Sunny Flight of A Hummingbird
Alexx Jacobs, age 14
Doolen Middle School • Mr. Baker
Grand Prize–Art–Category 4
“Let the rain kiss you. Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops. Let the rain sing you a lullaby.”
~Langston Hughes

Tucson’s River of Words Youth Poetry & Art Contest (TROW) is a local affiliate and State coordinator for River of Words (ROW). ROW was co-founded in 1995 by writer and activist Pamela Michael and then-US Poet Laureate Robert Hass. One of the program’s most noteworthy events, conducted in affiliation with The Library of Congress Center for the Book, is a free, annual international poetry and art contest for children in kindergarten through twelfth grade. TROW engages local youth 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.

**Tucson’s River of Words 2013–2014 Traveling Exhibit Schedule**

**April 11 – May 15, 2013**  
Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center • 1660 W. Ruthrauff Rd.

**May 18 – June 18, 2013**  
Martha Cooper Branch Library • 1377 N. Catalina Ave.

**June 21 – July 17, 2013**  
Agua Caliente Park – Ranch House Art Gallery • 12325 E. Roger Rd.

**July 20 – August 29, 2013**  
Pima County Juvenile Court • 2225 E. Ajo Way

**September 5 – October 17, 2013**  
Dusenberry-River Branch Library • 5605 E. River Rd., # 105

**October 23 – November 30, 2013**  
Quincie Douglas Branch Library • 1585 E. 36th St.

**December 4 – December 30, 2013**  
Joel Valdez Main Library • 101 N. Stone Ave.

**January 4 – February 13, 2014**  
Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. Branch Library • 7800 N. Schisler Dr.

**February 18 – March 20, 2014**  
Valencia Branch Library • 202 W. Valencia Rd.

This book is dedicated to 2013 Tucson’s River of Words Teacher of the Year, Cassandra Dudas from Satory Charter School and all the teachers and parents/guardians that create opportunities for children to connect with nature and promote the integration of science, language, and the arts.
**Desert Water Cycle**
The storm comes in when the cold and warm air meet,
They fight and making powerful gray clouds,
Rain pours down from the clouds and pounds the sand,
Water fills washes that strongly flow,
Quick desert rivers dry up too quick in the hot sun!

Hannah Guthrie, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter

**The Desert Rain**
The water evaporated
Leaving the Desert a burned
Empty crate, Dry as dust this burning
Piece of crust, thirsty plants crack,
The steam singes my back,
The sticky arid heat, the
Scorched sand under my feet.
Then
The
Cloud
Comes
Hear the
Joyful
Hum
The Blessing of Rain.

Gloriana Guillermo, age 11
DeGrazia Elementary • Mr. Mayer

**The Blue Horizon**
Yesterday, I cried at the sunlight.
I was sitting under the mesquite tree.
I was walking by the rushing water.
I was running to the mountains.
I was awake under the nightfall
I heard the calling of water
drifting in the air.

Natalie Cyr, age 7
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Ratajczak
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 2
Night of the Butterfly

The butterfly floats through the air
She can find her share of animals there
The cactus wren flying high and the Gila monster below
While her wings put on a colorful show
She flies all day and all night
While the sunset turns the sky into colorful bands of light
The desert never sleeps
As wild animals creep
And cut through the dark
The owl leaves his mark
A coyote howls
While he prowls
For things of the night
Before the first signs of daylight
The butterfly lands on a cactus flower
Which has a certain kind of power
And watches this desert night slip away
For a new kind of desert day

Savana Sasser, age 14
Independent Entry
Grand Prize—Poetry—Category 4

CHANGING

Long creeks in the mountains
turn into streams in the evening.

WHITE THINGS
White things always hurry
in the evening.

MONSOON
Monsoons, out-flowing
wildlife.

SILENCE
Wide silence
to the heart
and everywhere.

LOVE
True love
in you heart.

Connor Young, age 7
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Ratajczak
Roadrunner
I can hear you run.

Who says you can’t make a rattlesnake out of a monsoon?

Isabel Valenzuela, age 6, Pima County Drexel Heights Community Center
Grand Prize—Poetry—Category 1

The Owl
An owl swiftly flies past the rising desert sun, looking across the empty desert, scouring the land for his prey. He Stops. Distressed, he perches himself upon a tree resting his tired wings as a new night begins he flies past the moon, casting an ebony shadow upon the earth

Enzo Mars, age 10 Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Fisher

Rain in the Desert
After it rained in the desert

A lizard was resting on a big gray rock

A scorpion was crawling on the ground in the wet desert sand.

Butterflies were fluttering around bright cactus flowers.

