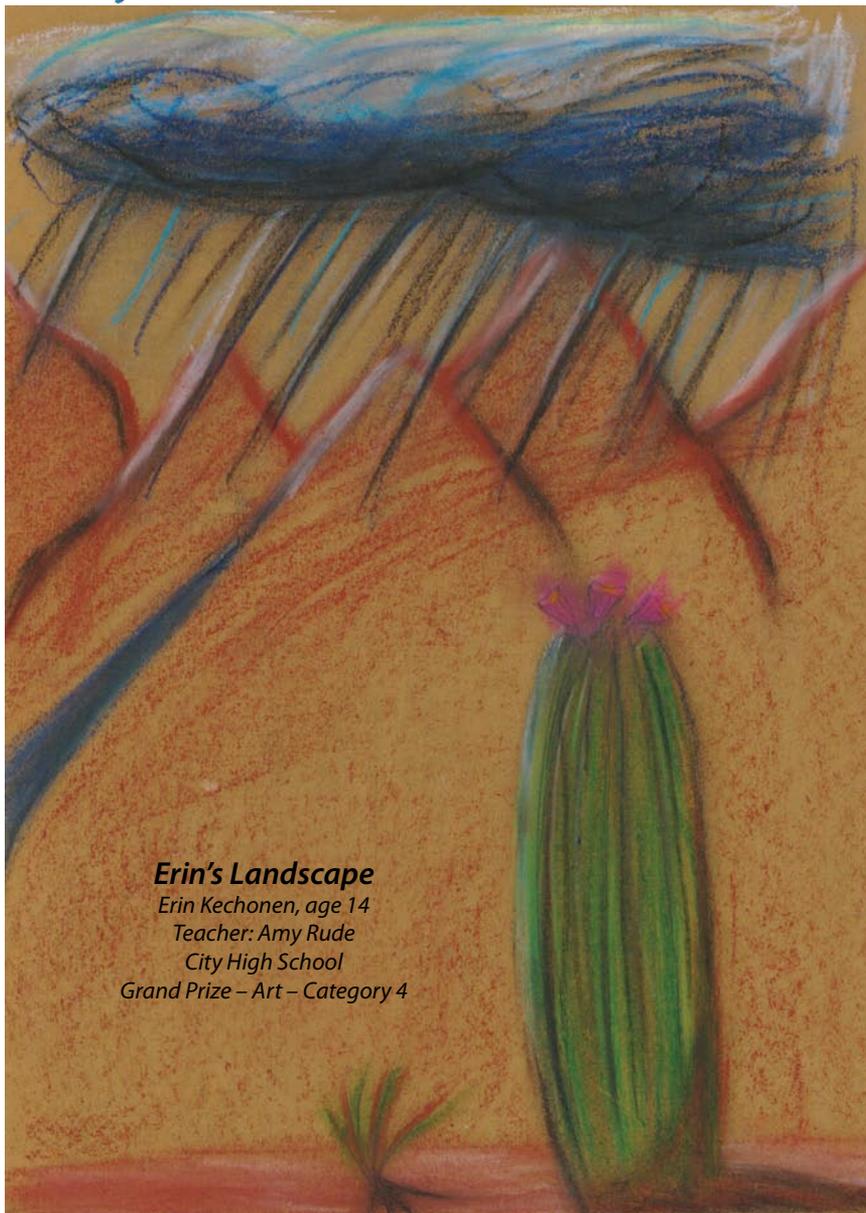




2009 Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Contest



Erin's Landscape

Erin Kechonen, age 14

Teacher: Amy Rude

City High School

Grand Prize – Art – Category 4

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."
John Muir

Experience a watershed moment as you meander through this award winning collection of Tucson's River of Words 2009 Youth Poetry and Art. Children ages 5-19 explore the concepts of watershed, water cycle, and conservation to better understand how all life is interconnected. With this confluence of experience and a drop of creativity these young poets and artists share their unique perspective of the natural world.

TUCSON'S RIVER OF WORDS 2009-2010 TRAVELING EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

April 16 – June 7, 2009

Tucson Children's Museum
200 South 6th Avenue

June 8 – July 8, 2009

Joel Valdez Main Library
101 North Stone Avenue

July 9 – August 7, 2009

Agua Caliente Park Ranch House Art Gallery
12325 East Roger Road

August 8 – September 8, 2009

Tucson Botanical Gardens
2150 North Alvernon Way

September 9 – October 8, 2009

Pima County Juvenile Court
2225 East Ajo Way

October 9 – November 20, 2009

Mission Branch Library
3770 South Mission Road

November 21 – December 30, 2009

Woods Memorial Branch Library
3455 North First Avenue

December 31, 2009 – February 12, 2010

Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. Branch Library
7800 North Schisler Drive

February 13 – March 26, 2010

Valencia Branch Library
202 West Valencia Road

***This book is dedicated to 2009 Tucson's River of Words
Teacher of the Year Shirley Nugent
from Desert Winds Elementary School and all the teachers and parents that
encourage young people to explore the world out-of-doors.***

Snowflakes Fall

Snowflakes fall in the
Glistening, silent night.
They slip through
the mountain air like a sled.

