



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?

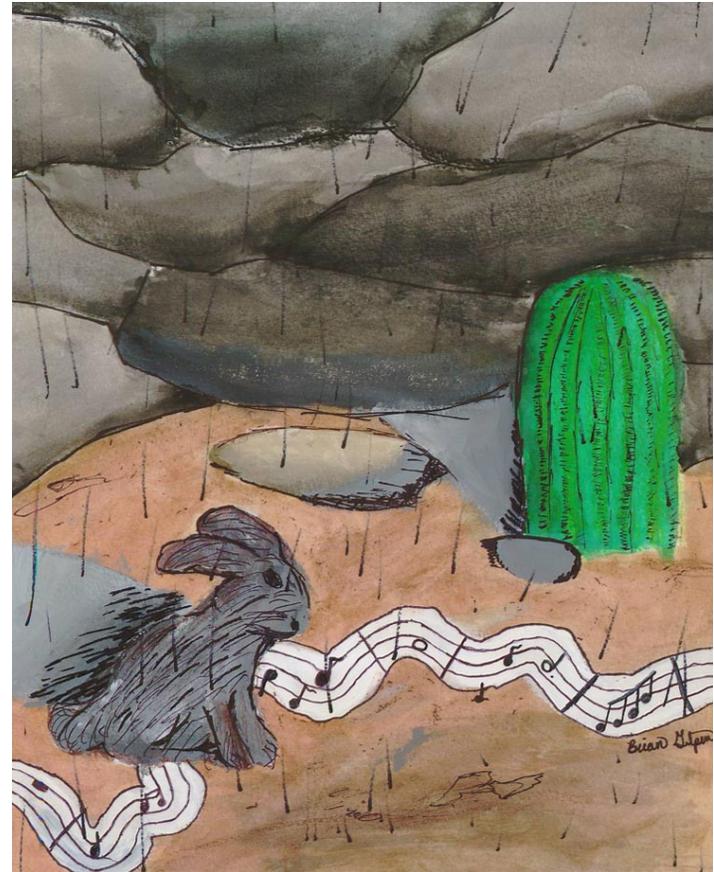
Entries are accepted anytime. The submission deadline for the 2008 contest is February 1, 2008

How do I enter?

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

3500 W. River Road
Tucson, AZ 85741
(520) 877-6000

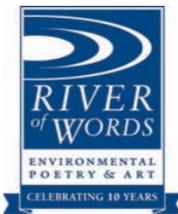
Online entry forms available at
www.pima.gov/nrpr
www.tucsonpimaartscouncil.org



Monsoon Boom

Brian Gilpin, age 14
Pistor Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Dorr

Grand Prize - Art - Category 4



The poetry and art displayed in these pages offers a glimpse into the successes of joining environmental sciences with language and fine arts to create a truly unique learning experience. Students were exposed to science and art classes, conducted both in the classroom and in Pima County Natural Resource parks throughout the year. Nearly 1000 students demonstrated learning and made grand contributions to their community by sharing their vision of the natural world.



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

**2007 Traveling
Exhibit Schedule**

April 11 - June 18

Tucson Children's Museum
200 S. 6th Avenue

June 19 - July 31

Joel D. Valdez Main Library
101 N. Stone Avenue

August 7 - September 19

Agua Caliente Park
12325 E. Roger Road

September 20 - November 1

Brandi Fenton Park
3482 E. River Road

November 2 - February 1

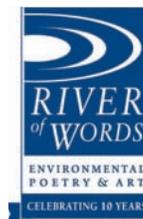
Pima County Juvenile Court
2225 E. Ajo Way



Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
520.877.6000 • www.pima.gov/nrpr

This book is dedicated to 2007 Tucson's River of Words Teacher of the Year, Joy Barr from Presidio Schools, and all teachers who provide enrichment in the classroom and beyond.

Tucson's River of Words is a local affiliate of the National River of Words program - A California based non-profit, dedicated to connecting 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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**PIMA COUNTY
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Saguaro

green black
very big
on the earth
wants cool water
wants peace
pretty!
verde negro
es muy grande
en la tierra esta
quiere agua fresca
quiere paz
¡bonita!

