

### National Grand Prize Winners from Iowa

#### ART

*Genesis: A Drop of Life* by Hannah Harms, age 18 of Waverly

### National Finalists from Iowa

#### POETRY

*Spiderlings* by Mitchell Oberfoell, age 10 of West Des Moines

#### ART

*Drought* by Emily Delleman, age 15 of Davenport

*Have Confidence in Your Reflection* by Elizabeth Heidt, age 17 of Davenport

### Iowa Runners-Up

#### POETRY

*River* by Nathan Moser, age 9 of Urbandale

*Home Sweet Home* by Kennedy Boyd, age 11 of Waukee

*Rain* by Tessa Meyer, age 14 of Cambridge

*Renewed* by Lorraine Pereira, age 15 of Davenport

#### ART

*Tropical Water Fall* by Sophie Cochran, age 9 of Urbandale

*Chameleon* by Emma Chambers, age 10 of Dubuque

*Sunlight* by Karlin McGarvey, age 12 of Ankeny

*The Crown* by Michael Helmich, age 15 of Davenport

### Iowa Honorable Mentions

#### POETRY

*Waste in the Water* by Aubrey Opperman, age 9 of Urbandale

*Cattails* by Colten Teem, age 9 of Urbandale

*Rain* by Jaden Sochit, age 9 of Urbandale

*River of Thoughts* by Jude Borroweo, age 10 of West Des Moines

*Super Cell* by Mitchell Oberfoell, age 10 of West Des Moines

*Forest Voices* by Mitchell Oberfoell, age 10 of West Des Moines

*The Stream* by Janae Kastendick, age 11 of Grinnell

*Ocean at Dusk* by Hope Roland, age 13 of Grinnell

*In the Woods* by Lauryn Brown, age 14 of Polk City

*Where is IT?* by Arika Allen, age 16 of Davenport

*Peril* by Alexis King, age 17 of Davenport

*The Wondrous Woods* by Collin Herington, age 18 of Bettendorf

#### ART

*Waterhshed* by Nathan Moser, age 9 of Urbandale

*Daphne's pond* by Meridan Boyd, age 9 of Waukee

*Robin* by Emma Chambers, age 10 of Dubuque

*First Snow* by Maddie Mann, age 12 of Ankeny

*Tiptoe* by Zoe Dill, age 12 of Grinnell

*Bridge Over Iowa Water* by Suzanna Host, age 15 of Polk City

*The Ocean Reclaims* by Hannah Hansen, age 15 of Davenport

*Italian Waterfront* by Rachel Lyle, age 16 of Davenport

*Elephant* by Jamie Thurston, age 16 of Madrid

Every year, River of Words® 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 and St. Mary's College of California. Iowa entries not chosen as finalists or grand-prize winners in the international contest are returned to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, where they are judged in a statewide competition. This year, over 265 students from Iowa entered the contest through their schools, community art centers, community groups, or on their own. The Iowa entries are evaluated by a panel of judges, and the top works in each category are selected to be included in an exhibit that will travel around the state for the coming year. This year's exhibit includes 46 works of poetry and art by talented Iowa students.

## Bullied Leaves

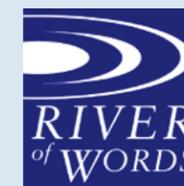
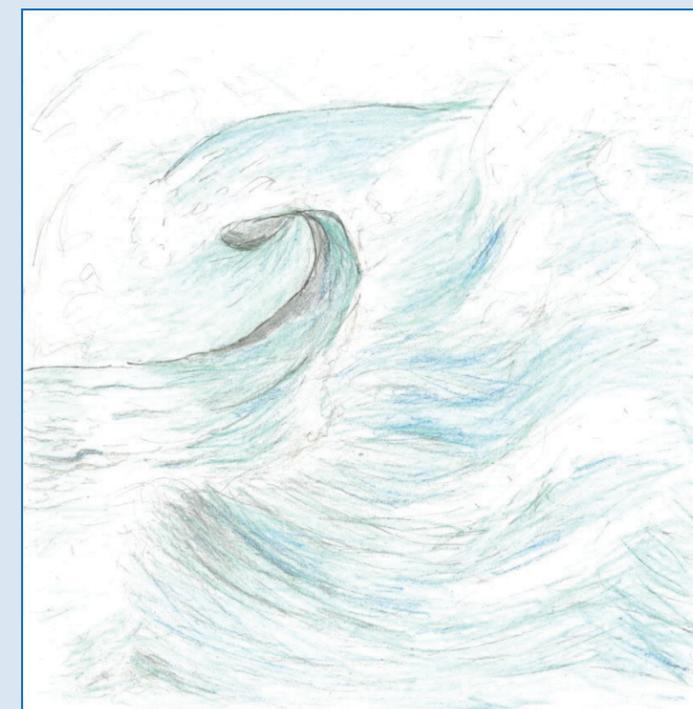
Crimson, scarlet, goldenrod  
A majestic purple leaf  
Bricks and blood stain the trees  
Some mustard yellow drops  
Speckled with dried, crinkly spots  
Plummet to the earth  
The colors fade together  
Making a color tree  
My reward for capturing so much color  
Is even more color to see

Some rich forest greens  
Linger still  
Mocked by the others  
Some have fallen  
Laughed upon  
By those who haven't  
Prejudice amongst the leaves

IOWA WINNER  
Grade 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Poetry  
Celesta Cox, Age 12  
Ankeny, Iowa  
*Bullied Leaves*

For more information, contact:  
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# The Iowa Department of Natural Resources presents the 2013 River of Words® Iowa Environmental Art & Poetry Contest Winners