They softly float
through the air and
land on my hands.

Ruby Lee Huie, age 7
Teacher: Meg Johnson
Agua Caliente School
Grand Prize – Poetry – Category 2

Rainforest

Growing flowers
Butterflies fluttering by
Wet dew drops smile
Wonderful

Noelani Stachurski, age 6
Teacher: Karen Trella
Great Expectations Academy

The Ridge

High, brown
Purple is for sunsets
Green is for grass
Water runs down, down, down

Mackenzie Powers, age 5
Teacher: Denice Walker -Powers
Independent Entry
Grand Prize – Poetry – Category 1

Waterfall

A river follows to a Waterfall
Waterfalls are everywhere
Streams,
Brooks,
Mountains,
And could end in a lagoon or lake
Graceful, full of life
Waterfall
Where a river ends and a
Lake or lagoon begins
Waterfall

*José Franco, age 11
Teacher: Karen Oliver
Challenger Middle School*

Rain

Silky and silent
Caressing the skin in waves
My lover the rain

*Cathrine Suddarth, age 15
Teacher: Amy Rude
City High School*

Oasis
Currents
Emerging
Art
Nothing
Water
Arches
Vulnerable
Educated
Seas

*Emilio R. Soto, age 11
Teacher: Karen Oliver
Challenger Middle School*

El Agua Esta

El agua en todo esta
Del cielo viene
Al cielo se va
Cae como lluvia
Sube como vapor
Baja de una nube
Sube con el sol,
El agua viaja mucho
Más que los humanos
Pero en donde más se queda
Es en el océano,
De las montañas
Así a los lagos
Y luego en el río
Va por la tierra
Sale por nuestra casa
La usamos mucho,
Nunca se va
Y a lo último
El proceso Empieza de nuevo otra vez

*Daniela Duarte, age 11
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson
Challenger Middle School*

Water Power

Wet
A lush of darkness
Tattering drum
Elegant midst of wet coldness
Repercussions thunders
The lush of darkness, and cold,
Wet world, whooshing, sparkling, with
The sweet crystal fall of showers is WATER

*Kaela Arond, age 9
Teacher: Retina Vaughn
Tucson Hebrew Academy*

Lonely Man's Only Land

This road doesn't seem to end.
It just stretches on into the horizon.
I've been walking for what seems like forever
with the sun beating down on my sweat-soaked back.
I need a drink, but my bottle is empty.
Looking on, I see nothing but this road
and the flat desert land that surrounds it like moss
surrounds a pond.
If only I could turn off the sun
this desert would just fade away,
But I can't and, it won't.
Still no water... am I doomed to walk in this unbearable heat all my life?
As the sun falls out of the sky the moon kisses the earth with a cool breeze.
Suddenly the road gets shorter and all I want to do is sit by the road
and enjoy this sweet whisper of air on my sweaty face.
In the distance I hear a pack of coyotes serenading the moon
in hope that she will stay and listen.
Now, when I look at the road I see a bridge
over a beautiful calm lake where I can fill my water bottle.
The lake is the perfect temperature to swim in for a while.
The sun begins breathing warm air over the mountain tops.
As the sun rises the lake just melts out of being, along with the bridge.
Now it's just a road in the desert.

I guess it's time to keep walking...

David J. Gause, age 17
Teacher: Mrs. Haller
Southern Arizona Community Academy

I Wish

I wish
I was a canyon
Near a lake
Riding the Earth
By wind

Benjamin R. Helming, age 6
Teacher: Ms. Winsberg
Tucson Hebrew Academy

Natures Freedom

Slow, sweeping, weeping, flowing water
A calm, clear stream
Animals gathering about
The soft buzz of insects
The stream, leaping over rocks
Small fish fighting against the weak current, pushing past
A gentle breeze blowing at the lush grass
Carving into the silently mourning trees
As a harsh storm slowly brews into being
The bright sky gets dark
All is silent...
No signs of life
As animals retreat into their warm shelters
Lively mosquitoes hatch as spring is nearing
A light sheet of friendly rain
Descends upon the ground
As the weeping sky gets darker
The silent stream becomes a mighty courageous river
The rain becomes a mere drizzle
The sun shines bright and happy
Animals slink out to drink from the once calm stream.

Eric Lu, age 9
Teacher: Charles Lohr
Manzanita Elementary

The Water Cycle

Puddle
Still Small
Splashing Soaking Grey
Boring Liquid Awesome Gas
Soaring Flying Floating
Big Giant
Cloud

Benjamin Manninen, age 9
Teacher: Ms. Winsberg
Tucson Hebrew Academy

My Pool

It's summer
I'm in the pool
My sister goes down the slide
Dad locks up the house
Mom goes in
Josh comes

Hanah comes
She loves summer
Dad brings her in
Mom wants to go into the pool
She goes into the house
Ahron goes down the slide

Everyone likes the slide
Ahron comes
It is locked the house
The season is fun when it's summer
Now everyone likes the pool
Four people are in

The whole family is in
Everyone has gone down the slide
The water splashes on the side of the pool
We called Josh, he didn't come
I love summer
Now my mom wants to go into the pool

Mom goes into the house
Then she went in
Dad likes summer
He goes down the slide
Tobi comes
She likes the pool

All the Grossbergs like the pool
David looks out the window of the house
The Gishens come
Josh splashes in

Benjy goes down the slide
We all love summer

When it's summer everyone likes the pool
People like the slide and some like watching from the house
Now some people are in and some people are coming

Hanna Girard, age 9
Teacher: Retina Vaughn
Tucson Hebrew Academy

The Beautiful Desert

Come see the beautiful plants of the desert
Saguaros standing still like statues
Cacti blooming with red, yellow and white blossoms
The flowers paint the ground in a spectacular way.

