Where is all the Water?
Gabrielle Anderson, age 16
Independent Entry
Grand Prize–Art–Category 4
A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself.
~Laura Gilpin

*Tucson’s River of Words* Youth Poetry and Art engages young people 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. The vibrant images and lyrical poems contained in these pages convey the durable connections to nature shared by these young artists. *Tucson’s River of Words* is much more than a poetry and art contest; it is a cycle of activities each building upon the next. As the 2012 TROW exhibit and booklet is unveiled, we are gearing up for the next round of science study, watershed explorations, classroom workshops, community exhibitions, and celebrations.

**Tucson’s River of Words 2012–2013 Traveling Exhibit Schedule**

- **April 11 – May 15, 2012**
  Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center • 1660 W. Ruthrauff Rd.

- **May 17 – June 19, 2012**
  Martha Cooper Branch Library • 1377 N. Catalina Ave.

- **June 22 – July 18, 2012**
  Agua Caliente Park – Ranch House Art Gallery • 12325 E. Roger Rd.

- **July 21 – August 30, 2012**
  Pima County Juvenile Court • 2225 E. Ajo Way

- **September 6 – September 30, 2012**
  Dusenberry-River Branch Library • 5605 E. River Rd., # 105

- **October 2 – October 30, 2012**
  Quincie Douglas Branch Library • 1585 E. 36th St.

- **November 2 – November 29, 2012**
  Valdez Main Library • 101 N. Stone Ave.

- **December 1, 2012 – January 31, 2013**
  Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. Branch Library • 7800 N. Schisler Dr.

- **February 5 – March 17, 2013**
  Valencia Branch Library • 202 W. Valencia Rd.
Sun, Tell Me a Secret

The moon is in the sky.
Sun, tell me a secret.
Who flows and thinks about clouds?

Celestina Rivas, age 7
Robles Elementary • Mrs. Gary
Grand Prize—Poetry—Category 1

Pond and Road Runner

You abandoned me pond
There is a blazing fire road runner watch out
Save it for the monsoons pond that means shhh
Take me away
Get away
I can’t I flow
The fire hurts
I told you
Shhh
It burns
I’m blue and it looks like you got a tan

Aramis Huser, age 11
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Powers

Water

Wet in monsoon
Air is moist
Thunderstorms
Evaporating water drops
Rivers that flow

Adrian Celaya, age 9
Mesquite Elementary • Mrs. Knox
The Tortoise and the Eagle

It was pouring rain
the tortoise was walking in the desert
Its tongue was sticking out to catch the rain
a big eagle was circling the tortoise
the rain stopped
a beautiful pink, blue, purple, orange
red crystal rainbow was in the sky

Paige Murnane, age 7
Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Nugent

Tough River

A river is like a bobcat.
It roars and hisses.
It throws temper tantrums all around.
It’s big and ferocious.
It makes the biggest sound.

A river is like a wolf.
It is tough and can fight.
It gets angry and hungry.
It has sharp teeth that bite.

A river is also like a turtle.
It protects itself and
Can handle anything.
It has a hard shell.

Alexandra Lewis, age 9
Mesquite Elementary • Mrs. Urbalejo
**Water of the Desert**

The desert water dries  
the washes are vacant  
people of the desert await the clouds  
to pour some of the desert water  
they wait for the liquid of survival to flow on their tongue  
the water of the desert will pour

The rumbling, grumbling clouds of the Sonoran Desert  
The ground soaks up the tears of the sky  
as the ancient souls of our ancestors awaken  
The children sing and dance with the wind  
The trees wave at their old friend, the rain

The flowers open their eyes to the new guests  
As the adults peacefully drink tea  
as the water of the desert pours down  
The young critters of the desert scurry into their homes  
Seeking safety from the sudden bombing.

The clouds roll away as  
Our old pal, shines it face at us  
The people of the desert cheer for  
The water of the desert.

*Suwhan Kim, age 10*  
*Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Fisher*

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**The Rain**

There are scary dark clouds  
in the sky  
Loud angry thunder  
it started to rain  
Flooding monsoon rain  
all the animals ran back home

*Max Balicki, age 7*  
*Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Nugent*
Wishes
Light streams through clouds
making some mountains
shimmer with dew.
A wish becomes pure
in the twilight.
A fragile tear falls
into a stream.

Madeline Cheu, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Ratajczak
Grand Prize –Poetry –Category 2

La Fiesta de la Noche
Los coyotes bailan al ritmo de la cascada
splat, splat, splat.
Los grillos cantan a la bonita brillante luna
El sol comienza a brillar y la luna
comienza a irse.
Todos los animales comienzan a correr
a sus casas y esperan la otra fiesta
de la noche

Party of the Night
The coyotes dance to the rhythm of the waterfall
“splat, splat, splat”,
The crickets chirp to the beautiful moon,
The sun starts to appear and
the moon starts to vanish
all the animals start to scurry to their homes and
wait for another party of the night

Yudaliz Viguie Santini, age 9
Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Fisher
**Soil People**

Soil people look for water,  
They turn to fly through the hot air,  
They ride over mountains,  
They swirl though valleys,  
Soil people listen for thunder.