Jennifer Weisbrod, age 8
Davis Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Olivas

Rain Drop

I get wet and I am blue
I say splash
I fall
I am just dripping
I grow invisible feet

Lily Sotelo, age 8
Castlehill Country Day School
Teacher: Mrs. Meyer

Bound for a Drink

A furry eared creature wandered about,
looking for a water hole with a springy spout.

The furry eared creature found its destination,
and took a huge sip without hesitation.

While he is drinking he hears a rattlesnake.
The rabbit is petrified that the snake will strike.

The rabbit takes off at an awesome, high pace,
to tell his family the adventures of his day.

Rachel Levy, age 8
Tucson Hebrew Academy
Teacher: Ms. Jolly

The Gourd

The Coyotes
will try to eat you.
They will not want to eat me
because I look
poisonous.

Haley Bravo, age 6
Arivaca Community Center
Teacher: Ellen Dursema
Grand Prize – Poetry – Category 1

The Desert at Night

In the night in the desert,
I see the stars shining in the sky.
The whole moon glows in the dark sky.
The owls are hunting.
After it rains, it smells like flowers
opening to get water.
The air smells fresh and beautiful.
The creosote smells strong.

Griselda Miranda, age 7
Hollinger Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Martin

Plaña de Agua

El agua caí del cielo
El agua viene del cuerpo
tambien viene delios ajo y de la felicitate
Cuando dios llora el agua caí del
cielo y nos bendice a todas y aseé viene el agua.
Y tambien el agua viene de las plan `as.

Stephanie Ceballos, age 11
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson

My Flower

Everyone hated the little seed
ugly and dull
banished from light

Grew up in shadows
a small bit of light existed
in a world where nothing did

Everyone hated the little seed
no different from the grass
trampled on day after day

Kept changing and believing
that if we all see the same things
that we should all be the same things

It grew in the moonlight
not the sunlight and nothing more

As buds grew progress of recognition rose as well
we considered it as nothing more than a nonentity

A single petal grew
and for the first time in its life
it had seen something look at it

Suddenly everyone cared about the flower
they had not realized that
they themselves had pained it

I have changed along with my flower
but no one will realize that
not until I blossom

Maya Gouw, age 9
Home School
Teacher: Pin Gouw

Song of the Cycle

The water cycle is like a song.
The water evaporates and forms droplets
like notes come together to form a song.
The clouds form out of condensation as the
music is formed out of notes.
The rain falls rapidly as the
completed song fills the air.
Then, the rain water runs o
and form rivers and sinks
into our ground and watersheds
to hold our precious resource
as the song sinks into our minds
and is held close to our hearts.
Until the process begins again.

Michael McCaleb, age 11
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson

I am a Gourd

I am a girl gourd
I am like a watermelon
but you can't eat me
I'm bored
Nothing to play with
The gourd wins the country
because it's the biggest one in the world

Ana Belen Villafuerte, age 6
Arivaca Community Center
Teacher: Ellen Dursema

All of It

All of the water rushing by
that seems to sing its little song
It runs down the mountain
as if it were late for something important
that it had to do

As it goes down the scenic mountain
it is drunk thankfully by all the beautiful
creatures who live and have waited so long
just for a sip of the best river water
that they drink from each and every year

All of it is so wonderful and crisp
The smell is so full of lovely untellable smells
The cool clean feel as it
filters through my hands
The taste of it is like no other
Better than even the best sodas

All of it is needed
All of it is beautiful
All of it is something that should never be lost
or else it will be a crime
All of this is what I love

Daniel Goodman, age 14
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Ms. Fredericks

Running River

Trickling stream
running down the mountain
Birds perching and chirping along and at the joyous
sight of water

Running River roaring loud
for all to hear that are around
Clearing brush and ragweed too
all in the way of the waters destruction

Clear the path for water is running
Animals rejoicing for they are thirsty no more
Animals prancing and dancing and singing along
cause water is here

All are happy thanks to the rains
especially the animals that didn't drink for days
They are thankful for the water this is for sure
and they wait for the next time the river is running

Marcos Gonzales, age 13
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Ms. Fredericks

Frogs

Hot dry days. No frog.
Rainy splashy days. Frog.
Desert comes alive.
Spawn floats about
Little polly-wags!

