

Grade 4 Winners

1st Place (tied): Evangeline Lollar, Cactus Wren

1st Place (tied): Jannatul Naim Hia, untitled

2nd Place (tied): Damon Martin McClain, The Desert Sky

2nd Place (tied): Joshua Johnson, Trantula

3rd Place (tied): Carter Mosier, untitled

3rd Place (tied): Duranai Casanova, Ring tail cat

HM: Alexandria Delker, Water

HM: Theodore Friedmeyer, The Desert

HM: Davi Munafo, A Day in the Desert

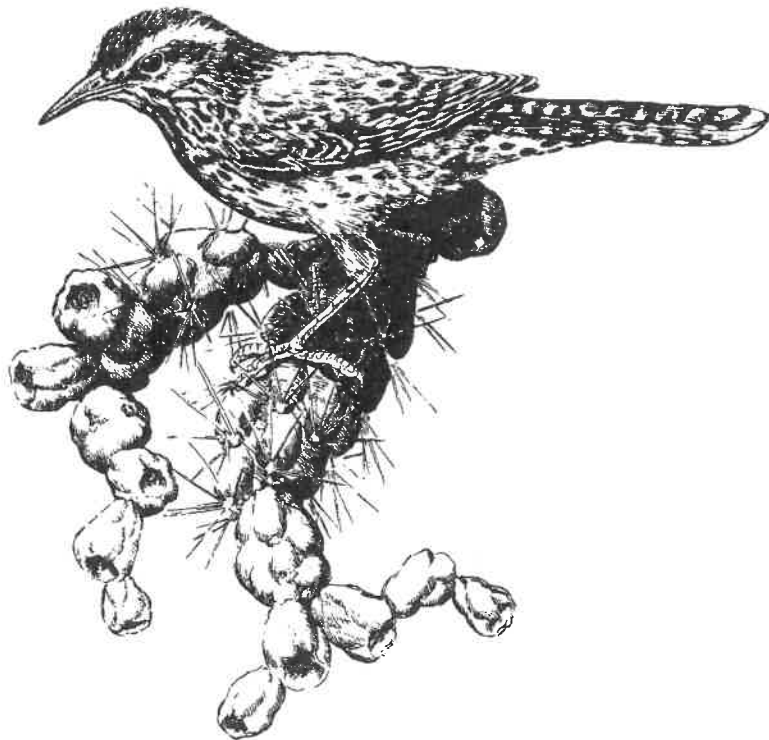
HM: Khang Dinh, untitled

HM: Pauline Van de Krol, In the eye of a cactus

HM: Amelia Russin, Grey Fox

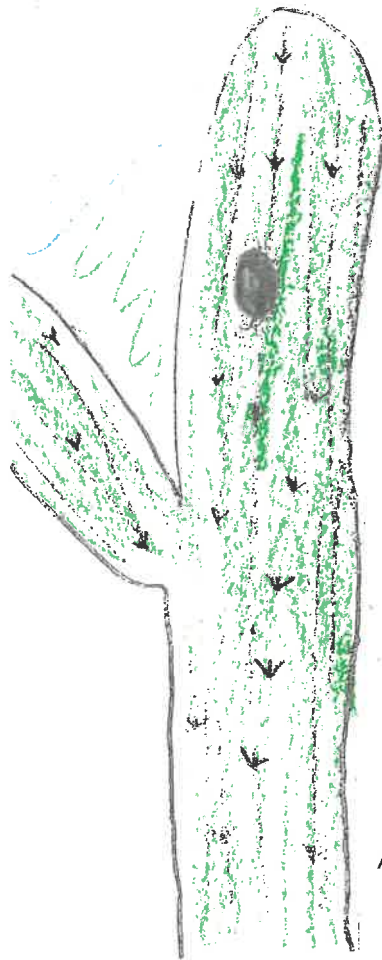
HM: Luis Emilio Sevilla de la Mora, Gila monster

HM: Elena Santiago, Coati



Cactus Wren

by Evangeline Lollar



In the deep blue sky
Fast and free I fly
Diving and swooping low
Into my cactus home I go

The cactus helps me hide
Wonderful secrets inside
Predators are kept away
Keeping me safe for another day

I weave spines into my nest
Crafting a place for my babies to rest
The chamber goes so deep
A protected place for my brood to sleep

Here, where it's hard to survive
My kind will always thrive
In the desert, I am strong,
This is where I truly belong

**Evangeline Lollar
Cactus Wren
Fourth Grade
1st Place (tied)**



Jannatul Naim Hia
Untitled
Fourth Grade
1st Place (tied)

I am the Sonoran Desert, vast and untamed, a
canvas of life where the sun has claimed. I cradle
the saguaro, majestic and tall, it's spiny arms
rise, defying all.