Come see the creatures of the desert.
In the shadowy night bobcats and coyotes hunt for food.
Rattlesnakes slither and make patterns in the sand.
Lizards hiccup as they dash from their prey.

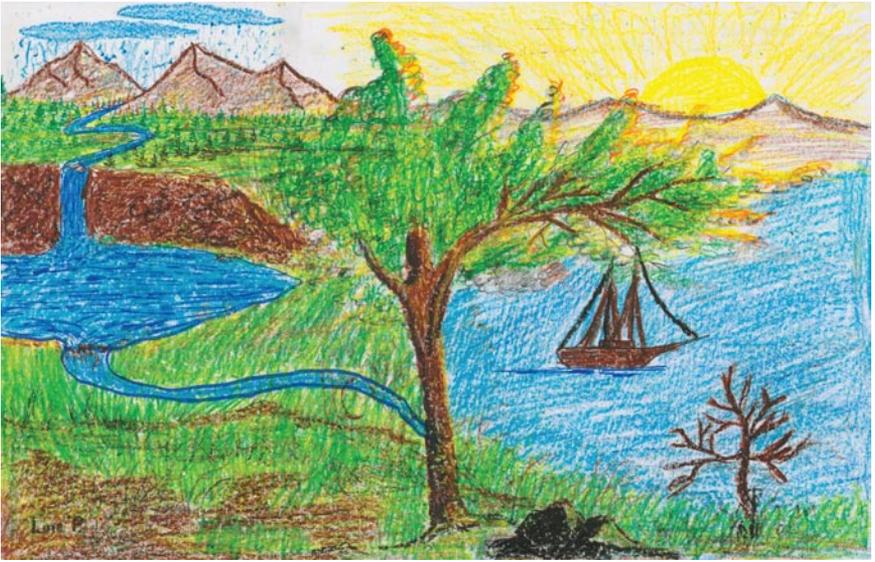
Come see the native people of the desert.
They weave beautiful baskets and make animal designs on pottery.
They grind corn to make tortillas fresh from their ovens.
They dance together and honor their gods.

Francesca Verdugo, age 10
Teacher: Nina Stotlar
Manzanita Elementary



Meadow

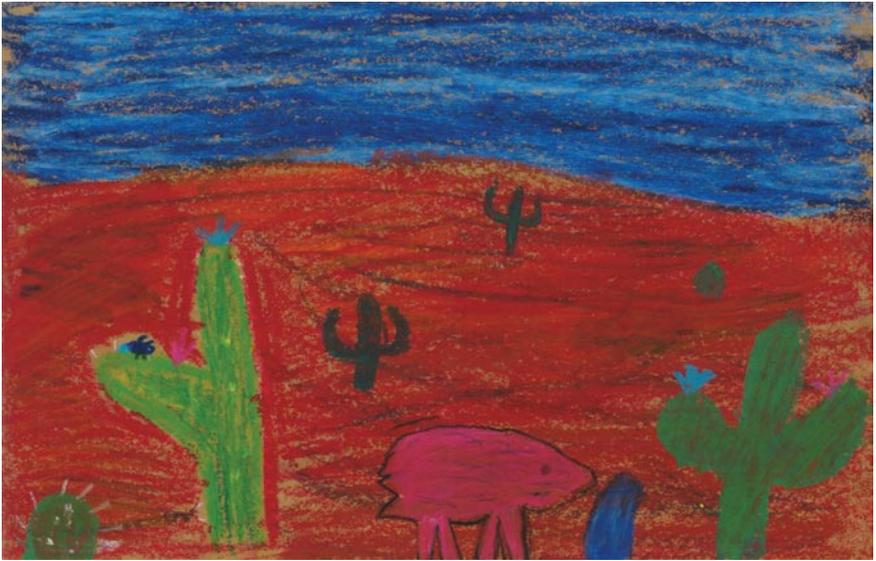
Ellie Boling, age 10
Teacher: Donna Holm
Manzanita Elementary



*Luis Alberto Peña, age 12
Teacher: Karen Oliver
Challenger Middle School*



Blue Rushing Water
*Ruby Lee Huie, age 7
Teacher: Meg Johnson
Agua Caliente Elementary*