Nicholas McCullough, age 9
St. Michaels
Teacher: Mrs. Brooks

The Quiet Stream

A little stream flows
through the calm and gentle forest.
There is an absolute silence...
The cold and gleaming water
skims over the smooth rocks.
A fall leaf floats down
from it's oak tree and softly hits
the beautiful stream.
Small deer bend down
for a little drink of icy cold water.
The quiet stream will always run.

Preston Parry, age 10
Manzanita School
Teacher: Mr. Lohr

Desert Sunset

When I see the desert sunset my heart pounds,
like it's the last heartbeat I'll have.
I wake up, and I'm thirsty.
I look at the desert sunrise and it hurts,
it hurts me in a good way.
It hurts me good because
it's like a greeting from the sky.
Every time I lie, I think why.
The desert floor is dry, even when it snows
I feel the heat rise.
I see the snow melt and drip off the tree,
it reminds me of when I cry.
It's that time again when the sunset goes down.
I put on my gown and I go to bed.
I turn on the music and think of the sunset
as I look at it through the window.

Delfina Morales, age 10
Peter Howell Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Robles

Water and the Tree

One morning,
I sat by a stream.
That's when I saw,
a mesquite bean,
I gave it some water,
then waited and waited,
And soon it turned into
a tree.

Robbin Hemperley, age 10
Great Expectations Academy
Teacher: Mrs. Brinson

The Desert

The sunset, when it hits the cactus
and other types of things that live in the desert,
it hurries on the way through the day
leaving more color in them.
The rain sounds like water
that is dripping from the sky
and the wind sounds like people
who love us through their sounds.

Irasema Lerma-Hernandez, age 9
Peter Howell Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Robles

Runny Water

Runny, runny water
Runs as fast as a cheetah
Water run, run through drains
Runs through waterfalls
Water runs as speedy water through rivers
Run water, water run, speedy as fast cars
Water called speedy water, runs down the stream
Runs, runs all the way down stream
Runs down rivers, that you can see in a dream
Run, run, run as fast as the wind
Runs through trash, water gets dirty
Comes through three steps of water cleaning
Fishes can die if the water is really dirty
Come on don't be lazy help our environment
Don't let fishes die to trash you throw
Runny, runny, runny water

Josue Rendon, age 11
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Oliver

I am a Gourd

I am a gourd
Thinkin'
how boring life is
No Head
No Hands
No Hair
No Feet
No Eyes
No Ears
No Mouth
No Nose
No Sounds
No Smells
No FUN!

Laramie Goodluck, age 7
Arivaca Community Center
Teacher: Ellen Dursema

The White Spirit

The dark sky is black
above the frozen whirlpool of stars.
The white spirits swim in the whirlpool.
When it is dark, the moonlight
shines over the white ocean

Alex Montoya, age 8
Desert Winds Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Nugent

Taken for Granted

We take it for granted because it is always here.
We turn on a faucet and it comes in a flash.
We do not think about
what it goes through to get here.
We know it will come because it always has.
It gives a false sense of security
that not many have.
Some fight for gold, others want water.
It could have been ice
on a glacier in the Himalayas
or toilet water in Vienna.
It goes through a cycle of random and chaos
to get where it needs to be.
It is the bearer of fruits and the cause of life.
Water is survival.

Kristian Gonzalez, age 11
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson

Spring Memories

I am standing,
tall and bare.
No leaf in sight,
my colors gone.
There are no squirrels
with their o spring.
There is no green
left in the plants.
There is no sound
there's only silence.
My roots in the earth are cold.
My branches in the sky are cold.
I stare up into the sky
and remember warmth.
I see dark clouds.
Water is pouring down,
and spring comes back again.

Jocelyn Macias, age 14
Pistor Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Dorr

Saguaro Spirit

The luscious green saguaro stands,
majestic.
On a throne-like hill,
looking out over
the bright rough desert.
Swift animals scurry past,
making life full and sweet.
A curvy, turquoise worm,
inches over the rolling land.
Water, nourishing every one of us.
I walk past the saguaro.
Straight, tall, centuries old,
soldier-like.
Protecting our state.
A dreamy aroma wafts past me,
pulling me to the top of the world.
Desert is beautiful,
and that is easy to see!