The winds whisper secrets across my dunes, under
the watchful gaze of silver moons.
Coyotes serenade the twilight's hue, while stars
ignite the midnight blue.

My heart beats warm through the shifting
sands, a realm of wonders nature commands. The
pronghorn's leap, the roadrunner's dash, life blooms
where others see ash.

Raindrops scarce but cherished so, in fleeting
streams, my rivers flow. A painted world
of red and gold, stories in stones, timeless
and bold.

I am harsh yet tender, I endure, I provide,
A cradle of resilience, life's rugged pride.
Step upon my soil, you'll feel the art, for
The Sonoran Desert beats with a wild heart.

By Jannatul Naim Hia

The Desert Sky

I see the beautiful sunset dim
The sun goes behind the mountains
The sky becomes as black as a blackhole
The moon shines in the sky
The cactus is blending in with the dark sky
The big white moon comes up from the mountains
Tiny stars make the sky bright
It is quiet
I hear things around me now
Packrats coming out for food
Birds settling in for a sleep in a cactus
A mountain lion hunting for whatever they can find
A javelina snorting
Constellations shining in the sky
I clench my hand in to a fist with the sand in my hands
I see a grey fox tiptoeing across me
A rattlesnake rattling at me to back away
A Gila monster walking over to their rocky home
A shooting star swooshes through the sky
I wish for this to last longer than it does
As the sun comes up, I wave bye to the Sonoran Desert
I hope to come back to the Sonoran Desert soon again
Damon Martan McClain 4th grade
Teacher Kim Whitney and Jana Revell Miles ELC