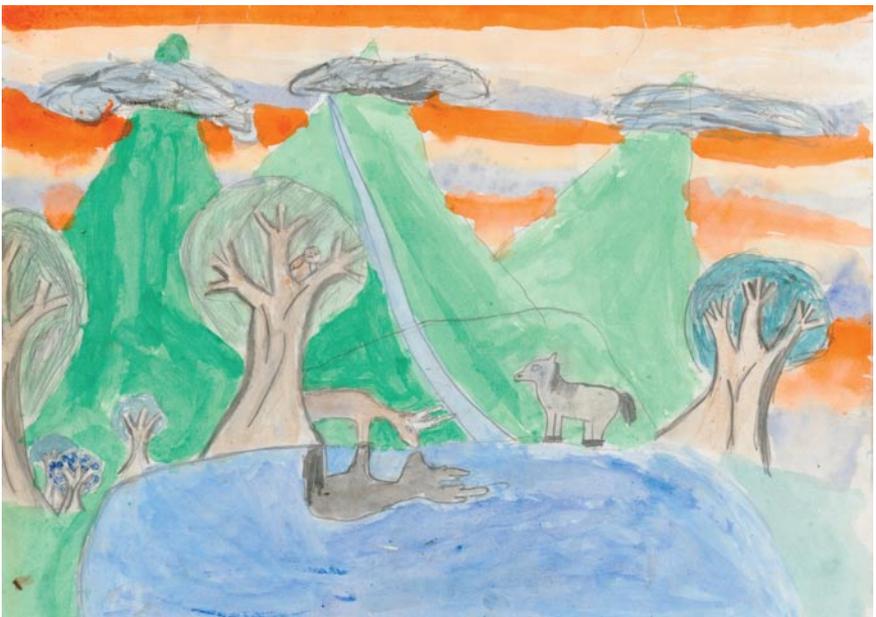


Desert Water

Maddison Lanz, age 10

Teacher: Mrs.Torres

Mesquite Elementary



Sunset Valley

Brandy Rizer, age 11

Teacher: Karen Oliver

Challenger Middle School



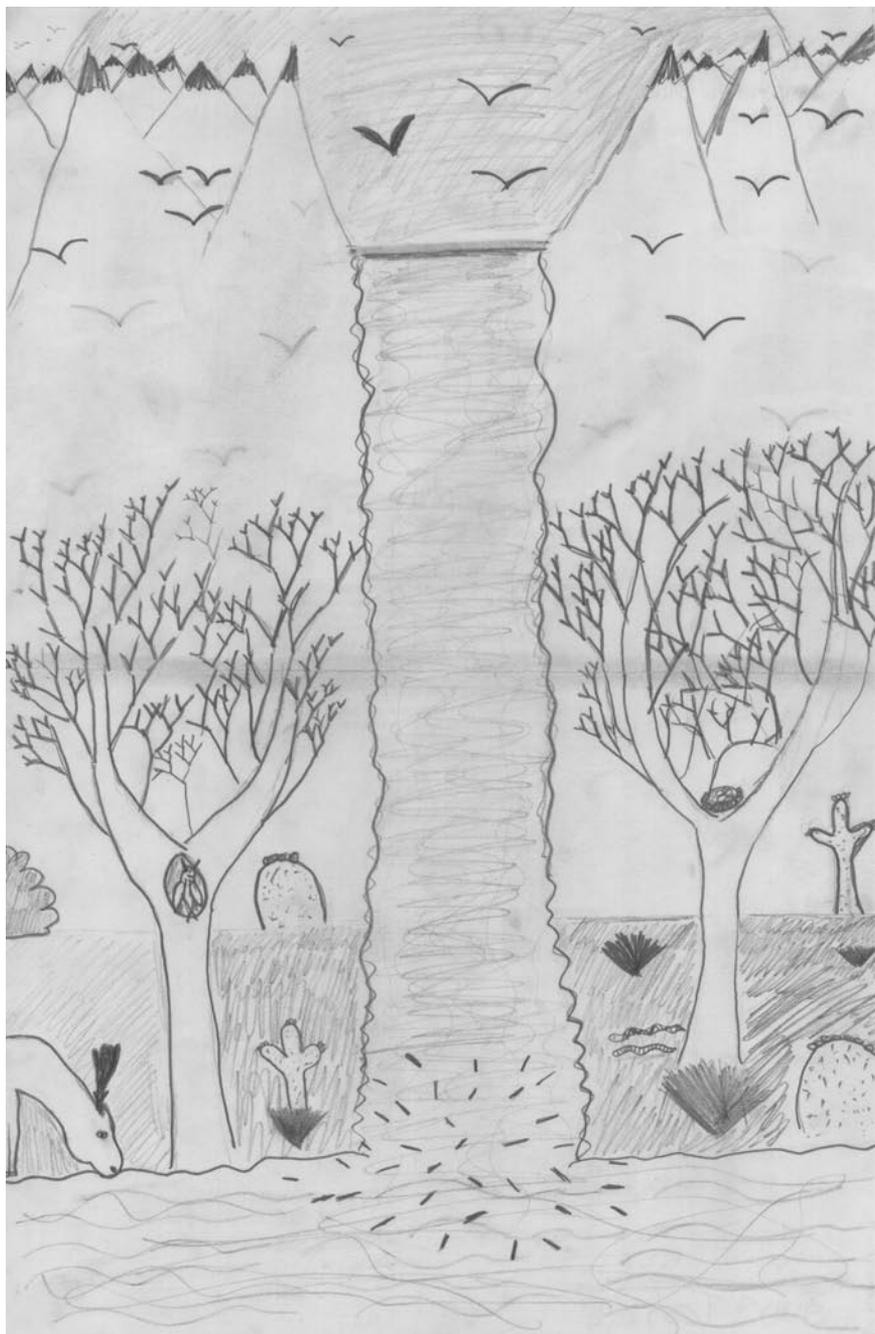
Puddles

*Abigail Pittman, age 6
Teacher: Karen Trella
Great Expectations Academy*



Conserving Water

*Halley Hughes, age 8
Teacher: Mrs. Gibson
Corbett Elementary*



*Brianna Torres, age 11
Teacher: Karen Oliver
Challenger Middle School*



Conserving Water

*Lilith Roh, age 7
Teacher: Mrs. Gibson
Corbett Elementary*



