



**2010**  
**Tucson's River of Words**  
**Youth Poetry and Art Contest**



***Indigo Blue***

*Alaura Millet, age 12*

*Great Expectations Academy • Mrs. Mohler*

***Grand Prize–Art–Category 4***

*Water is the driver of Nature.* ~Leonardo da Vinci

Experience the youthful observations, natural intrigue and wild imaginations within this collection of Tucson's River of Words 2010 Award Winning Youth Poetry and Art. The rhythms of words and colorful works of art presented by these youthful desert dwellers, ages 5-17, paint a picture of local places and rich experiences while expressing the concepts of watershed, water cycle, and an ethic of conservation.

## **Tucson's River of Words 2010-2011 Traveling Exhibit Schedule**

**April 14 – May 28**

Tucson Children's Museum  
200 South 6th Avenue

**June 1 – July 7**

Joel Valdez Main Library  
101 North Stone Avenue

**July 8 – August 19**

Agua Caliente Park – Ranch House Art Gallery  
12325 East Roger Road

**August 23 – September 8**

Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center  
1660 West Ruthrauff Road

**September 8 – October 7**

Martha Cooper Branch Library  
1377 North Catalina Avenue

**October 8 – November 30**

Pima County Juvenile Court  
2225 East Ajo Way

**December 1 – January 7**

Woods Memorial Branch Library  
3455 North First Avenue

**January 7 – February 14**

Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. Branch Library  
7800 North Schisler Drive

**February 15 – March 21**

Valencia Branch Library  
202 West Valencia Road

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***This book is dedicated to 2010 Tucson's River of Words  
Teacher of the Year Robin Gibson  
from Corbett Elementary School and all the teachers and parents that invite  
children into nature and demonstrate a commitment to the integration of  
science, language and the arts.***

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## ***Desert Streams in the Moonlight Rain***

Free universe forever.  
In the sky, years, life changing.  
Blue rivers, black night  
on the water's surface.  
Blue clouds, clean oceans,  
starlight world is long  
and distant and wide  
as a heart and a smooth soul.  
Desert streams in the moonlight rain.

*Aaron Embry, age 8  
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Barnes  
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 2*

## ***Animals of the Desert***

While the sun sets,  
The coyotes howl  
Snakes slither into their holes  
Javelinas amble around the washes  
Quail families scamper across roads,  
Always traveling.  
Scorpions get ready to sting their prey  
Rabbits jump around  
Turtles saunter all over the desert  
Bobcats roam the mountains  
Geckos cling to the side of the houses  
Last but not least,  
Owls hoot all night.  
These are the animals of Arizona.

*Brayden Miller, age 10  
Manzanita Elementary • Ms. Hollm*

## ***Ode to Rain: Monsoons***

Lie on couch  
Watching television  
Hear pounding  
On ceiling  
Wind blowing  
Strong force  
Chairs jumping  
Toward the pool  
Rattling rain outside  
My window  
Like a rattlesnake  
Monsoon!  
Puppies run  
Hiding underneath my bed  
Hours of rain  
I dash to mother  
Rain pounding on  
My back like  
Needles plunging  
From the sky  
Rain ceases and  
Reveals sunlight

*Amorette L. Flores, age 11  
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Del Casale*

## ***The River***

Cry, blue flower, valley of trees.  
River, I have a dream about you  
and the river grass  
and the blue flower  
in the wind.

*Brandon Stewart, age 7  
Desert Winds Elementary • Ms. McKeen*

## ***The Little River***

Slowly, gently flows.  
No Erosion. Zip. Zero.  
The Little River.

Avoids the monsoon,  
It goes underground.  
Calm, still,  
The Little River.

