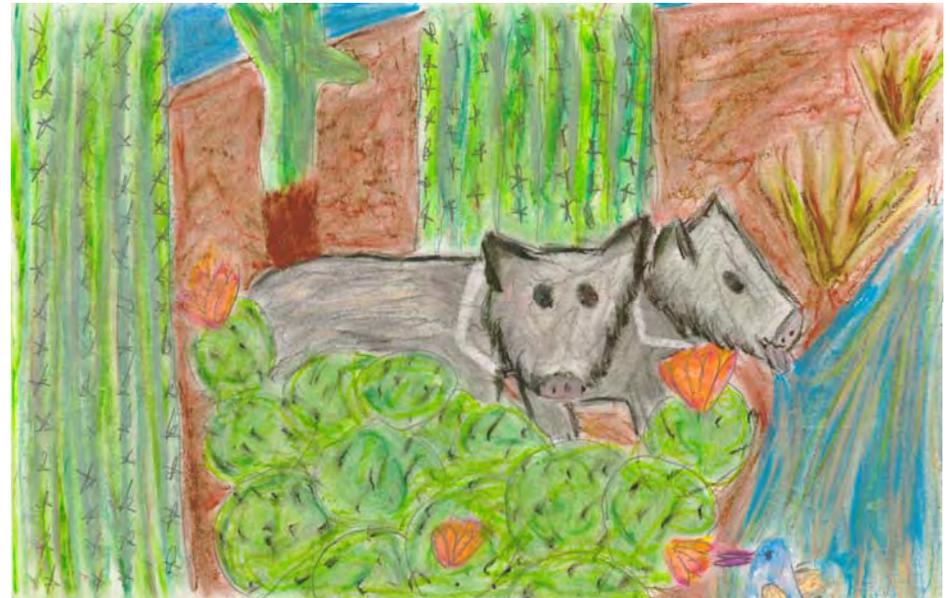
Get information and entry forms at
Pima County Natural Resources,
Parks & Recreation
3500 West River Road Tucson AZ 85741
Phone: (520) 877-6122



Online forms available
www.tucsonpimaartscouncil.org
www.pima.gov/nrpr



Tucson's River of Words 2006 Award Winning Youth Poetry & Art



Warm Spring Afternoon
Danielle Beer, age 11
Teacher: Therese VandeVoorde
Grand Prize - Art - Category 3

Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry & Art displayed in these pages offers a glimpse into the successes of environmental science, language and fine arts classes conducted throughout the year. Students demonstrate learning and make grand contributions to the community by sharing their vision of the natural world.

This book is dedicated to 2006 Tucson's River of Words Teacher of the Year, Michell Fredericks from Challenger Middle School, and all teachers who provide enrichment in the classroom and beyond.



Touching the Sun
Jordan Newhouse, age 13
Home school
Teacher: Kim Newhouse
Grand Prize - Art - Category 4



The Waterfall
Angel Silva, age 8
Drexel Heights Community Center
Teacher: Kelly Cheeseman

Tucson's River of Words is a community collaboration made possible with support from: Pima County Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation, Tucson-Pima Arts Council, Central Arizona Project, Tucson Water, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Environmental Education Exchange, Tucson Botanical Gardens, and Tucson Children's Museum. We also thank the educators and poetry & art judges: Tory Foster, Doug Moore, Wendy Burroughs, Maryjane Dorofachuk, Katy Gonzales, Colleen Mahoney Greer, John Hooper, Carolyn Lenz, Joy Mehulka, Axhel Muñoz, Steve Russell, and Tracy Skinner.

Somewhere Beautiful

I see rocks and flowers.
There is a little pond in front of me.
I can see fish and tadpole in the pond.

There are red and yellow flowers
around me.
It looks and feels like my own garden.

I feel like a fairy.
This is a wonderful place.

Hailey Harrigan, age 8
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Sheber

The Walk

The sun was setting. I go to the river.
The water sparkles from the sun's rays.
I smell the freshness of the
pine trees from the woods.
A wolf stops to stare.
He cocks his head to watch me.
Slowly, he comes to get a drink
from the river.
I turn to go home.
Stars fill the sky.