**Damon Martin McClain
The Desert Sky
Fourth Grade
2nd Place (tied)**

Trantula

Small hairy

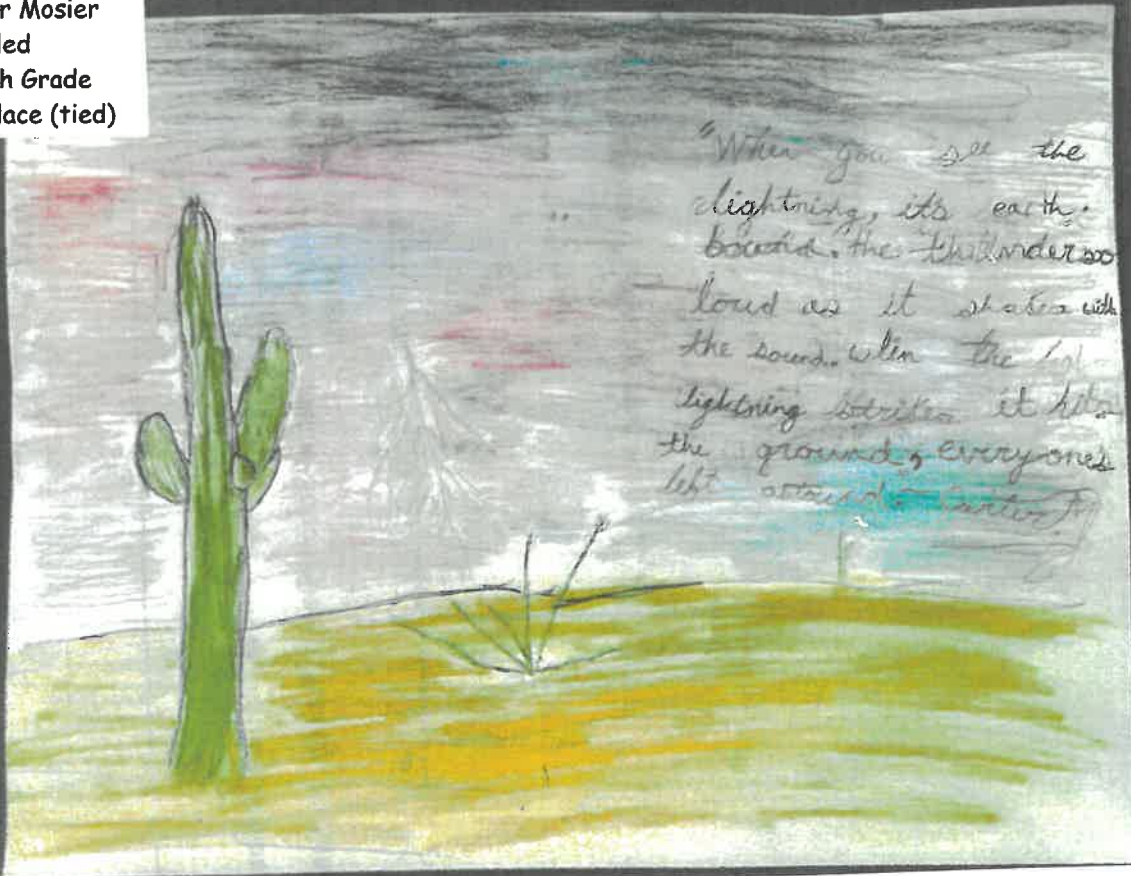
Running breathing eating

I'm like a famous Chef I wrap my food in a web burrito.

arachnid

Joshua Johnson
Trantula
Fourth Grade
2nd Place (tied)

Carter Mosier
Untitled
Fourth Grade
3rd Place (tied)



Ring tail cat
Sneaky, Quiet,
Sleeping, creeping,
Climbing,
As stealthy as a thief in the night,

Miners cat

Duranai Casanova
Ring tail cat
Fourth Grade
3rd Place (tied)

Alexandria Delker
Water
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

Water

***Water flows and it splashes
Water goes and crashes
Rain comes and goes
Monsoon season is finally here
Gather round to celebrate
My favorite time of year
All the water is the reason
Let this be a beautiful season!!***

A Day in the Desert

A Coyote stalking its prey.

A Rattlesnake strikes at a Kangaroo Rat.

The sun sets, and the Bobcats come out to play.

A Great Horned Owl sitting on its cactus in the night.

Two glowing Bark Scorpions fighting.

Owls talking to each other.

A Big Brown Bat feasting on bugs.

In the morning Gambel's Quails sing their songs.

A Desert Tortoise is chewing on a Prickly Pear.



Davi Munafu
A Day in the Desert
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

Grey Fox
Fast Quiet
Bounding Hunting Escaping
As Unpredictable as a winter's wind storm
Predator

Amelia Russin
Grey Fox
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

Gila monster
Venomous Small
Sleeping Leaping Eating
Lurking like a shadow in the night
Reptile

Luis Emilio Sevilla de la Mora
Gila monster
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

Coati
Fast Curious
Eating Running Digging
Cute as a button
Mammal

Elena Santiago
Coati
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

The Desert

*Hissing snakes are stressful
Hooting owls are peaceful
From the morning fiesta
To the afternoon siesta
Rocks seem to move
Cacti form mazes
A slow humming fills the air
The milky way begins to rise
Coyotes are laughing
Bats black out the light of the moon
Bothered by nothing but each other
Bobcats and coyotes hunt
When the bats return to their cave
It's a signal to turn away
The moon is setting
The sun is rising
And the cycle repeats
The desert is a home
Not a place*

Theodore Friedmeyer
The Desert
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

The Saguaro cactus likes to live in the sun,
With coyotes that love to run,
Javelinas chew on prickly pear,
With gila monsters that bite you if they dare,

Hawks and vultures sway in the sky,
With many other birds that like to fly,
With hot deserts and dry lands,
Many rocks and grains of sand,

Arizona is a nice place to live,
Even though it's very hot,
I love Arizona a lot
I wish I could live here forever

Khang Dinh
Untitled
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

In the eye of a cactus

I have seen many days,
of sun, rain, and storm.
A desert bloom on one
of my arms,
draws people to me.
I look new and healthy,
but I am older than you.
Animals have learned their lessons
by being poked by my thorns.
Some animals manage
to get on or in me.
They don't mind me,
if they don't take my water.
Unless it's monsoon season
then take as much as you want.
When night falls a beautiful sunset,
or a good night world.

Pauline Van de Krol

Pauline Van de Krol
In the eye of a cactus
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