*Duncan Simpson, age 10*  
*Satori Charter • Ms. Dudas*

## ***The Cycle***

Down, down, down I go.  
Up and down.  
Circle and back.  
I am going through the water cycle.  
Faster I'm going down  
like a drop on a mountain.  
Going down fast I'm hitting roots.  
I'm on a plant.  
The sky is blue.  
The grass is green.  
The sun hit me.  
I pop open going up and up.  
Then sunlight is making me pop.  
I am going to pop into a river.  
It's blue.  
I am picking up dirt.  
Going to the sea  
the more you dive the cleaner it gets.  
It's hot in the water.  
Then it's in the river.  
When I'm done going to the lakes,  
then I go to the river and sea.  
The person that looks at it, they will be safe.

*Jesus Valenzuela, age 11*  
*Challenger Middle School • Ms. Oliver*

## ***Ode to Monsoons***

It's the dead of summer.  
Cacti are shriveling and animals are thirsty.  
One day, a special day,  
huge dark clouds  
start to hover over the city of Tucson.  
Animals start to get excited.  
Some jump up and down.  
It starts as a sprinkle.  
Then it got serious.  
Animals scatter all over the place.  
Bunnies, lizards, coyotes and others.  
They dig in the moistened dirt  
and others hide under brittle mesquite  
as well as rocks.  
When all of a sudden, the clouds start  
to separate.  
The sun starts to shine.  
Cacti start to absorb water.  
The trees do the same.  
The ground is soggy, turned into mud.  
The animals start to drink  
from little puddles in the ground.  
This happened twice more.  
The cacti, trees, and other things were very happy at the end of the day.

*Christopher R. Grundas, age 11  
DeGrazia Elementary • Mr. Mayer*

## ***The Stars in the Sky***

Blue stars open,  
listen  
the rainbow river  
is free in the sun.  
Soft mountain rain sings.

*Eileen Infante, age 7  
Hudlow Elementary • Ms. Winter*

## ***Peaceful Desert***

I am a woodpecker helping an owl.  
There's a small drizzle and it feels good.  
I encountered a bark scorpion and ate it as my energy meal.  
I'm pecking at a nice soft saguaro cactus.  
There's a rhythm in my pecking.  
I'm on a spiky saguaro cactus.  
This brings back the memory of  
making my home.  
I carved an ideal hole for owls.  
I'm a woodpecker helping an owl.

*Daniel Davila, age 10*  
*Mesquite Elementary • Ms. Flora*  
***Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 3***

## ***Stop Looking Sam***

I'm sorry I hit you.  
It felt so good to crash down, slicing the wind as I fell to the ground.  
Sorry I made you jump when I announced my landing.  
When I boomed through your ears.  
When I got your cat wet.  
Sorry I shot through the sky on that late night you had work when your  
lights shut off and you stubbed your toe, I bet that hurt.  
Sorry your clothes never dried and I made your head hurt.  
The booming is good for your heart, Burt.  
I wish I could tell you how sorry I am, but I'm so full of smog I hardly can  
stand to even tell you my drops are so heavy.  
My feet, if I had them would be red and bloody.

*Ital Ironstone, age 14*  
*City High • Ms. Rude*

## ***Free Memory***

When history fades, believe sundown.  
Dream on the mesquite tree,  
the saguaro listening,  
deep in the lightness of the desert.  
Memory speaks inside free trees.  
Mountains trust the twilight.  
White rain is bound forever,  
in the voice in the blue calm river,  
in the rhythm that finds the rain.

*Alazae Santos, age 9*  
*Hudlow Elementary • Ms. Zeltmaier*

## ***Falling Smiles***

I am falling, falling, falling,  
through the atmosphere,  
while you're crawling, crawling, crawling,  
all around the world.

And then I shatter into a million molecules  
when I hit so hard,  
on the different levels of your world.

When you look up at me,  
falling towards your face,  
I see your smiles in piles,  
on the ground in different places  
all mixed up on different faces.

*Eliza Liu, age 14*  
*City High • Ms. Rude*  
***Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 4***

## ***Light on the River***

I have always wanted a hawk.  
I like it when it is cold.  
You know, I have a little sister.  
Sometimes, people say  
their voice isn't good.  
Now, for days  
we have light on the river.