Hope Lenox, age 7
Great Expectations Academy
Teacher: Mrs. Gentry

The Beauty of the Stream

I love the sound of small rivers
Although they speak a different language,
I can understand them.
Watching the twigs, tadpoles
and bubbles fling by.
When the stream goes away,
it will crawl through the dirt
and soak in the roots of plants.
Even though the stream is gone,
I will be happy to see the plants grow.

Alex Carney, age 8
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Sheber

Rabbit Chase

I'm a wolf.
I see a trail of rabbit tracks.
I smell the rabbit too.
I can hear the rabbit even if I'm far away.
I sneak out through the forest trail.
I stop to get a drink.
The waters running blue and cool.
I touch the water with my paw.
I can wait for the rabbit.
Even 'til tomorrow.

Camryn Brewer, age 7
Great Expectations Academy
Teacher: Mrs. Gentry

Hawks

If you were a hawk,
you would be able to see
a nice peaceful lake
which is attached to
a nice peaceful stream.

You'd hear a nice sound.

Tripple, Tripple it would say
and you would smell the food you eat.

You'd taste the freedom in you
and you'd touch the
waters with your wings.

Paul Hanusek, age 9
Great Expectations Academy
Teacher: Mrs. Walton

At My House

I see a saguaro.
I hear a bird.
I feel happy.
I am at my house.

Joe Brescia, age 7
Carden School
Teacher: Mrs. Ram

Water

Tears stream
Rain pours
Water flows
Through the valley
round and round and round

Grace Gerbing, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Johnson

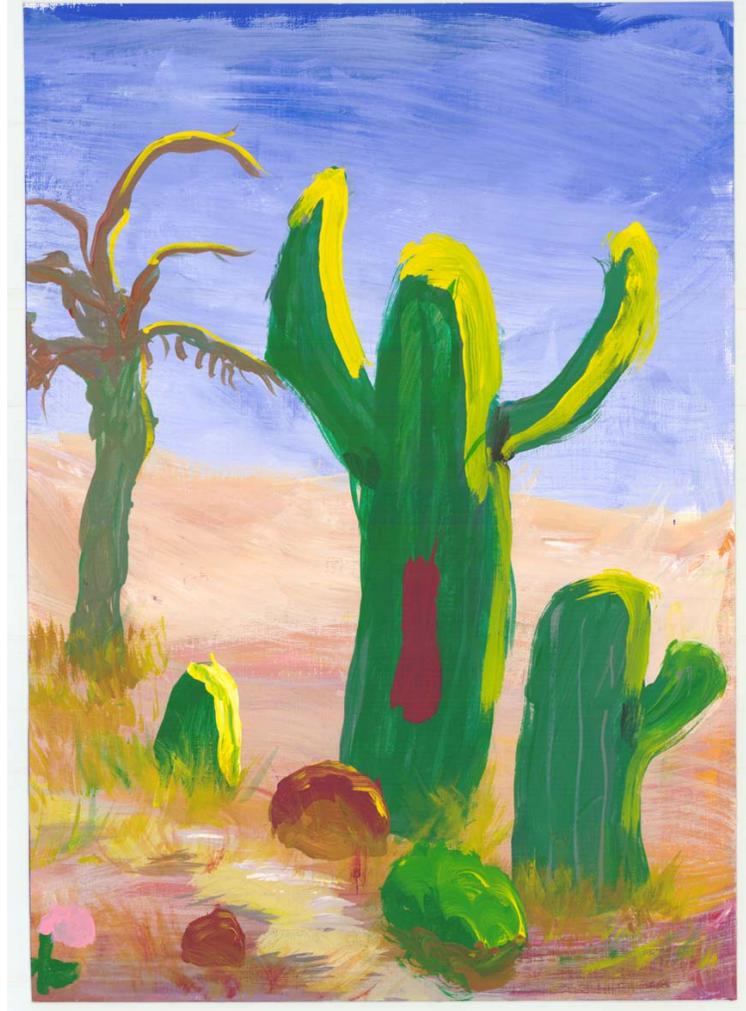
Lizards

A lizard small
pokey and smooth,
hard and rough
creeps on
the ground.
Acts like
a spy on a tree.
Seems like
He always says
"Feed me"