Alice Berry, age 10
Manzanita School
Teacher: Mr. Lohr

Grand Prize - Poetry - Category 3

What if...

To whom this may concern...
Everyone.
What if each piece of trash that falls
from our hands to the ground affects the world?
What if this trash builds up
and pollutes both the sea and land?
What if this affects the air we breathe each day?
What if this affects the life that each of us live?
What if this harms each child
and every living thing of the future?

This is all true and is happening.
What if we could change this by simple acts,
like picking up that piece of trash?
Would you do it?
What if...

Carrie Soo Hoo, age 14
City High School
Teacher: Ms. Rifkin and Mr. Hartman

Running Out of Me

You need me,
to live,
to grow plants,
to drink,
to make lakes,
even to flush your toilets.
Without me the world would go mad,
People dieing of thirst and hunger.
No more oceans or lakes or streams.
The world would turn into a barren wasteland.
I am the true source of your ecosystem.
You play in me when I fall,
Sometimes you even dance.
You dam me up.
You drink me down.
The desert always thirsts for me.
I'm in your soda.
I live in your house.
But too quickly I am disappearing.
Who am I?
I am water.

Austin Dail, age 14
City High School
Teacher: Ms. Rifkin and Mr. Hartman
Grand Prize - Poetry - Category 4

Desert Rains

Desired by animals
Erected by nature
Sun blotted out by clouds
Earth sucks water in
Rodents rush to their homes
The rain falls in torrents

Rain floods the valley
Arroyos fill with water
In clouds lightening flashes
Need for water is gone
Saguaros store water for the drought

Nathaniel Whitthorne, age 8
Book Club
Teacher: Libby Whitthorne
Grand Prize - Poetry - Category 2

Grass

Grass grows around water.
Where the weather is just right
and the trees move around.
The ducks move around
and make noises
and the mountains do not move at all.
I love water.

Joseph Brienholt, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Johnson

The Storms of Summer

The baked desert sand under me and
the black clouds breaking overhead.
The birds of the desert start to flee.
The wind through the cacti said,
"Lie there and go to bed."
I continue to lie and think.
I have a special connection to the desert, a link.
The torrent of water is on the brink.
The water drops upon the desert under me.

Nico Lorenzen, age 14
Pistor Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Dorr

White Hot Fire in the Sky

Explosive blasts of thunder, frightening.
But I think to myself I am not afraid.
Then again, I think
it's just the monsoon season.
It goes murky and I hear
the blast of thunder coming near.
Then I see red and white
jagged flashes in the sky,
like veins of your hands.
Dangerous booms sound and
I see the white-hot
fire in the sky.

Mia Aguirre, age 9
Peter Howell Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Hunley



Rachel Haymore, age 7
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Vande Voorde
Grand Prize - Art - Category 1



The Life of Water
Desiree Arias, age 11
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson



Nature in Hand
Carrie Soo Hoo, age 14
City High School
Teacher: Ms. Rifkin and Mr. Hartman



Ryan Iuliano, age 9
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Vande Voorde



