



Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
109 Trowbridge Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242-1319

PLEASE
POST.

2009 River of Words IOWA
Environmental Poetry & Art Exhibit Schedule
Cedar Rapids Museum of Art – Aug. 1-23
National Mississippi River Museum, Dubuque – Sept. 1-21
State Capitol Building, Des Moines – Oct. 1-8



announces the

2010 River of Words®

Environmental
Poetry & Art
International Competition

→ New deadline...New entry forms

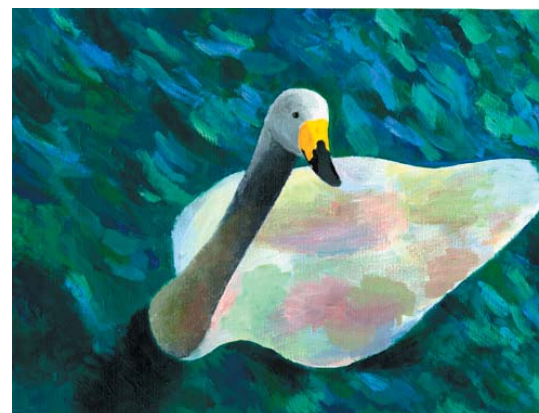
STUDENTS
ages 5-19 in grades K-12



2009 IOWA WINNER – Grades 10-12 ART

Contrast in the Fog

Phoebe Jones, age 16, Fairfield, Iowa



2009 INTERNATIONAL
GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Atalanta Shi, age 13
Burnaby, BC, Canada
Swan

As the day's last sliver of sunlight dances westward across the land, it reveals in each wetland, lake, & stream a reflection that cannot be described with earthly words. Perhaps these visual reflections are what draw us to lakes & rivers for our emotional reflections – the sights, the sounds, the serenity – there's something about water that captivates us & sets us free.

These reflections reveal our physical connections with water – our actions on land are directly reflected in our streams, rivers, & lakes. If we manage our land wisely, we can protect, preserve, & enjoy our aquatic resources forever.

The first step to understanding the interconnectedness of our world is gaining a profound respect for the resources found within it, & the first step in acquiring this respect is spending time in & around our streams, rivers, & lakes – paddling, swimming, fishing, monitoring the quality of their waters – letting their reflections lead us to our own.

Each year, in affiliation with The Library of Congress Center for the Book, River of Words® (ROW) conducts a free international poetry & art contest for youth on the theme of watersheds. The contest is designed to help youth explore the natural & cultural history of the place they live, & to express what they discover through poetry & art. Entries not chosen as finalists or grand prize winners in the international contest are returned to IOWATER, where they are judged in an Iowa statewide River of Words® competition.



Unseen Secrets

I hide my secrets in the core of a brick
and on the surface of a star.

I tell my secrets to the unseen spirits around me
and the light rays from the sun.

Secrets live where man cannot go,
in the farthest part of space
and inside a velvet mite.

2009 GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Grades K-2 Poetry

Quinn H. Whitlow, age 7
St. Louis Park, Minnesota
Unseen Secrets

River of Words®

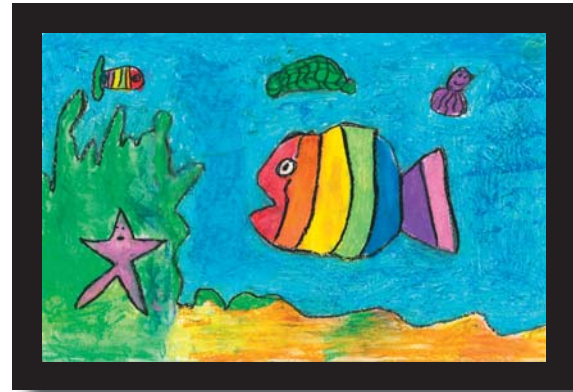
Every year, River of Words® (ROW) conducts an international environmental poetry and art competition for youth aged 5 to 19 in grades K-12, in affiliation with The Library of Congress Center for the Book. This free contest is designed to help youth explore the natural environment and cultural history of the place they live, and to express what they discover through poetry and art. Iowa entries not chosen as finalists or grand prize winners in the international contest are returned to IOWATER, where they are judged in a statewide IOWA River of Words® Environmental Poetry and Art competition.

The IOWATER Volunteer Water Monitoring Program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources coordinates the IOWA River of Words® Environmental Poetry and Art competition. Over 530 students from Iowa entered the 2009 contest, either through their schools, community art centers, local libraries, or on their own. Because of the large number of quality Iowa entries, the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art generously offered to host a juried River of Words® IOWA Environmental Poetry and Art Exhibit for the second year in a row. Thirty-seven works of poetry and art were selected to be included in the ROW exhibit, held August 1 thru August 23, 2009. Both the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque and the State Capitol Building in Des Moines signed on to host this traveling exhibit following its run in Cedar Rapids.