Lily Hernandez, age 8 Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Nugent
**Million Drops of Water**

A million drops of water falling through the rocks

A million drops of water sparkling in the sun like pearls

A million drops of water ending in a river find their way to the ocean

A million drops of water creating childlike happiness laughter and fun

A million drops of water that will soon reach the tide of the long white beaches.

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**Millones de Gotas de Agua**

Millones de gotas de agua caen en las rocas

Millones de gotas de agua brillando en el sol como perlas

Millones de gotas de agua terminando en un río para luego encontrar el camino al océano

Millones de gotas de agua creando felicidad infantil risa y la diversión

Millones de gotas de agua que pronto van a llegar a la marea de las blancas y largas playas

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**The Wind**

It rains.
The rainbow burst up in the still sky.
The rainbow is calling me.

Everything is still in the breeze.
A saguaro makes the wind deep.

A leaf swoops by me.
It is happiness to be in the desert.
The world shakes and glides my way.

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*Ana Cristina Sarmiento, age 10*
*Manzanita Elementary • Mrs. Fisher*
*Grand Prize—Poetry—Category 3*

*Mariel Homoki, age 8*
*Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Johnson*
**Where do they go?**
Where do they go, animals of the desert?
The water is running out,
The summer is running long,
When will the rain come and fall from the sky?
Animals of the desert are thirsty.

*D’Angelo Taylor, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter*

**Gone**
The world is still
Only dryness
Water’s rare
Climate changed
Animals die
Humans struggle
Sizzling, Scorching ground
The world changed
To dust

Drip you hear
Drip it gets louder
Drip
You see it
Rain
Plants already look greener
Everyone is happier
Finally
Soon it’s gone
Mirage
Should’ve known
I hear more crackling

The world is still
Only dryness
Water’s rare
Climate changed
Animals die
Humans struggle
Sizzling, Scorching ground
The world changed
To dust

*Hannah Schwager, age 12
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Powers*
Kangaroo Rat by a Cactus
Alesha Sprague, age 6
Fort Lowell/Townsend K-8 • Mrs. Aho

Thirsty Coyote
Alyssa Flores, age 9
Presidio School • Mrs. Cohn
The Ducky
Breana Valencia, age 8
Pima County Catalina Community Center

A View of the Desert
Weston Haebig, age 8
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Vengelen
The River of Life
Anthony Farruggia, age 7
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Johnson

Atreyu Tolson, age 7
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Roberts
The Lazy Frog and His Friend
Delaney Birge, age 9
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Endorf
Water, the Soul of Our Earth
Ben Anmad Ghemarawi, age 12
Independent Entry
Purple Mountain
Catarina Gonzales, age 11
DeGrazia Elementary • Mr. Mayer

The Desert’s Water
Sheldon Southard, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter
Grand Prize—Art—Category 1
Roadrunner
Darius Jones, age 6
Fort Lowell/Townsend K-8 • Mrs. Aho

Going into the Sunset
Edgar Peralta, age 14
Doolen Middle School • Mr. Baker
Banesa Valencia, age 7
Pima County Catalina Community Center

It’s Raining
Emily G. Bailey, age 8
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Roh
Gophers and Water
Ella Brown, age 8
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Sanchez
Grand Prize—Art—Category 2
Nice Day in Arizona
Israel Garcia Solorio, age 10
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Gordon

Cactus Mountain
Gino Veneziano, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter
Water Brings Life
Hazel Worobey, age 10
Borton Magnet Elementary • Mr. Wagner

Joshua Schoene, age 11
Pima County Catalina Community Center
Mountain Deer
Luis Isaiah Williams, age 9
Ochoa Community Magnet • Mrs. Lynch
Contaminated Life
Joelle, age 14
Sky Islands High School • Ms. Lantz

Bobcat in the Rain
Skyler Wallace, age 8
Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Nugent
The Desert in Action
Jillian Calloway, age 9
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. Baine

The Rainstorm
McKenna Whisenart, age 7
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Ludeke
The Desert
Gabriel Neal, age 10
Satori Charter School • Mrs. Dudas

Watching Carefully, Slowly, and Quietly
Hannah Shealy, age 10
DeGrazia Elementary • Mrs. Endorf
The Amazing Waterfall
Lexi Martinez, age 9
Tanque Verde Elementary • Miss Marr
Tucson’s Tranquil Treasure
Micaela Zachmeier, age 13
Independent Entry
The Rain in the Desert
Cruz Ureña, age 7
Davis Bilingual Elementary Magnet • Sra. Hernández

Night Desert
Sam McDowell, age 8
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. LaRose
Donde los Chumpas Viven en el Desierto
Samuel Padilla, age 8
Davis Bilingual Elementary Magnet • Sra. Hernández

The Red Rocks
Reid Foster, age 7
Tanque Verde Elementary • Mrs. LaRose
The Dancing Word

The Drip, Dripity, Plop, Plop of water.
    Wheeeeee!
The fox went tap, tap, tap.
Plop is the moon and the moon is me.
The river is dancing in its water.
Throwing water on plants creating life.
More and more animals are dancing on the ground.
Word comes up to life and to see the party!
The animals head back home.
    It is a party on the moon.
Ooh! Awe! The animals say.
They faced into the moon.
The Drip, Dripity, Plop, Plop of water.
Dancing words!