Peter Barley, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Johnson
Grand Prize – Poetry – Category 2



Tortoise Seasons
Branden Clayton, age 7
Carden of Tucson
Teacher: Ms. Ram



Spirit's Playground
Anya Kolodisner, age 5
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Therese VandeVoorde

Water in the Sink

Water in the sink
Drip, drip, drip, drip
Water in the air
Plink, plink, plink, plink
Molecules spreading all around
Going up into the sky
High up into the
Enormous blue sky
Back to the
Huge puffy white clouds
Oh how much water we use every day
Goes back up and comes back down
Evaporates quick,
Doesn't stay around
Water in the sink
Water in the air
Liquid everywhere!

Miranda Hinojosa, age 10
Manzanita Elementary School
Teacher: Charles Lohr



Waterfall

Anna Peckham, age 6
Lineweaver Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Turnage



Butterflies

Bethany Newhouse, age 6
Home school
Teacher: Kim Newhouse



Gray Fox
Victoria Lizotte, age 11
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Therese VandeVoorde

The Rain

I am a cloud.
I am filled up now with water.
I want to spray water
and I look down at the sand.
It looks thirsty.
I decide to rain.

I am the ground.
I am so thirsty.
I want it to rain right now.

Then it began to rain.

Bethany Newhouse, age 6
Home School
Teacher: Kim Newhouse

Taking a Walk Through the Desert Rains

I'm taking a walk through
the desert rains,
right under the watery sky.
The animals are all under shelter,
no birds are out to fly.

The wind is on my face,
the smell is in the air.
The dark clouds are dancing,
like a young running mare.

The sky is still dark,
the rain running free.
I wish I could still be there,
because that's where I find me.

Karaleigh Millet, age 10
Great Expectations Academy
Teacher: Mrs. Brinson



Sharing the River
Danielle Medrano, age 10
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Therese VandeVoorde



Flowering Desert
 Taylor Lohman, age 12
 Presidio School
 Teacher: Mrs. Blosser

Sunset

Beautiful
 Rays
 Color
 Slowly
 Sneaking
 Behind
 Mountains

Georgina Quihuis, age 13
 Challenger Middle School
 Teacher: Michell Fredericks

All Around Me

I hear the water,
 rushing quickly.
 Up and down,
 all around me.
 I see the birds,
 flying freely.
 I feel the warm wind come upon me.
 The hot dirt that surrounds me.
 I smell the fresh air,
 it's everywhere.
 All around me.

Rebekah Carrillo, age 14
 Challenger Middle School
 Teacher: Michell Fredericks
 Grand Prize – Poetry – Category 4

Mountain Life

The water gushes down the mountain
 like tumbling rocks on a hill.
 The bear sleeps in silence
 as he waits for summer's reign.
 A group of elk walk as quietly as a snail
 trying to find fresh green grass to graze.
 Raccoons look in the cold water
 for wet, slimy fish to eat.

This is Arizona mountain life.

Layne Wilson, age 10
 Great Expectations Academy
 Teacher: Mrs. Hulse



Under the Sea
Loren Aguilar, age 6
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Therese VandeVoorde



Brianna Fimbres, age 7
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Therese VandeVoorde
Grand Prize - Art - Category 1



Luis G. Ortiz, age 6
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Therese VandeVoorde



The Duck Pond
Frances Nagore, age 6
Lineweaver Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Turnage



The Red Cardinal
Amanda Mesimer, age 7
Myers-Ganoung Elementary
Teacher: Jane Martin



Rain Crow
Javier Angel Dominguez, age 7
Drexel Heights Community Center
Teacher: Kelly Cheeseman



Javelina Munching Prickly Pear
Christina Bentley, age 9
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Therese VandeVoorde

Mountain Air

We can smell the flowers.
The nice smell of the air.
The beautiful mountains you can see.
But don't touch the cactus.
Nice eagles in the sky.
Imagine you could
design your own mountain.
Lay in the grass.
Hear the wind flying by.
And the trees flowing by you.
Hear the owl crow.
And hear the rain.
See the flying things all around.

