Nothing stimulates the mind & inspires the soul more than children's art & poetry. Perhaps it's their innocence, or possibly even their ignorance that brings fresh outlooks, new perspectives & truth to their work. For whatever reason, the imagination of a child is something to be treasured, nurtured & encouraged. In the words of Albert Einstein, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." **IOWATER** thinks imagination & knowledge are essential for a sustainable future, & we hope to cultivate both in Iowa's youth through River of Words®.

Each year, in affiliation with The Library of Congress Center for the Book, River of Words 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, through poetry & art, what they discover. Entries not chosen as finalists or grand prize winners in the international contest are returned to the **IOWATER** program, where they are judged in an Iowa statewide River of Words contest.

COVER ART

Maria Ontiveros
age 14
Bettendorf, IA

Shaded Vision

IOWA WINNER

IOWATER

Wallace State Office Building
502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319 - 0034

iowater@iowater.net
www.iowater.net

2004

IOWATER

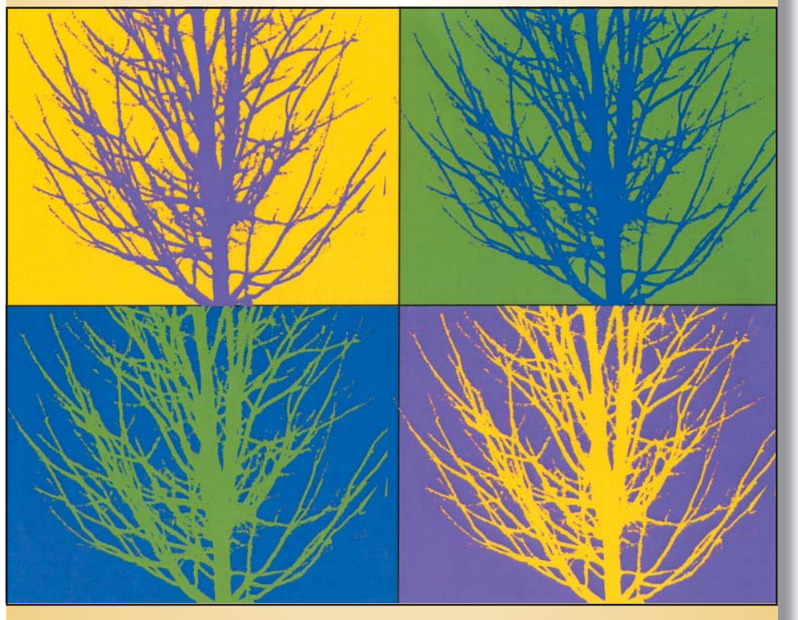
presents the

1st Annual

RIVER of WORDS

Environmental

Poetry & Art



IOWA Competition 2004

The Lone Tree

Meghin Arnold
age 12
Osceola, Iowa
IOWA WINNER

I want to be an Artist

I want to be an Artist
I really hope I will.
I'd sit upon the windowsill
looking at the hills.
Then I'd draw the picture,
then I'd act it out.
Then I'd do the painting
there's no doubt.

Michelle Grauberger
age 7
Marion, Iowa
IOWA WINNER

Spirit Fox

First there, then gone!
Sitting in the grass,
but no rabbits are here
that he will chase.
Sitting there, soft fur,
disappears, turns up at
the river.

Olivia Queathem
age 9
Grinnell, Iowa
IOWA WINNER

Cranberry Meadow

I amble down the path to the pond beyond our cabin.
I rest on the dock's edge while dangling my feet
above the quiet water.
The trees whisper, whisper, ever so softly.
The sunset brightens and the water awakens.
The wind brushes against my face and sends the crisp autumn leaves
swirling down onto the pond creating ripples
disturbing the quiet stillness.
The sun slips behind the trees and the dark night sky makes the air feel cold.
The moon bounces off Cranberry Meadow Pond
and I feel free to dream.

Nick Synan
age 13
Iowa City, Iowa
IOWA WINNER

Just folk

Eyes of rock,
Decayed bags.
A driftless army.

Nostalgic immigrants.
Tall grasses long and melting.
Hardwood tribes emerging from valleys.

Beautiful streams,
Open pathways to a redwood
civilization.

Displaced dams,
Create pools of this gypsy girl's world.

Felon Summers
age 17
Dubuque, Iowa
NATIONAL FINALIST

All artwork & poetry are ©River of Words.

H_2O

Water will trickle,
And water will leak.
Water will ponder,
And water will seek.
Water will freeze,
And water will boil.
Water will rain
And nourish the soil.
Water will rush
And create a wave.
During a storm,
Water will rave.
Water will shape,
And water will shift.
Water will topple,
And water will drift.
In the summer,
Water provides fun
For kids of all ages
Who bask in the sun.

Nicole Higginbotham
age 17
Malvern, IA
NATIONAL FINALIST

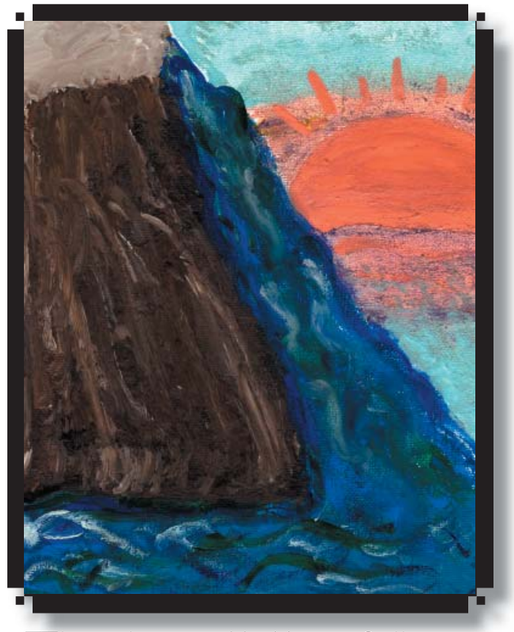
For entry forms for the 2005 International contest, contact:
IOWATER Coordinator
Wallace State Office Building
502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319 - 0034
Phone: 515-281-6640
Fax: 515-281-8895
Email: iowater@iowater.net
www.iowater.net

The Delta

Alluvial
Flood
Plain,
Tennessee,
Arkansas,
Mississippi, &
Louisiana.
Houses
Cluster,
Customs
Are
Indigenous.
Traditions
Evolve
From
Rivers &
Bayous,
Baptized in
The old
Ways.
Trappers,
Fisher folk,
Towboat workers,
All
Passed
Down
To
Children,
The
Future.

Felon Summers
age 17
Dubuque, Iowa
IOWA WINNER

Send entries by Feb.15th to:
River of Words
PO Box 4000 J
Berkeley, CA 94704 USA
Phone: 510-548-POEM (7636)



Thundering Waterfall

Meg Harper
age 7
Independence, Iowa
IOWA WINNER

JURY
for River of Words Poetry & Art Iowa Competition 2004

Michael Carey received an MFA from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop & is the author of five books of poetry.

Liz Christiansen graduated from Cornell College with a BA degree in botany. She is the Deputy Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Pat Lohmann received an MFA in painting from the University of Iowa School of Art & Art History. She is an artist & publication designer for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Debra Marquart graduated from Minnesota State University, Moorhead with an MLA degree & is an associate professor of English & coordinator of the Creative Writing Program at Iowa State University.