The Runaway Stream

*Kelsey Puckett, age 7
Teacher: Karen Trella
Great Expectations Academy*



Rainforest

Reece Chmelik, age 6

Teacher: Karen Trella

Great Expectations Academy

Grand Prize – Art – Category 1



Daniel Flores, age 11

Teacher: Karen Oliver

Challenger Middle School



*Claudia Ramirez, age 12
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson
Challenger Middle School*

THE SONORAN DESERT



The Sonoran Desert: In Full Color

Rose Earley, age 14

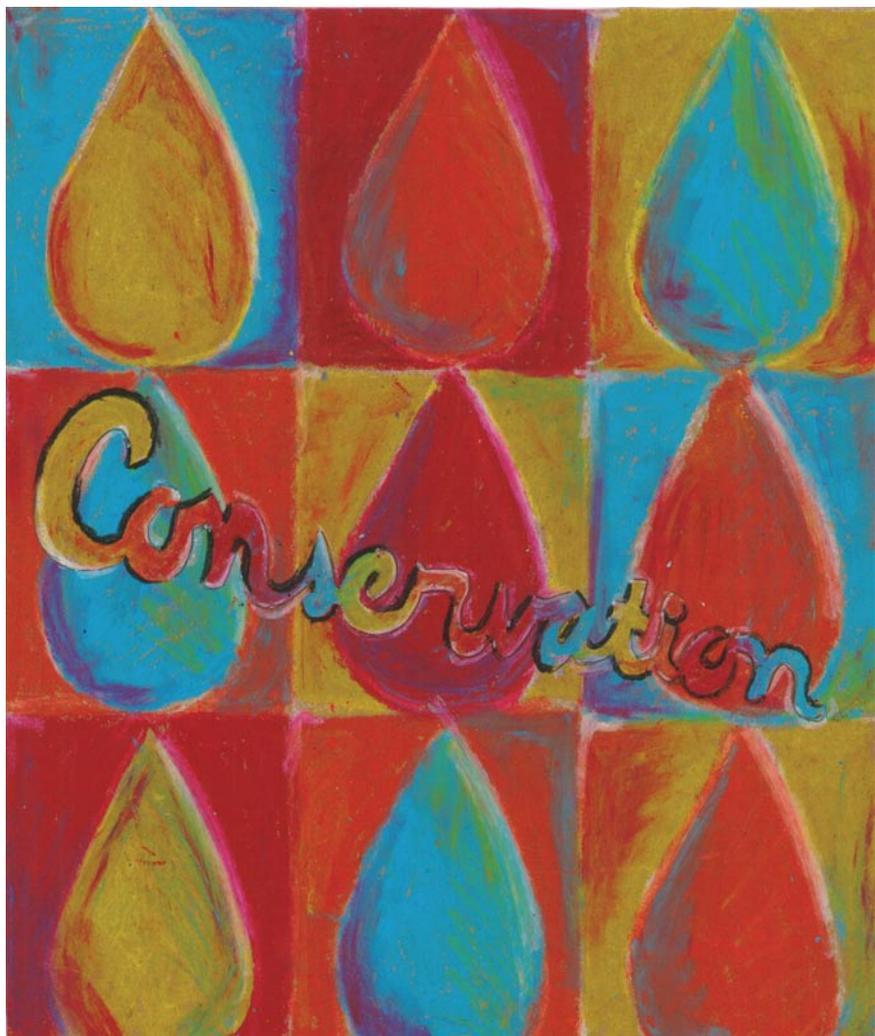
Teacher: Amy Rude

City High School



End.