*Harrison Chamberlain, age 7*  
*Desert Winds Elementary • Mr. Hasse*

## ***Walking Along the Desert***

I was walking along  
the smooth desert  
and the colorful snake  
was following me.  
I used some string,  
tied to a piece of wood  
to make a track.  
A hawk flew by me.  
It was starting to get dark.

*Jesus Chavira, age 7*  
*Desert Winds Elementary • Mr. Hasse*

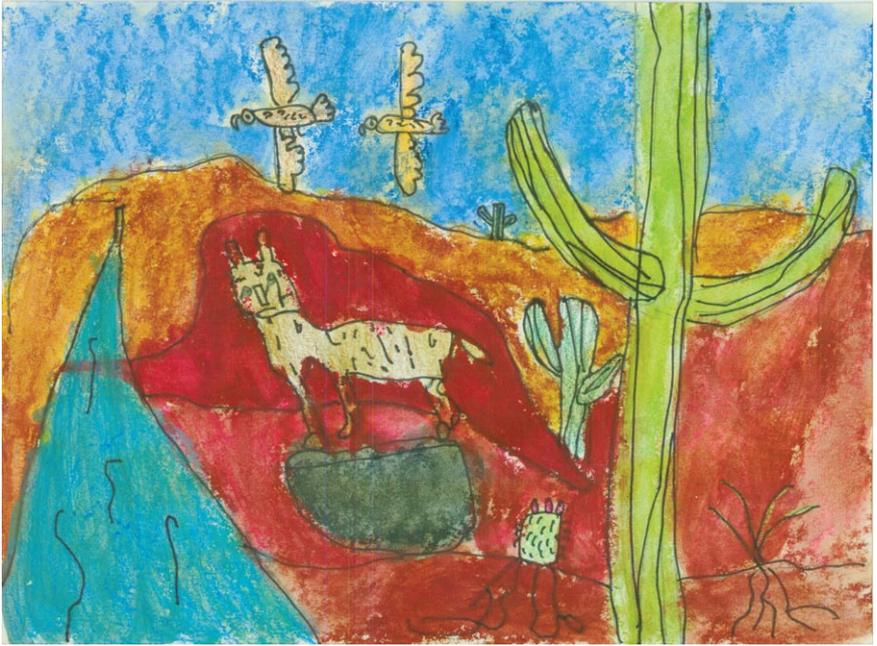
## ***Moonlight Shining*** ***A haiku***

Moonlight shining bright  
Reflecting off ocean deep.  
Oh, so beautiful.

*Amy L. Porter, age 9*  
*Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winsberg*