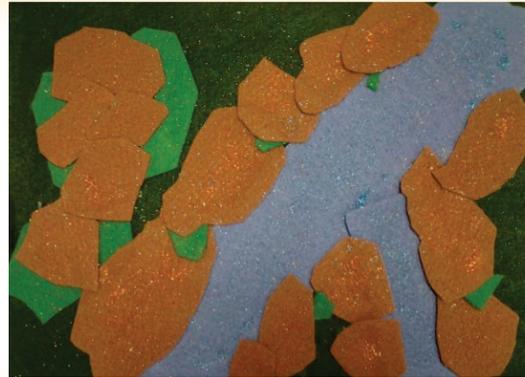


IOWA WINNER  
Grades 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Art  
Adam McFee, Age 11  
Grinnell, Iowa  
*The Sea*

ROW is affiliated with The Library of Congress Center for the Book and St. Mary's College of California.

## Transformation

My feet pound against the ridged concrete  
I heave in deep breaths of crisp, cutting air  
I whip my head around and I am reassured by the slush-like river  
Churning silently  
I will my aching feet to halt  
To look at this beautiful body before me  
I look down at her from the rail that separates us  
The trenchant air whips my rose cheeks  
Mississippi  
That is my sister's name  
We are alike in more ways that I will ever know  
Her gentle waves contribute to my bliss  
She understands  
When I stand by her  
I transform

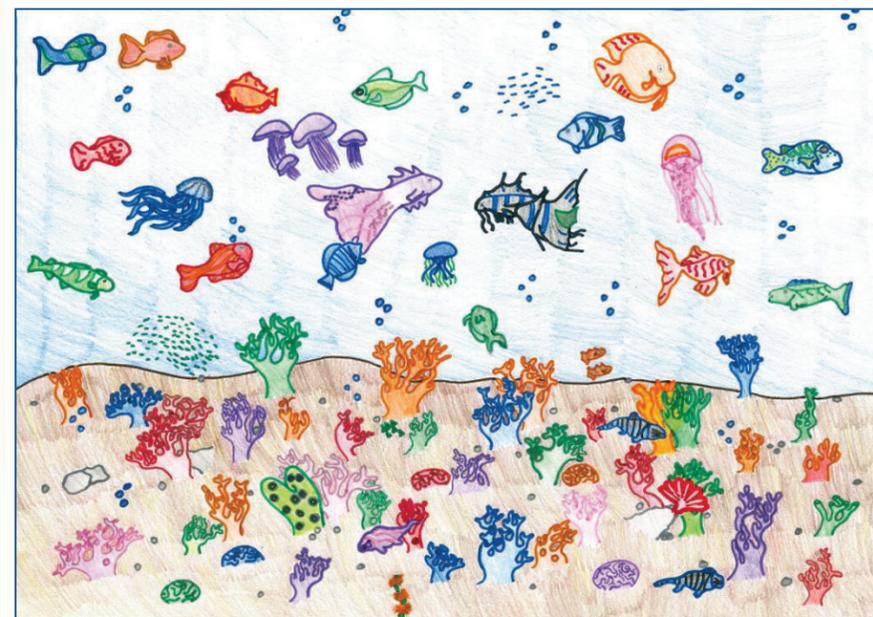


IOWA WINNER  
Grade 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Poetry  
Victoria Taylor, Age 15  
Davenport, Iowa  
*Transformation*



IOWA WINNER  
Grade 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Art  
Justeen Schoner, Age 18  
Marion, Iowa  
*Hedwig Abstracted*

IOWA WINNER Grade K-3<sup>rd</sup> Art  
Hannah Serdareric, Age 8  
Urbandale, Iowa  
*Stream*



## On the Shore

On the shore,  
A dolphin leaped toward the sun.  
The crabs scurried  
along the moonlit sand.  
I picked up some shells  
to put in my basket  
and I smiled.

IOWA WINNER Grade K-3<sup>rd</sup> Poetry  
Olivia Strang, Age 8  
West Des Moines, Iowa  
*On the Shore*

## Unforgotten Memories

I remember when you were here,  
when time passed us by so quickly  
and we were too young and stupid to steal it.

I still remember how we used to sneak out at night just to go down to our creek  
We slipped down the frozen hill even as we were holding on to each other,  
By the time we got down we were covered in leaves, dirt, mud, from head to toe.  
You lifted me up and dropped me in the creek,  
I hit the rocks but the pain never sank in,  
I grabbed your legs and dragged you in with me.  
We sat in the icy cold water,  
I don't remember how long we sat there,  
but I do remember that all we did was laugh.  
We let it all out,  
The whole world could have come tumbling down, but we'd have never noticed.  
These were the moments with nothing could've been more pure.

Once we got out of the creek,  
we sat under your mom's old blanket and just stared at the stars,  
for hours and hours,  
endlessly.

When you left, I was forced to throw all these memories into a dusty, old box.  
High school came,  
everything changed  
our old friends didn't even look at me anymore.  
I started hanging out with the ones we used to call losers  
but I didn't complain, I couldn't.

You know what really changed though?  
I stopped visiting our creek, stopped looking to the stars,  
those pure, undying moments we had together seemed like they had never existed.  
One time last November, I went down to that old creek behind your house,  
but the water wasn't pure anymore,  
It was muddy

IOWA WINNER Grade 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> Art  
Sam Whelan, Age 14  
Polk City, Iowa  
*Untitled*

IOWA WINNER Grade 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Poetry  
Shivani Kumaresan, Age 14  
Urbandale, Iowa  
*Unforgotten Memories*

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