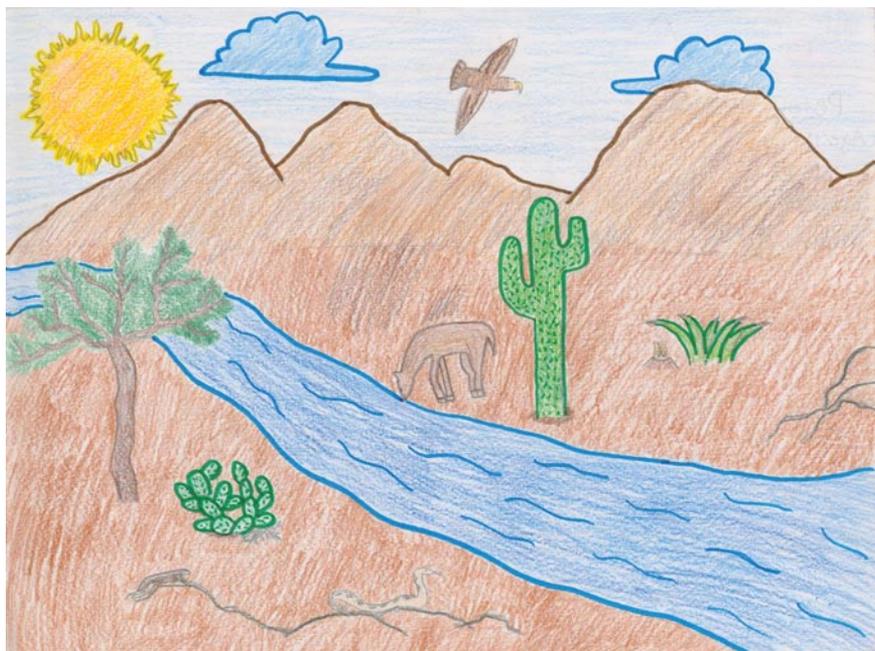
By Rose Early



*Andrea Maynard, age 14
Teacher: Debra Bahr
City High School*



What is Water?
Alejandra Delgado, age 12
Teacher: Karen Oliver
Challenger Middle School



The Divine Desert
Petey McGinnis, age 11
Teacher: Mrs. Iskandar
St. Cyril School



Night at the Grand Canyon

Zachary Sierra, age 7

Teacher: Mrs. Gibson

Corbett Elementary

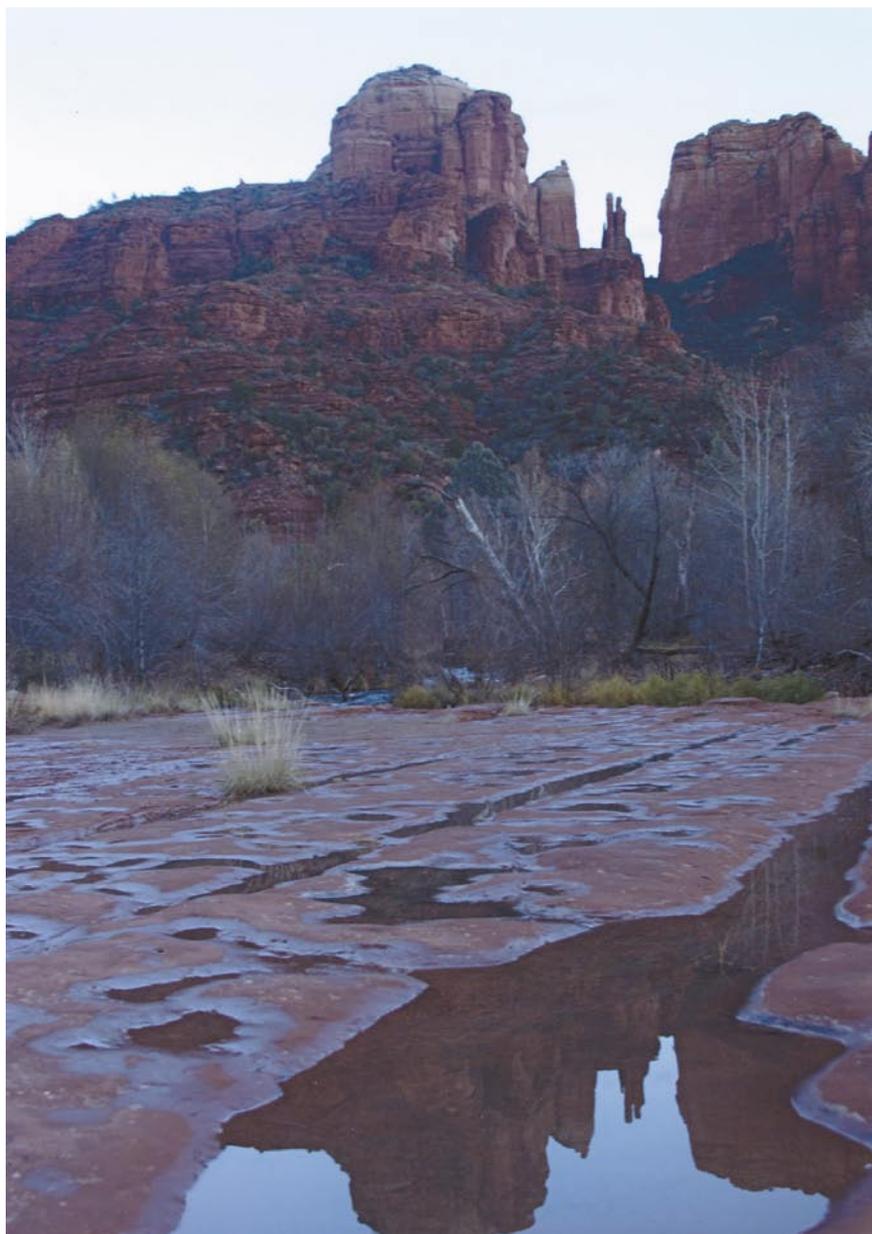


The River

Victoria Flores, age 6

Teacher: Karen Trella

Great Expectations Academy



Reflection of Wonder

Moriah Newhouse, age 12

Teacher: Kim Newhouse

Independent Entry



*Jacqueline Coronado, age 11
Teacher: Karen Oliver
Challenger Middle School
Grand Prize – Art – Category 3*