**Calming, Waterfall**  
*Lucinda Maryott-Moreno, age 7*  
Khalsa Montessori School • Ms. Hunnicutt



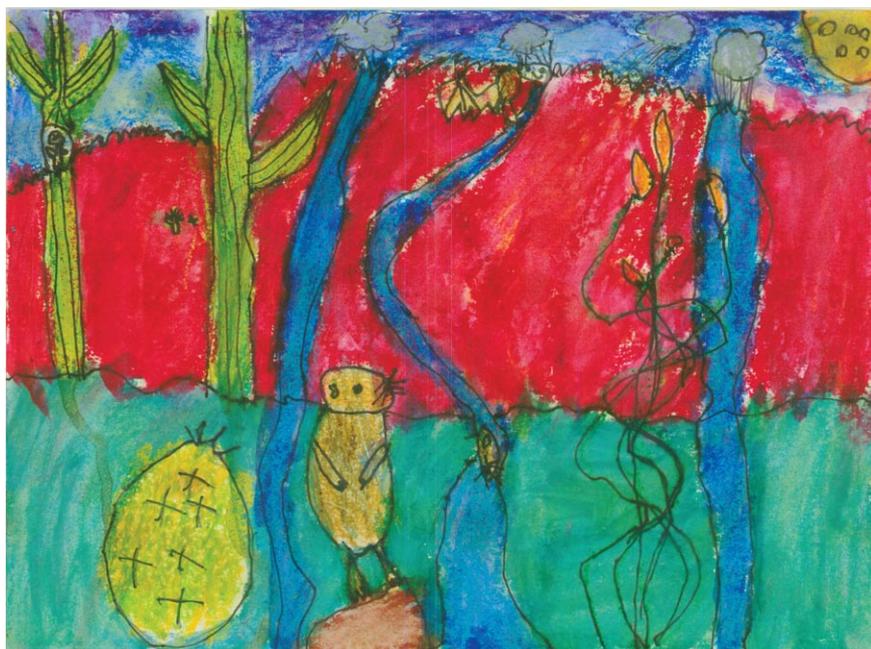
***Raining in Tucson***  
Aidan Myerscough, age 8  
Corbett Elementary • Ms. Gibson



***Down the River***  
Andres Lopez, age 11  
Challenger Middle School • Ms. Oliver



***Desert Land 1***  
David Dung, age 10  
Fort Lowell Elementary • Mrs. Himes



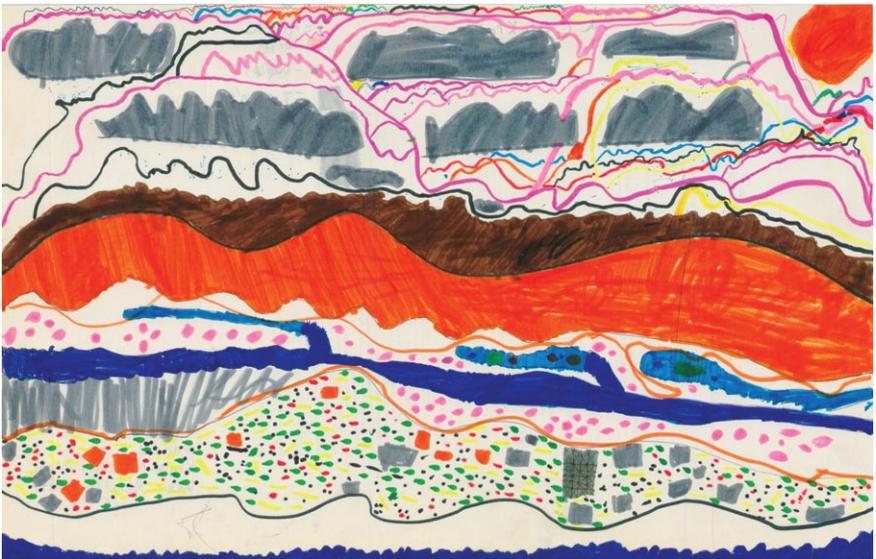
***The Beautiful Night***  
Alexander Light, age 7  
Corbett Elementary • Ms. Gibson



**Monsoon Day**

*Kimber Tucker, age 9*

*Tucson Academy of Leadership • Ms. Aurand  
Grand Prize–Art–Category 3*



**The Mountains**

*Jacob Kraft, age 8*

*Khalsa Montessori School • Ms. Hunnicutt*



*Itzel Garfio, age 12  
La Cima Middle School • Mr. Holaday*



**The Bird Exploring the Desert**

Shelby Lowder, age 8  
Corbett Elementary • Ms. Gibson  
Grand Prize–Art–Category 2