Isabela Barajas, age 8
Myers-Ganoung Elementary School
Teacher: Jane Martin



Nighttime in the Desert
Carmelee Coronel, age 8
Myers-Ganoung Elementary
Teacher: Jane Martin

The Rabbit

I'm born with no fur.
I'm cold like an ice cube.
Ouch!
What's that?
It felt like a bur.
Resting before I explore...
before I go through that hole.

I'm older and wiser now.
As I start hopping,
my ears start flopping.
Springing from left to right,
I look up and see the sun which is bright.

I'm not so young.
I can jump so high,
as if I could touch the sky.
Now tired and hungry,
I curl up in a bun.

What's that I hear?
It sounds near.
Burr! It's cold and wet.
I'm glad we met.
Your taste is amazing.

Iva O'Malley, age 14
Academy of Math and Science
Teacher: Mr. Kelly



Night Blooming Cereus
Charlene Kim, age 13
Orange Grove Middle School
Teacher: Jennifer Escheolor

Awaken

The smooth road descending
along the horses walking
among the field.
The small petals drift
circling among the blowing wind.
The invisible light rushed
with the glistening sun.
The young awaken from daylight
of the golden sunlight.
The horses are falling asleep
as the sun falls
and the moon is setting
in the midnight sky.

Kristina Call, age 14
Marana Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Allie

Water Falls, Waterfalls

The mountains with water,
The water with mountains,
It's raining hard on the mountains.
It's raining softly on Earth.
Water falls.
Waterfalls.

Liz Ketcham, age 6
Lineweaver Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Turnage
Grand Prize – Poetry – Category 1

Colors of Water

Water is not just blue,
It is many colors.
Yellow and orange for the sun above it
Purple, red, and all the other
colors of the rainbow
For the fish in it
But to those with no imagination
it only looks blue.

Brinn Donnelly, age 10
Satori Charter School
Teacher: Cassandra Dudas

The Evening Sun

The sun burned down in a ray of fire that
tortured the snake slipping
across the molten sand.
Still he slithered on and on.
Some birds fluttered by,
ruffling the wind.
The sun had reached the top of its arc
and the snake was dying.
Waves of heat pulsed down
but the snake was given hope
by the point of black in the distance
and he could smell home.
His mind was clouded by the heat
but he reached home at last.
He took one last look at his family,
his mind at last clear and contented,
and moved no more.

Rowan A.H. Lochrin, age 10
Satori Charter School
Teacher: Cassandra Dudas

Rainbow

Smooth rocks rush down my feet,
While the flowing river turns
into a waterfall.
I put a leaf in the river,
and ran down the shore,
I wanted to see what happened.
I got to the waterfall and then
as the leaf went down
It turned into a water flower,
I watched the magic.
Then it turned into green grass.
Then it reached the bottom
into the ripples of metallic water
The fish swam away and then it slowly
turned into a....
RAINBOW!!

Molly Stack, age 8
Satori Charter School
Teacher: Cassandra Dudas

Golden Moon

I walk out at night, and feel
the golden moons ray of light.
A coyote on the hilltop howls in
the golden moons rays, looking a deep blue.
I see a saguaro soaking up the soothing rays,
its spines starting to glow a bright silver.
I smell the sweet sent of prickly pear juice,
being lapped up by a nearby javelina.
I hear a bat clicking in its silent gentle wing-beats,
ready to ambush a spider on the sandy desert floor.
I see a tiny pool of limpid blue;
realizing it is a small puddle.
I feel the thick smoke of a fire,
flickering bright orange in the pale moonlight.
I smell a clay pot being sculpted by sensitive hands.
I hear a whispering wind,
whistling through the rough spines of a
saguaro cactus.
I hear the splashing of a desert fish,
looking white in golden moon's bright light.
I touch my adobe hut,
feeling the power of the golden moon's strong rays.
The dark night blankets the desert, waiting for dawn.
Dawn approaches, it brightens the dark sky.
Our earth reveals a beautiful, silver sun.