Phoenix Glow
*Sydni Heimback, age 14
Teacher: Mrs. Mohler
Great Expectations Academy*



Salt River Winter
Donovan Hoover, age 12
Teacher: Mrs. Malcolm
Great Expectations Academy



McCartney Zitzman, age 8
Teacher: Meg Johnson
Agua Caliente Elementary

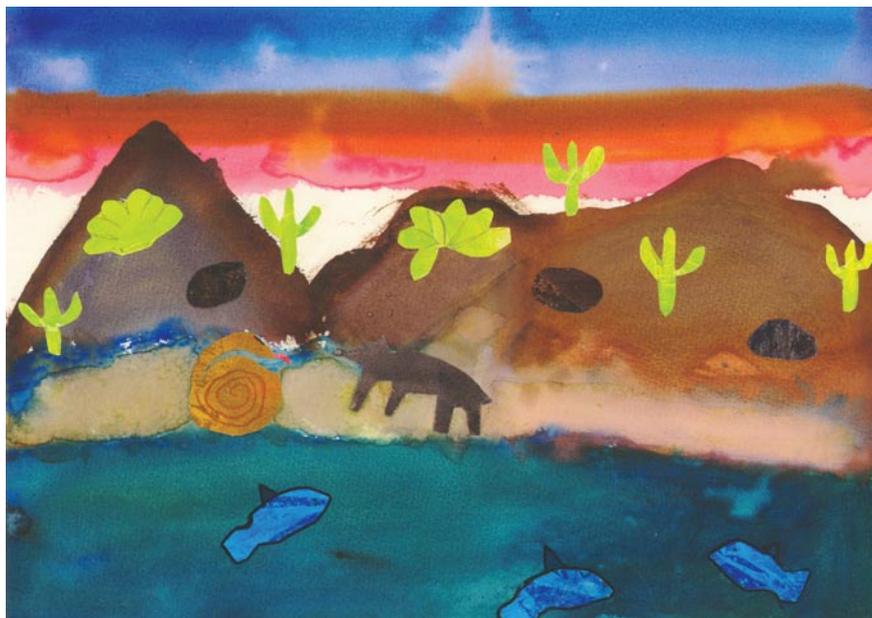


Tucson Beautiful Gila Monster

*Emily Muirhead, age 7
Teacher: Mrs. Gibson
Corbett Elementary*



*Gabriela Leal, age 12
Teacher: Karen Oliver
Challenger Middle School*



Desert Sunset

Katie Page, age 8

Teacher: Meg Johnson

Agua Caliente Elementary

Grand Prize – Art – Category 2



Rain in the Spring

Jesus Arvizu, age 8

Teacher: Shirley Nugent

Desert Winds Elementary

The Watershed: A Poem for Two Voices

Voice #1

I am a kangaroo rat
I sip water
I must scurry for my food
But I can't sprint forever
When I get tuckered out
I depend on a ...
Watershed

Stephanie Hannifan, age 9
Teacher: Mrs. Urbalejo
Mesquite Elementary

Voice #2

I am a fire
I swallow grass
I must blaze for my food
I can't scorch forever
When I incinerate
I demolish a ...
Watershed

Danielle Wells, age 9
Teacher: Mrs. Urbalejo
Mesquite Elementary

Sabino Creek

Rippling clear water
With smooth rocks
Smooth as eggs
Blue gray rocks
With water rippling over
Cold as rain.

Red sand rubies
in the sand in Sabino creek
Fast as a brown dotted frog
jumps into the water.

Jacob Davidson, age 7
Teacher: Mrs. Winsberg
Tucson Hebrew Academy

Dead but Alive

The sun is so hot.
The parched sand sears my bare feet
No shade anywhere
The rivers are dry as bones
The animals hide in
Their burrows, dens, and nests
From the big round sun
The air is as dry as rocks.
When it rushes pass
I heat up like a tea-pot
My lips turn to sand.
Crack! Then the sun disappears
Everything cools off
Rain falls like the beginning of
A Broadway show
Bits and pieces of the land
Turn muddy and wet
The heavens crack with thunder
And rivers run fast
The animals come
To drink from the puddles
All is alive here
It is just hidden from view
Until the rains come

*Johnny Bray, Jr., age 13
Teacher: Mrs. Malcolm
Great Expectations Academy*

In the Mountains

In the mountains,
I see birds and rabbits
I hear guns and I hear the wind.
I feel like the guns are shooting our way.

*Sawyer Hawkes, age 6
Teacher: Kathy Ram
Carden of Tucson*

The Storm

Lightning strikes making squiggly lines
Across the angry sky.
Yellow! Gold!
Thunder shouts with a big boom
Rumbling between the clouds.
Crash! Bam!
Rain falls striking the earth.
A drink for the thirsty desert.
Drip! Drop!
Faster and faster the water rushes
Down the mountain sides.
Whoosh! Wash!
The rivers overflow spilling across sand and rocks.
Splish! Splash!
Then silently it escapes back into the sky.