*Ambrose Houser, age 6*  
*Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter*

**Moisturizing Monsoons**

The breeze of desert air,  
Monsoon rain striking the dry ground.  
Rain falling on my head  
Rain falling on my tongue  
Rain falling on the palo verde trees.  
Rain sinking into the ground.  
Rain moisturizing the coughing dirt.  
Monsoon rain in the desert.

*Nicklaus Scott, age 9*  
*DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Gromley*

**Peaceful Noise**

A raindrop is like a gumdrop.  
A raindrop can be an icy rock.  
It can fall fast like a hawk.

When it rains,  
It pounds on a window.  
It makes a puddle on the ground.  
A monsoon can be a heaven of rainy rocks destroying my street.

*Gabriella Bermingham, age 10*  
*Mesquite Elementary • Mrs. Urbalejo*
A Drop of Water
Cathy Xia, age 9
Independent Entry
Grand Prize–Art–Category 3
The Lizard and the Wash  
Maeve McMahon, age 10  
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Brown

The Coyotes in the Desert  
Karah Mayer, Age 8  
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Johnson
Saguaro at Night
Sydney Gray, age 9
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Baine

Rainy Day in the Mountain
Raven Rose-Cowle, age 8
Presidio School • Mrs. Judd
Wild Scorpions
Kevin Cobb, age 7
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter
Sweet Desert Dessert
Ashlee Zaragoza, age 12
DeGrazia Elementary • Mr. Mayer

The Coyote in the Desert
Celeste Liniero, age 6
Pima County Drexel Heights Community Center
Water – Every Drop is Life
Cameron Strong, age 9
Independent Entry

Happily Playing Animals in the River
Kaitlyn Yom, age 6
Independent Entry
The Hummingbird
Triniti Echols, age 7
Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Graham

Mountains
Nick Rider, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter
Para - Para - Paradise
Anika Howe, age 13
Academy of Math and Science • Mrs. Hunter

Sunset Dew
Toni Vega, age 10
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. McCarthy
The Sonoran Desert
Jack Roberts, age 8
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. LaRose
Grand Prize–Art–Category 2

Saguaro with Rain
Gweneth Landis, age 10
Independent Entry
Water in Life
Sydney Kim, age 6
Independent Entry
Grand Prize—Art—Category 1
Animal’s Desert
Malayah Gamez, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter

Untitled
Billy Kimmins, age 7
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Sanchez
Perfect Harmony
Finn Aajakos, age 10
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Baine

Desert Road
Ivy Lowrance, age 8
Robles Elementary • Mr. Hill
Where the Coyote Lives
Abeni Hernandez, age 8
Pima County Drexel Heights Community Center
The Desert
Gabriel Valenzuela, age 10
Pima County Drexel Heights Community Center

A Day Out
Aaron Wentz, age 8
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Vengelen
Summer
Jennifer Cardenas, age 10
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Brown

The Sunset
Tory Shulman, age 8
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. LaRose
**Water is Life**

All of our water begins in the ocean.  
And once it heats up it gets into motion.

Evaporation puts it high in the sky,  
Forming it into gargantuan clouds that slowly fly.

Once it gets thick, it begins to fall,  
Single droplets one-by-one bringing water to all.

We drink it up and we’re now alive.  
Giving us energy to go for the things we strive.

Without water we would all die,  
Having life slip through our fingers with a final sigh.

Thanks to water we are all here,  
Knowing we have water available near.

*Miguel Cordova, age 15  
Academy of Math and Science • Mr. Armstrong*

**Small Puddle**

A puddle far off  
It is overflowing fast  
on a monsoon day

*Wesley Maloney, age 8  
Castlehill Country Day School • Mrs. Meyer*
**Fundamental**

The immortality – of Life, of Nature  
Nature and Life living  
forever – but within, mortality  
That alliance never falters  
An Ocean of Happiness they bring  
Unfortunate mortals fail  
to grasp its Beauty  
The Water cycle itself, an expression  
a confirmation  
In every refreshing – relieving  
drink of its clear liquid  
A taste of Tour  
through humans, though plants, through animals  
Sweet taste of Nature, of Life  
Yet all characters  
are just a small component  
Of an unknown Cycle

*Melissa Carrillo, age 14  
Academy of Math and Science • Mr. Armstrong  
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 4*

**The Red Ladybug**

So much depends  
upon  
the red lady  
bug  
glazed by the yellow  
sun  
next to the red  
wheelbarrow.