**The Javalina**

Joseph Duarte, age 10  
Tucson Academy of Leadership • Ms. Aurand



***The Ladybug***

*Isabella Ferrea, age 7*

*Khalsa Montessori School • Ms. Hunnicutt*

***Grand Prize–Art–Category 1***



***Splishy, Splashy Ocean***

*Cole Depue, age 8*

*Agua Caliente Elementary • Ms. Johnson*



***Saving Water***  
*Dominique Templeton, age 11*  
*Challenger Middle School • Ms. Oliver*



**Javelinas**

Jasia Cline, age 7

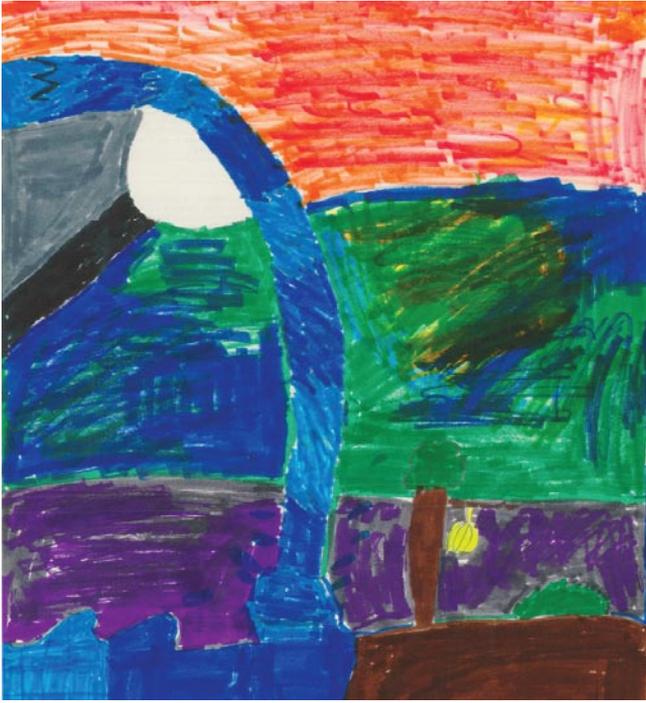
Desert Winds Elementary • Mr. Hasse



**Desert Artwork**

Piper Trujillo, age 9

Fort Lowell Elementary • Mrs. Fleck



**Sunset Waterfall**

*Evan Cozzi, age 9*

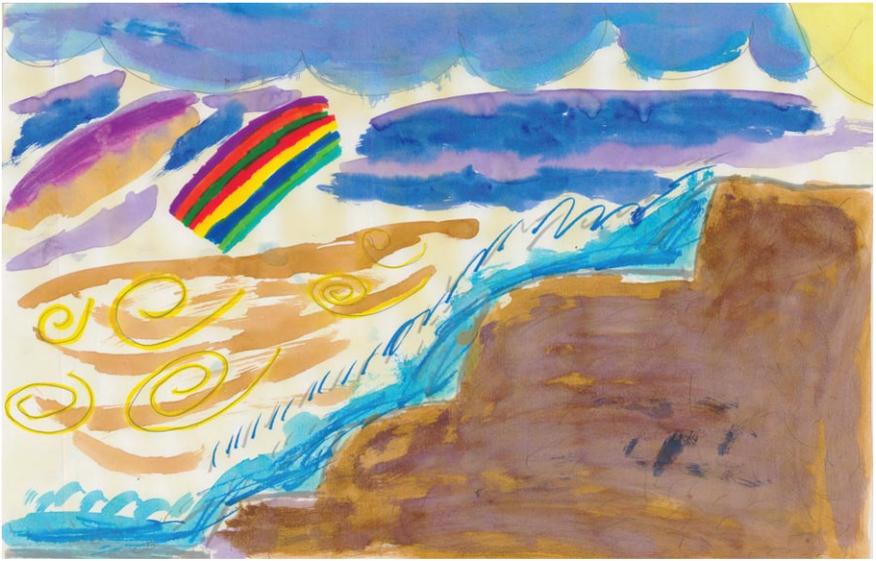
*Khalsa Montessori School • Ms. Hunnicutt*