Shown here are the winning entries for each category in the 2009 Iowa competition. We hope you enjoy these efforts by Iowa's youth to explore and understand our environment, and to express their experiences through art and poetry.

Here's how the contest works each year...

- Entries must be sent by **December 1** to:
River of Words, PO Box 4000-J
Berkeley, CA 94704 USA
Phone: 510-548-POEM (7636)
Fax: 510-548-2095
- ROW returns Iowa's entries to IOWATER in April for state competition.
- Iowa's state winners are chosen in May.



IOWA WINNER Grades K-3 Art

Julia Jones age 8
Manson Northwest Webster School
Barnum, Iowa
Rainbow Fish

Black-eyed Susan

Water flowing, rushing in
I am the protector
The barrier between
Absorbing water
Stopping it from streaming past
Will not back down
Will not let through
Strong stalk and bright yellow blossom
Recognized from horizons away
I am the black-eyed Susan
Preventing the flood
Halting disaster

IOWA WINNER Grades 10-12 Poetry

Katie Oxendine
age 18
Davenport Central High School
Davenport, Iowa
Black-eyed Susan

The Turtle

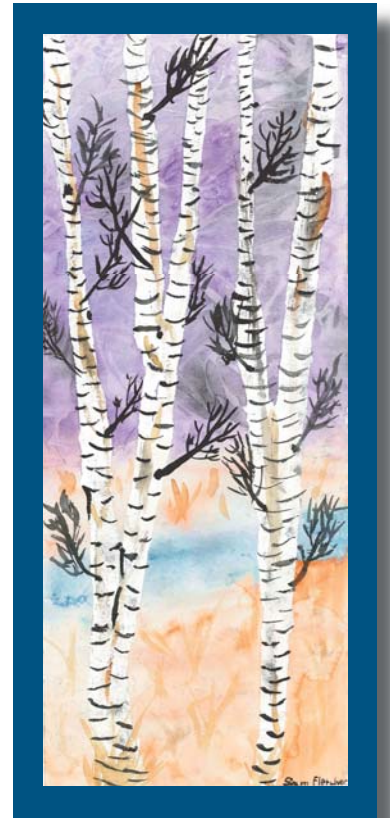
Swish
swash.
The water
is
slowly
trickling
down
the
rocks.
The color
of the turtle's
shell
is
red and black.

IOWA WINNER Grades K-3 Poetry

Lejla Cardenas
age 9
McKinley Elementary School
Des Moines, Iowa
The Turtle

IOWA WINNER Grades 4-6 Art

Sam Fletcher
age 11
Ballard East
Elementary School
Cambridge, Iowa
Birch Trees



The Mississippi

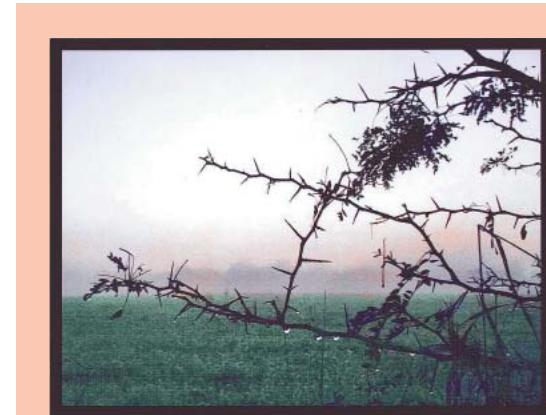
rivers
wet, winding
flowing, swerving, darting
fun, clean, soft, gentle
water

IOWA WINNER Grades 7-9 Poetry

Cody Ritner
age 12
Decorah, Iowa
Ocean of Clouds

IOWA WINNER Grades 4-6 Poetry

Nicholas Moran
age 9
Resurrection School
Dubuque, Iowa
The Mississippi



IOWA WINNER Grades 10-12 Art

Phoebe Jones
age 16
Fairfield, Iowa
Contrast in the Fog

IOWA WINNER Grades 7-9 Art

Ali Biggar
age 12
Clay Central/Everly Schools
Royal, Iowa
A Country Sunrise



Ocean of Clouds

An ocean of clouds
Hovers over the city
Like a soft and gushy
Pillow for the gods.
It shimmers in the light
Like a blanket of snow
Protecting its people.

Important guidelines to keep in mind...

New Deadline for entries – December 1, 2009

Each entry must be original and have the appropriate entry form securely attached to it, facing out (no paperclips). Do not mat, mount, laminate, frame, or fold entries.

Poems must not exceed 32 lines and should be typed or written in ink.

Original artwork should be on paper, and not exceed 11" x 17" in size. Photo entries must be at least 8" x 10".

For more information and entry forms, contact:

Pat Lohmann, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
109 Trowbridge Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242-1319
Email: Pat.Lohmann@dnr.iowa.gov
Phone: 319-335-1575

or go to www.iowater.net and click on River of Words



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