*Keri Oldham, age 6  
Carden of Tucson • Mrs. Ram*
Ah…
When the monsoon seasons come around
Pitter---patter---pitter---patter
All around
All the little creatures
Hiding in their dens
Waiting for the rain to end
When it stops-
All goes quiet
For all around
Everything is in bloom

*Isabel Ehlerman, age 9
Green Fields Country Day School • Mrs. Miller*

**Darkness of Light**

I see a light through the dust
As the wind blows the trees.
   I hear a sound
The water is coming.
I see a coyote drifting out of the darkness
Darkness is coming
   I wait,
   I see the moon.
   I find horses
A heavy wind blows through my hair.
   I am alone
   I listen
I hear steam coming
   I wait
It is raining on me
   I shiver
   I am cold
The water flows through my feet
   And I turn around.

*Cailin Randolph, age 7
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Door*
The River

The River,
Flowing,
Rushing,
Smooth and clear,
Cool and sweet,
Refreshing,
Fish swimming,
Plants growing.
Stones shining.
I know the river.
Because I am the naiad.
The river is my life.
It keeps me alive.
Wider here,
Thinner there,
Still,
It is my river
And I am its spirit.
I feed the fish.
I purify
And filter
The water.
I visit the ocean
And bring back
Fresh water.
For I would die without
The river
The river would die
Without me.
For I am the river.
And the river
Is me.

Amelia Miles, age 10
Satori Charter School • Mrs. Dudas
The Monsoon
How blue the monsoon pours.
It splashes through the week.
How soft it drops from the sky.
It fills me with delight.

Vivian Montalvo, age 8
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Northrop

The Mountains Go By
I see horses galloping
over the waterfall.
I see coyotes
on the blue mountains.
The waterfall goes by.
The horses go by.
The mountains go by in time.

William Simpson, age 7
Robles Elementary • Ms. Del Valle

One Desert in Joy
One desert in joy,
new storm and moons
over the homes of the animals.
The trees the stars,
the world falls in the pool.
The world sees the stars.
I would fall a long way.
I’m at home.

Madison Davis, age 7
Robles Elementary • Mrs. Gary
The Desert Monsoon

The sun is very hot
The hawks fly away
The cacti are burned
In the summer
A monsoon comes and refreshes the desert
The heat is washed away.

Nick Zaninovich, age 11
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Powers

Desert – River

a Rabbit by the river
an Iguana inviting friends
a jaVelina is joyful
a coyotE passed my cactus
and I saw a packRat running around
In the bright sunlight

I think I know
What they are trying to tell:
Drink the same water, breathe the same air
Live by the same river, under the same sun
We are the family, we are the friends…
Keep our river running
Keep this home clean…

By the light of the moon, Tonight
I woke up with big open eyes:
A RIVER running
Outside my door…

Cathy Xia, age 9
Independent Entry
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category3
Moon Rain
Rain on the moon’s wing.
   Wilderness is now
   far away, earth-lined.
   Moon’s wing flying
   to horses on the earth.

Lorelei Michaud, age 6
Robles Elementary • Mrs. Gary

Water in the Rincons
   Oh no!
   There is a flood in the Rincons
   But wait ….
   Why are we complaining?
   This is great!
   It spawns new life
   Like a new beginning
   And
   Hydrates the dry environment

Chris Schiff, age 11
Independent Entry

The Little Fuzzy Prairie Dog
   So much depends upon that
   Little fuzzy prairie dog
   Sitting near some water
   Looking at me
   Its eyes are blue
   And it is tan
   The water it is near
   Is sparkling.

Kolby Weaver, age 8
Carden of Tucson • Mrs. Yecies
**The Desert is Just Right for Me**

Some people live in the mountains and some by the sea
But I like to live in the desert because it is just right for me!

Summer monsoon storms come to the desert
  Rain is everywhere
  Splashing on the mountains, splashing on the wash
  The desert monsoons are just right for me!

Cactus is awesome in the place where I live
  I like their fruit and beautiful flowers
  The desert cactus is just right for me!

Sunset is beautiful in the purple mountains
  That’s the time that I like the sky best
  The desert sunsets are just right for me!

Desert animals are cute where I live
  Javelinas, coyotes, quail and rabbits
  The desert animals are just right for me!

Some people live in the mountains and some by the sea
But I like to live in the desert because it is just right for me!

*Michael Xia, age 7*
*Independent Entry*

**River Flow**

River flow, I don’t know
I don’t know which way to go
river flow, oh how it bends
all people’s waste now ends
river flow, now I know
now I know which way to go

*Jack Reynolds, age 10*
*Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Fisher*
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, and Pima County Public Library.

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 2013 contest is February 1, 2013.

How do I enter?
Additional information and entry forms are available at Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation.

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

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