**Midnight Stroll**

*Ryan Tran, age 12*

*La Cima Middle School • Mr. Holaday*



*Juan Gradillas, age 11  
Challenger Middle School • Ms. Oliver*



**Land of Wonder**  
*Tayven Hirt, age 9  
Fort Lowell Elementary • Mrs. Wright*



***Standing Out and Blending In- Egret and Turtles***

*Moriah Newhouse, age 13*

*Independent Entry • Mrs. Newhouse*



**Beautiful**

*Destiny Fuhrman, age 10  
Presidio School • Ms. Sager*



**Spiky Lizard**

*Daniel Rodriguez, age 11  
Tucson Academy of Leadership • Ms. Hawes*



**Rainstorm**

*April Manley, age 7*

*Desert Winds Elementary • Ms. Graham*



**Flowing River**

*Isaac Pimienta, age 7*

*Agua Caliente Elementary • Ms. Johnson*

## ***River***

River

Splashes

Splashes

Splashes

Snow

Drips

Drips

Drips

Drips

*Mateo Sierra, age 6*  
*Carden of Tucson • Mrs. Ram*

## ***Monsoons***

The heavy clouds  
Fill the dark night sky  
Rain begins to trickle and the  
clouds begin to cry  
The dirt turns into mud  
The streets start to flood  
The night turns to flashes  
The thunder booms and bashes  
Then it's quiet...  
Until the earth seems to crack  
The lightning  
And thunder is back.

*Alex Stephenson, age 14*  
*Transformational Learning Center Charter • Ms. Maakestad*

## ***Ode to Jack Rabbit***

Bunny! I yelled,  
Being four, seeing the  
brown streak, fluffy tail.  
Chasing the poor animal.  
I felt the air escape from me.  
Running too hard,  
Bunny is already gone.  
The prints are what I am following.  
I slow down, Momma calls,  
“Bunny escaped from the hunter?”  
I reply with “Yes.”  
The wash has my tiny foot prints  
in the white sand.  
I fall down. Dumb rock!  
I yell. I stumble up and march  
back to the bunny’s prints.  
I follow.  
Another bunny goes by hopping.  
Bunny!  
I yell, being four...

*Phoebe Schultz-Smith, age 11  
DeGrazia Elementary • Ms. Minninger*

## ***Stream of the Morning World***

The dark blue sky  
in the stream  
of the morning world.

*Adam Aldrich, age 7  
Desert Winds Elementary • Ms. Nugent*

## ***The Lake, the Mountain and the Wolf***

In the old woods of Targanhar  
rain gently falls down, touching the ground,  
Me, a gray wolf, vaults at a shining lake.  
It's wet and muddy, air that smells like a swamp  
passes by, birds chirp calmly in the distance.  
Animals run about, stepping on crunchy leaves.  
Plants are glassed and as green as new  
clean grass, shinning in the morning.  
A faint shimmer of sunlight peeks  
from the clouds into the lake.  
The lake is in the shape of  
Mario's shoe, a plain old shoe.  
It's spring time, around 79° degrees,  
the water lying within the lake  
falls through a waterfall  
into a large fresh, clear river.  
Water flows, quietly and slowly.  
Suddenly I spring towards a mountain touching the sky.  
Leaving the old wood of Targanhar,  
climbing up high, the woods are  
a small ant crawling away from me.  
The rain slowly stops, allowing evaporation to occur.  
Little particles I can't see rise into the sky up to the clouds,  
the water cycle works its ways.  
Finally the sun shines out; the soil is soggy and soaked.  
Winds blow, asking the leaves to dance around.  
Leftover, little raindrops travel down,  
jumping off of plant leaves, plunging down into the ground.  
Finally, I get to the top of the mountain.  
Becoming thirsty, unavailable to any fresh water,  
I must go down I thought yes, I must go down, down, down, back into the  
old woods of Targanhar and  
get what I need... a drink of fresh water.