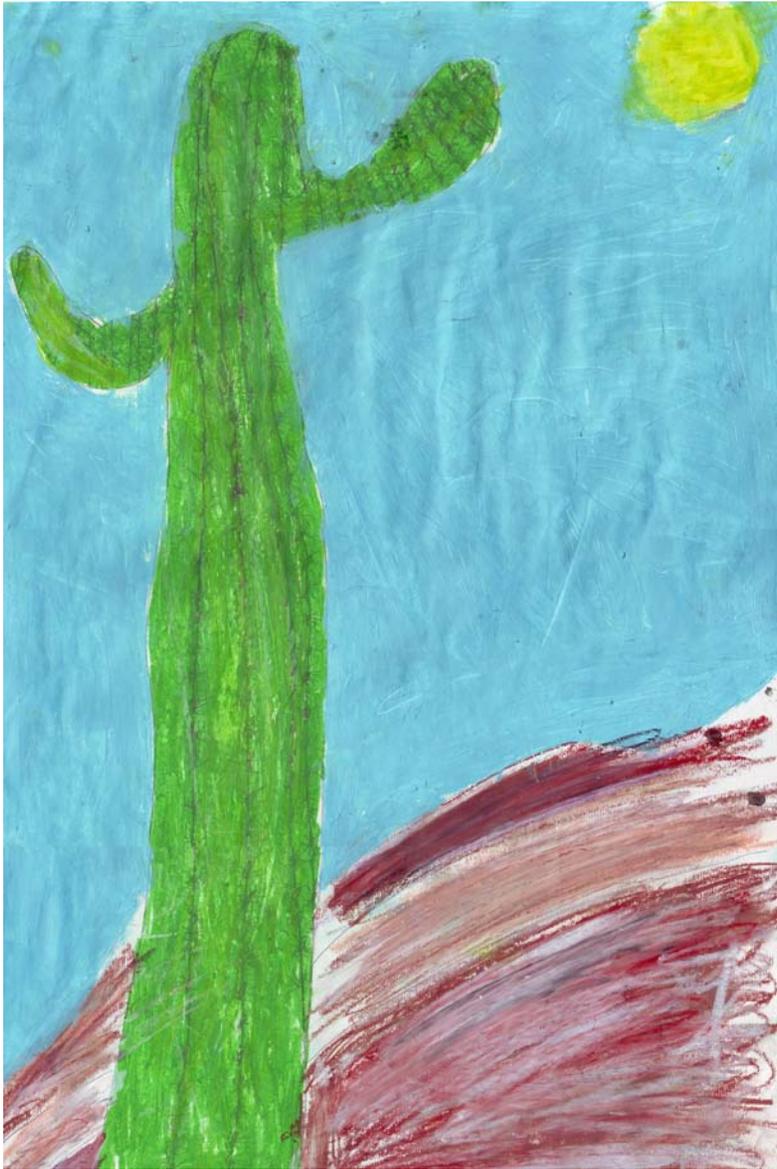
Desert Rain

Matthew Garcia, age 8
Swetland Community Center
Teacher: Adam Bernal



Desert Sunrise

Christina Bentley, age 10
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Vande Voorde



The Big Saguaro

Makena Ritter, age 7
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Vande Voorde



Tucson Snow

Moriah Newhouse, age 10
Home School
Teacher: Kim Newhouse



Desert Scene with Coyote

Amanda Wilson, age 12
La Cima Middle School
Teacher: Ms. Koopman



My Senses

Alexis Gonzalez, age 11
Challenger Middle School
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson



Desert Evening

Timothy Song, age 6
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Vande Voorde



Glowing Desert Plains

Alice Berry, age 10
Manzanita School
Teacher: Mr. Lohr



Amazing Waterfall

Holly Dunn, age 8
Desert Winds Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Dodson



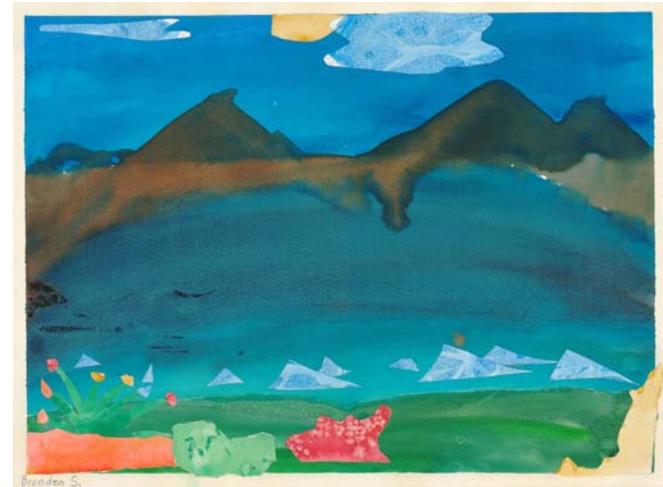
Desert Saguaro

Tug Jensen, age 8
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Vande Voorde