Angel Soqui, age 8
Ochoa Community Magnet School • Mrs. Lynch
The Big Storm
A good day
playing outside
clouds getting dark
clouds were crying
loud thunder
In the desert sky
crashing clouds
MOM CALLED US
and yelled to get inside
even the animals dashed
to their holes
out of the thunder and lightning
and loud rain

Jonathon Witte, age 8
Desert Winds Elementary • Mrs. Nugent

Frog Wars
Wet waves flow in the cold clear
Pond in a heat-wave with clouds
After rain and hydration, you hop
In with green mucus covered skin known
as the frog and see a Sonoran snake
that’s hungry. You trick him out of the
water while you suck up water
in your mouth. When you travel far
and he’s about to hear you, spray
your water in his face and hop
away fast all the way to the dry pond.

You look for your pond, but all you see
Is evaporated crusty sand in your pond.
You curse the suns heat for making you
Sweaty, thirsty, and having a heat stroke.
You hide, under some mold and it’s surprisingly
Cold underneath and then you fall into
A very deep sleep and pass away.

Ayse C. Killough, age 11
Sonoran Science Academy • Mrs. Cansler
As the Rain Falls

As the first drip comes down a coyote scampers back to its den.

The rain thickens
A small fawn awakes who had never seen such a thing.

Rain slows colors appear in the sky an Anna’s hummingbird comes out to find a flower to quench her thirst

The last drop that the Sonoran Desert will see for a year Falls!

Anna White, age 10
Khalsa Montessori • Mrs. Sheldon
Monsoon Storms
Black clouds of monsoon season,
Kicking rain across the valley,
Booming and bursting from the black clouds,
The desert gets a drink.

Jennessa Lara, age 7
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter

Desert Storm
Gray clouds fill the sky
The wind blows way up high
Flash, flash lightning strikes
The thunder shouts at my side
When will it come to I
Pitter patter pitter patter
Streams are racing drips are pattering
Birds are singing, bugs run to hide
Flowers are dancing and so am I
After a pouring rain
The sky turns bright and light
Radiant colors from red to purple
A colorful arch that meets my eye
What a wonderful day in desert life!

Willow Yong, age 9
Khalsa Montessori • Mrs. Bodenheimier

Cheers to Water
Cheers to water in the desert!
Its refreshing taste helps thirsty animals.
Also, it gives to the crazy to the lazy
to the creepy to the sleepy and to the fuzzy.
It gives to plants. That’s why water is
our ally. It’s more than our ally, it’s our family!
It also helps the winners, the losers
and the bluesers and everything thankful for it.
We share it fairly so that everybody can use it.
There’s a way to reuse it, a resource we must use
wisely, use it to help the planet.

Nicholas Portell, age 8
Khalsa Montessori • Ms. Star
**The Flood**

The water falls like its pouring from the sky.
The water slithers like a snake into the house.
   Ssss.
The house is flooding!
The people’s things are floating away.
Lightning goes flash!
Thunder goes BOOM-BOOM-CRACK!
The rain stops.
The flood waters go down.
Then the flood slithers to another place.
   Ssss

*Manuel Delgado, age 9
Ochoa Community Magnet School • Mrs. Lynch*

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**Water**

Water trickles
Out of streams
Swashes water out
To the cracked desert floor
Rain comes down
In a swirly motion
Comes down to give water
To the earth
The rain dries
The sun evaporates it in a spiraling motion

*Amaya Mortensen, age 9
Mesquite Elementary • Mrs. Hernández*
**Shower of Flowers**

When the rain falls. The flowers open their eyes as they reach their delicate arms. To the rainy sky. And as the moon falls, one by one they close their eyes to the night sky.