*Rheana Romero, age 12  
Challenger Middle School • Ms. Oliver*

## ***Envy to the Rain***

Drip, drop  
The rain comes down.  
Nothing to restrain it.  
Nothing to hold it back.  
Unlike me,  
the rain comes and it goes  
as it pleases.  
It goes to different places  
that I haven't seen  
while I'm stuck  
working in the fields.  
Other people it meets,  
while I'm here growing wheat.  
There and here  
everywhere it goes  
while on the plantation,  
it's nothing but woes.  
One day, I wish  
to be like rain.  
Having a will of my own,  
because unlike me  
the rain is free.

*Sarah Edwards, age 14*  
*Transformational Learning Center Charter • Ms. Maakestad*

## ***Calling the Rains***

The yellow sun  
is so hot.  
The mountains call  
the rains to it.

*Nicholas Paxon, age 7*  
*Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Edgington*  
***Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 1***

## ***Water***

Water splashes

Water freezes

Water drips

Water rushes

Water falls

Water flows

Water flows

Water pours

Water drops

Water evaporates

*Trey Johnson, age 7  
Carden School of Tucson • Mrs. Yecies*

## ***Back to a River***

Wishing a mountain  
calling across a moment,  
whispering to the mountain,  
to the open sea,  
going to a rainbow.

Whisper to a river  
to swim to the edge,  
the rain from a cloud,  
comes back to a river.

*Peter Granoff, age 7  
Agua Caliente Elementary • Ms. Johnson*

## ***Desert Trail***

Trash on the ground  
    dead plants,  
scraped ground dead bushes,  
    shattered prickly pears,  
    a smashed barrel cactus  
    that has the resemblance of  
green play dough with flowers in it.  
    More crushed up sidewalk  
covering scraped ground desert,  
chip bags, pencils that are so old  
    they don't even have color.  
Flattened out balls everywhere  
    covering the land.  
Farther than the eye can see  
    is the wide open desert.

*Tyrus Cousineau, age 12*  
*Great Expectations Academy • Mrs. Brinson*

## ***Starry Night***

Stars, Stars,  
They whisper all night  
    Silent night  
People sleep,  
    Just right!  
    Silent night!  
Stars whisper,  
    All night!  
The moon, which is president  
Does its work until two o'clock,  
    Silent night!  
    Just right!

*Kayla Pierson, age 7*  
*Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Ratajczak*

## ***Lightning in the Rain***

Dark cloudy  
day brings flashing lights  
that destroys and burns.  
the thunders  
that make echoes of the flood.  
Smoke from the fires are so black.  
Winds carrying the smell of lightning.  
Then BOOM!  
All the lightning strikes at once!  
Making the earth shake and quake as if  
it were...Afraid.  
Lightning strikes  
one last time  
with the wind, and the fire,  
and the rain pouring down  
as if buckets of water  
were being thrown from the sky!  
All of them raging against  
each other for control.  
Out of nowhere there  
was peace, peace.  
Then sudden destruction.

*Zach Duron, age 15*  
*Transformational Learning Center Charter • Ms. Maakestad*

## ***Windy Day***

The same windy day  
as the other day  
knows when the desert is free.  
What wind is almost  
is almost blowing hard  
and when it was a windy day  
it was a windy day.

*Anthony Espriu, age 7*  
*Desert Winds Elementary • Ms. Nugent*

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 national contest.

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, Pima County Public Library, Tucson Children's Museum, and River of Words.

Many thanks to the 2010 Tucson's River of Words coordinators, educators, poetry and art judges, graphic designers, and volunteers: Wendy Burroughs, Yajaira Gray, Leia Maahs, Axhel Muñoz, Steve Russell, Catherine Nash, Kimi Eisele, Candace Greenburg, Laynie Browne, Renee Angle, Catherine Jacobus, Sally Krommes, Joy Mehulka, Edie Price, and Linda Howard.



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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](http://www.pima.gov/nrpr)



## 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 2011 contest is December 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**