Joshua Trella, age 7
Teacher: Mrs. Wiebe
Great Expectations Academy

I Saw

I saw a well filled with a woman's tears
I saw a person tackle a lion
I saw my brother reading minds
I saw a talking cat
I saw a fish swimming across the wall
I saw time
I saw the World!

Meghan C. Crownhart, age 8
Teacher: Becky Ratajczak
Agua Caliente Elementary

On a Mountain

Up on a mountain
Looking at the sunset
Very wet and raining
Lizards, snakes, grass, rocks falling
Water coming down on me!

Andrew Romero, age 8

Teacher: Mrs. Ingham

Lineweaver Elementary

Water Goes Round

I'm water that goes round and round
You'll catch me off the rebound
I'm water that goes round and round
You can find me underground
I'm water that goes round and round
If you pollute me I'll turn brown
I'm water that goes round and round
I'm the king, so where is my crown
I'm water that goes round and round
I'm wide and deep so please don't drown
I'm water that goes round and round
I circle the world without a frown

Vanessa Perez, age 11

Teacher: Mrs. Olsson

Challenger Middle School

H₂O

It's clear,
It flows
It has energy that goes,
All the way to your toes
It's H₂O!

Juanita Ordaz Islas, age 9

Teacher: Mrs. Himes

Fort Lowell Elementary School

Rain

Sweet soft touch stings my skin
The plump water droplets just letting go from the clouds firm grip
Painting the air with thick crystal brushes

Molly Kollier, age 15
Teacher: Amy Rude
City High School
Grand Prize – Poetry – Category 4

I can feel the blue rain on my face
the blue sky shimmering
a rainbow glows in the sky

The birds chirp while the river flows
the blue sky shimmering
the trees sway in wind
horses run in the sun

The birds chirp while the river flows
the vines grow to the sky
flowers shiny in the sun
the rich grass is green

The birds chirp while the river flows
children play in the sun
flowers shiny in the sun
the ocean ripples

The seagulls fly
the birds chirp while the river flows
the snow falls on the grass

Aliya Markowitz, age 8
Teacher: Mrs. Young
Tucson Hebrew Academy

Calm and Quiet

Colorado so cold and wet.
Feel like I am trapped in a net.
So beautiful, calm and quiet.
The smell of green
lingering through the air.
The grass is cold.
All you can hear are
your thoughts in your head.
The water on the
peak of the mountains,
slowly coming down.
Colorado so beautiful.

Paulina Medina, age 10
Teacher: Mrs. Carter
St. Cyril School

La Cascada

De la cascada corre agua,
Corre y parece nunca parar,
Como los animals alrededor de ella
siempre buscando su presa

El aroma de la lluvia cayendo del cielo
La noche fresca como el aire que sopla
al ritmo de la danza de las hojas,

El reflejo de la luna en el agua,
Como las brillantes estrellas en la oscuridad.
Los sonidos que se escuchan en su tranquilidad
Como la criatura de la noche rodando el lugar.

Susana Olivas Lopez, age 11
Teacher: Mrs. Olsson
Challenger Middle School
Grand Prize – Poetry – Category 3

If Only

If only they'd walk upon the river bank.
If only they'd lie in the soft green grass.
If only they'd stop to think for a little while,
If only they'd think of the nature that's all around.
If only, if only they would.

If only they knew about what lies under that
rippling blanket of water they are
floating on top of.
But would anyone care?
About all the creatures that live down there?
Would any see the beauty that lies all around?
If only, if only they knew.

If only the splashing and the yelling would stop.
If all the loud voices would become silent.
If they would pull in their tubes and sit in the grass on the river bank,
If only they would all simply stop
they could see the peace that is all around!
If only, if only!

Sierra Young, age 12
Teacher: Mrs. Allman
Skyline Ranch K-8

Snake Hole

Poem
Snake hole
Killing a rat
Raining
Happy
Mountain

Tallin Kagel, age 6
Teacher: Mrs. Cannon
Presidio School

Tucson's River of Words is the Arizona Regional Coordinator for the River of Words program – A California based non-profit dedicated to connecting kids to their watersheds and imaginations through poetry and art. All submissions to Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Contest are judged at the local level before being forwarded on to River of Words International.

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, Central Arizona Project, Southern Arizona Environmental Management Society, Tucson Children's Museum, Pima County Public Library, Tucson Botanical Gardens, and River of Words International.

Many thanks to the 2009 Tucson's River of Words coordinators, educators, poetry and art judges, graphic designers, and volunteers: Wendy Burroughs, Leia Maahs, Yajaira Gray, Steve Russell, Axhel Muñoz, Alexandra Fisher, Kevin Johnson, Kimi Eisele, Cameron Conaway, Laynie Browne, Charles Alexander, Jennifer Camano, Joy Mehulka, Edie Price, Linda Howard, Laura Cotter, and Alan Alderman.



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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



Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and 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 are accepted anytime. The submission deadline for the 2010 contest is February 1, 2010.

How do I enter?

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

**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**