_

*Erin Kelaher, age 10*

*Khalsa Montessori • Mrs. Sheldon_

**Water**

Animals of all kinds will drink
Not one of then has to think
You could say it’s an instinct
Like a bird eats an insect
To drink water

Clean, fresh, and drinkable
Not to have that is unthinkable
Every living thing will cheer
The importance of water is clear
So drink water
Rain is so precious in the desert
To the plants it’s like a desert
But the animals might groan
As the rain flood there home
The rain, is water

A rainbow stretches across the sky
The birds fly alongside, and say hi
A burst of color that makes them sing
Water can bring such beautiful things
A rainbow, from water

A beautiful sight, after a grey day
Some things may look up and say yay
Others will miss the dark grey clouds
The lightning bolts and thunder that’s loud
And the-water

*_Sophia Laing, age 12_*

*Khalsa Montessori • Mrs. Bodenhemier*
The Breathtaking Winter

Winter in the desert.
It feels very cool.
Lots of animals come out to see me.
Thousands of them come out
I can’t even count.
When winter is over
Lots of water starts to drip.
I go out to play, then I fall and slip.
Next thing I know I’ll be hurt.
Someone! Someone! Can anybody help?
No one. No one. No one.
Sorry you’re hurt, said the wind.
I can’t help. I’ll have to let you be.
So don’t come looking for me
Until you die. Sorry.
I’ll see you in heaven.
Take care of yourself.
Please. Please. Please.
When you die I’ll give you
A special blessing and you’ll become me.
And take the powers of the weather.
If you can’t handle it, I can.

Maya Cordova, age 8
Khalsa Montessori • Ms. Star

Flowers

Our flowers need the water,
Their stems and leaves fall,
Their roots go looking for old rainwater,
Their colors look to the sun.

Leila Condoy, age 6
Hudlow Elementary • Mrs. Winter
Entries from River of Words

Tucson’s River of Words (TROW) is a local affiliate and State Coordinator for River of Words. All of the entries submitted to TROW are forwarded on to a separate judging process at the national level. The following are entries that were selected for award by River of Words 2013.

Shadows from the Moonlight

The shiny moonlight
Coming up
From the mountain
Releases shadows from the universe.

How does the valley open up?
A lifetime
Of wind and shadows
Surrounding me.
I hear the calling of the invisible waters.

Taylor DePrincipe, age 8
Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Ratajczak
Grand Prize–Poetry–Category 2
River of Words

Go Inside a Snake’s Tooth

Let someone be a flower or a dove but I like being a snake’s tooth.
It’s a venom world with a song of bravery.
Maybe it’s a riddle, maybe there’s light.
Perhaps it’s sweet and colorful.
Maybe it’s like a haven, a home, a crazy world of song and color.

Sienna Carpenter, age 8
Carden of Tucson • Mrs. Gardner
Finalist–Poetry–Category 2
River of Words
Tucson’s River of Words (TROW) is a community collaboration made possible with the support from Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Tucson-Pima Arts Council, and Pima County Public Library. We thank Central Arizona Project for a charitable grant in support of TROW.

We would like to express our gratitude to the individuals that made this a successful project.

**Coordinators:** Wendy Burroughs, Yajaira Gray, and Leia Maahs

**Educators:** Yajaira Gray, Axhel Muñoz,

**Poetry and Art Instructors:** Norah Booth, Neil Diamente, Kimi Eisele, Paul Fisher, Candace Greenburg, Alex Jones, Carolyn King, Elizabeth Quinn-Worrall, and Gavin Troy

**Visual Art Judges:**
Lynn Fleishman, Executive Director – The Drawing Studio
Morgan Wells, Education Director Tucson Museum of Art

**Poetry Judges:**
Sarah Kortemeier, University of Arizona Poetry Center
Eric Magrane, Poet, Ecologist
Ellen Bjorquist, Poet Educator
Roberto Bedoya, Tucson Pima Art Council
Sharon O’Brien, Literacy Connects
Rebecca Seiferle, Tucson Poet Laureate

**Graphic Designers:** Edie Price, Helen Wilson, and Joy Mehulka

**Volunteers:** Laura Cotter and Linda Howard

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**Dear Ant,**

I am expecting you! The bats are working on the cave. The rattlesnake is helping. When are you coming?

Yours,

Frog

*Brooke Luoma, age 8*
*DeGrazia Elementary School • Mrs. Roberts*
*Finalist–Poetry–Category 2*
*River of Words*

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**PEACE**

Summer horses, hawk on saguaro.
Life speaks to the moon and sky,
trees, a river, it seeps like fields,
a snake slithering within
spirit and peace.

*Yesenia Romero, age 8*
*Agua Caliente Elementary • Mrs. Door*
*Finalist–Poetry–Category 2*
*River of Words*
Tucson’s River of Words
Youth Poetry and Art Contest

www.pima.gov/nrpr
www.tucsonpimaartscouncil.org

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