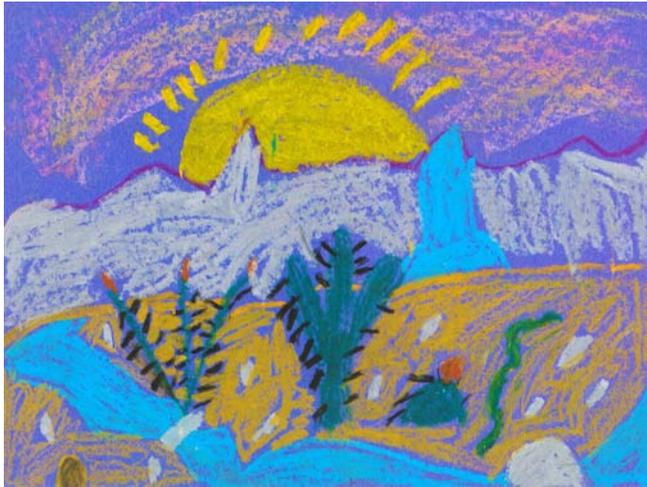
Rain Storm

Tyler Johnson, age 10
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Vande Voorde



A Day at the Lake

Brenden Scheller, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Ratajczak
Grand Prize - Art - Category 2



The Desert in the Morning

Annabelle Sanchez, age 8
Hollinger Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Martin



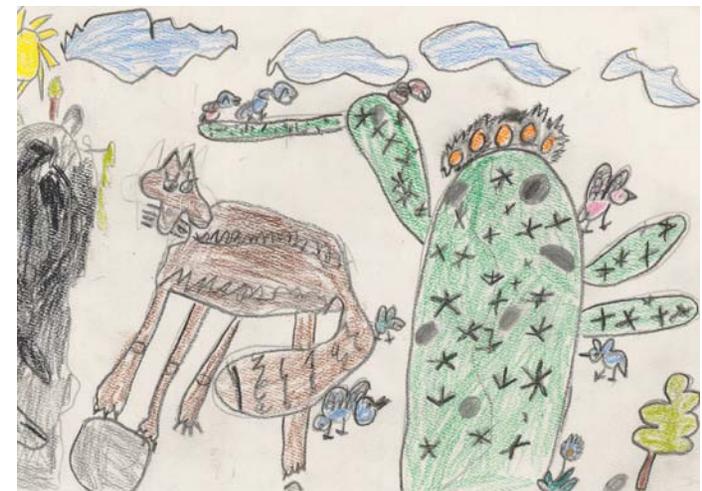
Quail on the Run

Catherine Garza, age 11
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Vande Voorde



Mountain View

Camille Bentley, age 7
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Vande Voorde



The Wolf in the Sun

Morgan Bradley, age 8
Van Buskirk Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Weisbrod

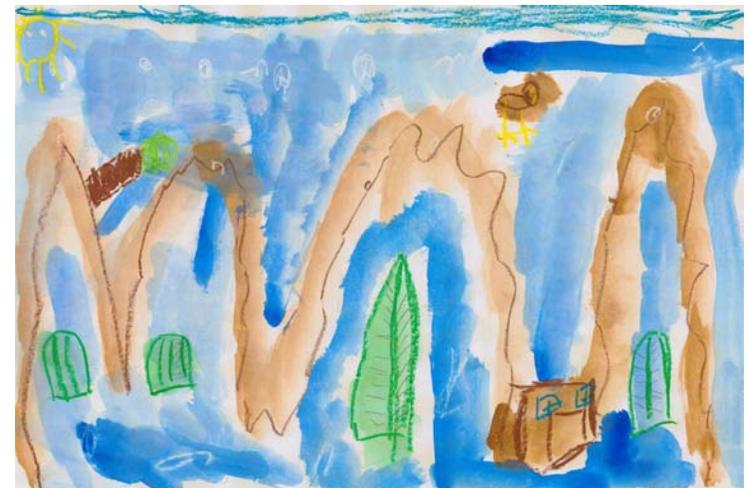


Edgardo Cruz, age 12
La Cima Middle School
Teacher: Mr. Holiday



Rushing Falls

Mackinzi Blank, age 9
Great Expectations Academy
Teacher: Ms. Niesen



Alexandra Weinell, age 5
Painted Sky Elementary
Teacher: Ms. Vande Voorde



Tree Frogs

Maggie Klawunn, age 10
Montessori School House
Teacher: Ms. Pugnoli
Grand Prize - Art - Category 3



The Rain Storm

Ian Schwind, age 8
Corbett Elementary
Teacher: Mrs. Gibson



Maybe it's Cold

Hannah Bell, age 15
City High School
Teacher: Ms. Rifkin and Mr. Hartman