Ryan McMeans, age 10
Manzanita Elementary School
Teacher: Charles Lohr

Shimmer

On the horizon there's a shimmer
An ice cold turquoise shimmer
Cold and clear
Clean as a crystal diamond
No sound
Just a shimmer of
Deep aqua blue.
Count the endless animals that need it
Cold or hot, clean or foggy,
I can see it...
...or so I think.
This arid weather
Makes it but a mirage.

Charlotte Watters Toepke, age 9
Manzanita Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Hollm

The Waterfall

Gushing, rolling,
Crashing, streaming,
Raging, flowing,
And then the fall
Falling, plunging,
Into the dark depths of the lake.

Casper Mulholland, age 11
Satori Charter School
Teacher: Cassandra Dudas



From One Feeling to Another
Brianna Lopez, age 11
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Michell Fredericks



Jason Dohmen, age 8
Desert Winds Elementary
Teacher: Shirley Nugent



The Water River
Spencer Ellswood, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary
Teacher: Meg Johnson
Grand Prize - Art - Category 2



Lizard
Marcos Ortega, age 9
Ocotillo Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Cartensen



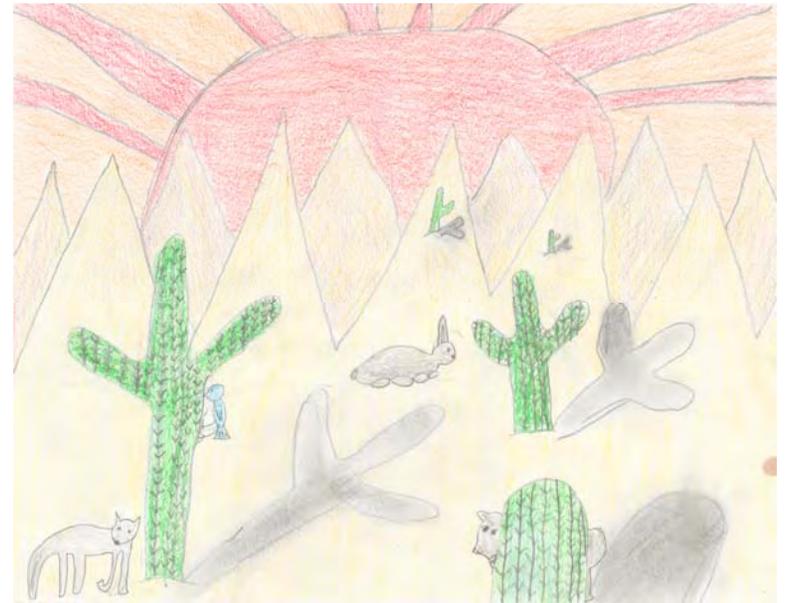
Sunset in the Desert
Natalie Ezeugwu, age 7
Corbett Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Gibson



In the Moonlight
Sophia Ranheim, age 7
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Therese VandeVoorde



Tadpole Shrimp
Tyler D. Perleberg, age 9
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Therese VandeVoorde



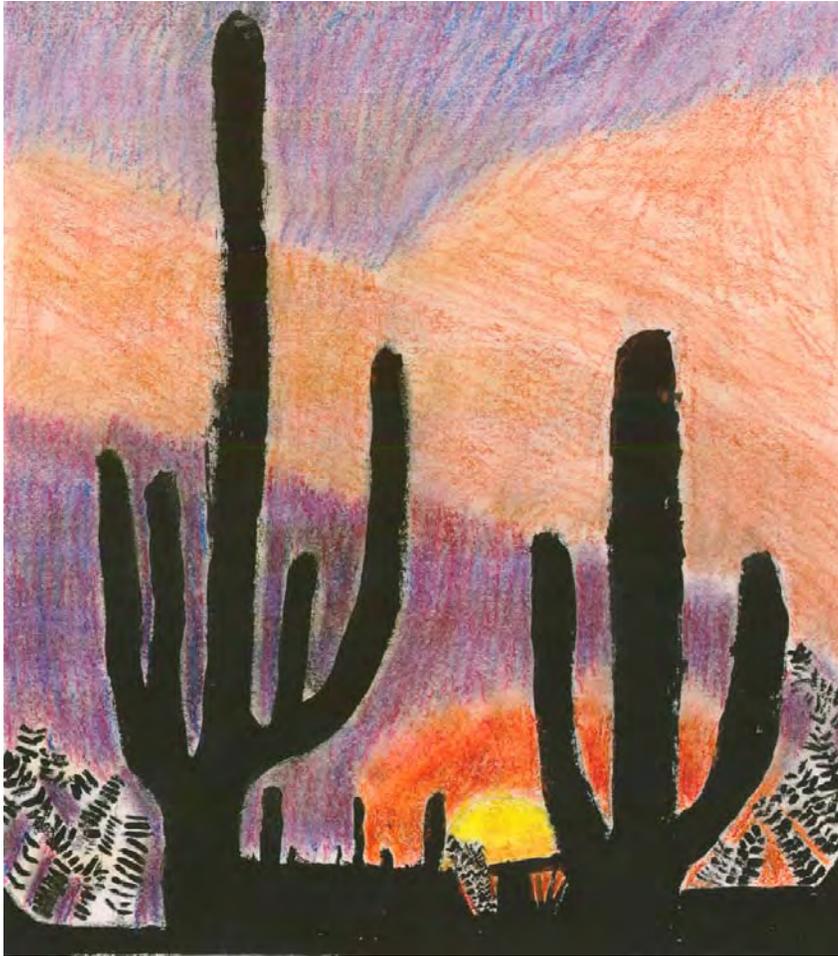
The Sunset in the Desert
Ashley Kim, age 9
Manzanita Elementary
Teacher: Charles Lohr



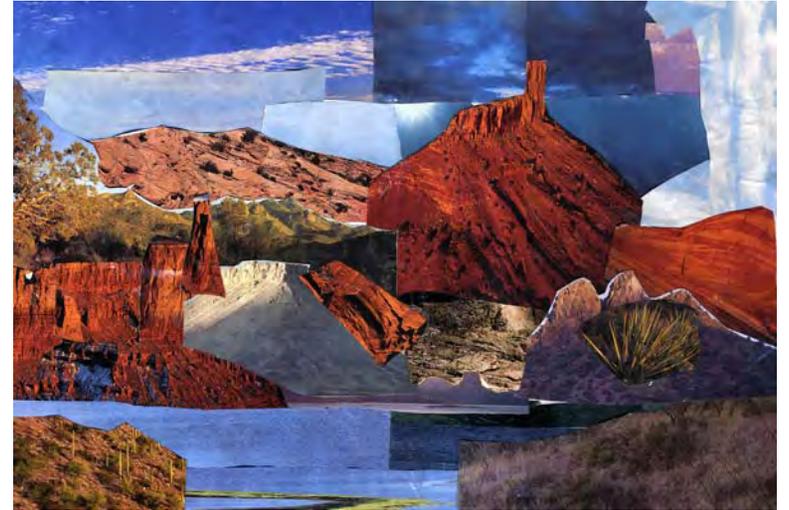
Cactus Bandits
Matthew Kautz, age 10
Manzanita Elementary
Teacher: Charles Lohr



Cloudy Blues
Orion Romero, age 11
Drexel Heights Community Center
Teacher: Kelly Cheeseman



Colorful Sunset
Maria Susaita, age 11
Presidio School
Teacher: Mrs. Blosser



Desert Mountain Majesty
Martin Jaquez, age 14
Presidio School
Teacher: Mrs Blosser



The Sunset
Scott McKinley, age 9
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Therese VandeVoorde