



## 2023 Contest Entries

Aidan D., age 13, in Idaho

**FEATURED:**

**(Minecraft Sunset)**

Breeze rustling dry leaves

Setting sun over mountains

Smell of moist grass cubes

Miner breaks diamond

Shatters under his feet. Oops.

Falls into lava

Vera T., age 12, in Wyoming

The chickens run around

flapping, crunching the brown leaves,

and scratching for food

Joseph C., age 13, in Texas

**FEATURED:**

**Autumn Rain**

Surrounded by clouds  
Dogs stay dry in their abode  
With sweet smells of rain.

**The Next Morning**

I stepped through the door  
A fallen roof, a felled oak,  
A blanket of waste.

**The Water Glass**

The water glass stood still  
Small mischievous hands drew near  
Slightly bumping the glass.

Brock S., age 12, in Alaska

**1<sup>st</sup> PLACE**

**Forest Secrets (Haiku)**

Graceful Oaks whisper  
As murmuring winds exchange  
Their confidences.

**Fishing Follies (Senryu)**

Two boys are fishing.  
Lines entangle; one boy jerks  
And the other...SPLASH!

Heidi G., age 13, in Oklahoma

A girl flees her prince,  
Filthy and covered in rags,  
Ashamed to be seen.

**FEATURED:**

"Have courage, dear heart."  
Says the lion to the girl.  
"We will win the war."

Catherine S., age 14, in Georgia

**FEATURED:**

Horses graze on grass  
Their gentle noses sniffing  
Summer's nectar wind.

Frolicking chipmunks  
Race over the bare nut trees  
Until the twigs snap.

Alida V., age 13, in Texas

Clapping, rustling,  
The leaves lean in the gentle wind  
Tickling my arms

**3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE**

Skitting across the keys  
My fingers find their voices:  
melodious chords

Ian S., age 12, in Washington

**Touching Grass**

Green grass glistening,  
A faint sound of wind blowing,  
Sending leaves away.

**Fail**

One last attack and  
I could possibly win and  
My hand seems to slip...

Ben K., age 13, in Minnesota

Blood ran down my neck  
the stick was deep in my head;  
Should've used caution.

**FEATURED:**

It was a sunny  
day when I stepped from the boat  
then suddenly... soaked.

Noah B., age 13, in Minnesota

Leaving the canoe  
One slip and I fell right in  
Right into the lake

**FEATURED:**

Falling to the snow  
Blood dripped from my aching nose  
Don't get hit by sleds

Bennett S., age 13, in Minnesota

The one-handed catch  
by Justin Jefferson was  
quite miraculous

I went for my head  
Blood flowed between my fingers  
I ran to get help

Victoria M., age 12, in Minnesota

**2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE**

Golden marshmallow  
perfectly toasted and rich  
fell in the fire

Looking at the ground  
realizing we lost the point  
all because of me

Domenica F., age 12, in Minnesota -

**FEATURED:**

Delicious pancakes  
Nothing could change it until  
There was no whipped cream

Lazy, suddenly  
I drink some coffee and then  
I become crazy

Grace B., age 14, in Minnesota

**FEATURED:**

They walked through the park  
The sun beating down on them  
In the humid air.

Crash! The airbags blow  
Run to check the other car  
The police arrive.

Gracie M., age 13, in Minnesota

I lay on the ground  
My body in pain; my horse  
Just ran away, spooked.

No remnants of him  
Were present, for the horse I  
Rode before was gone.

Karston F., age 13, in Minnesota

Surveying the scene,  
I saw cacti in the heat  
of the scorched desert.

I was full because  
I had corn with butter and  
everything changed.

Oakley L., age 12, in South Carolina

Tom cried 'neath an oak  
“Why?” Father spoke. “Mom murdered...”  
Tom replied, “My roach!”

**FEATURED:**

The tangy sweet smell  
Of wild fruit in autumn air  
Draws birds to taste.

Jackson L., age 13, in South Carolina

**FEATURED:**

The pigs in a pen,  
Root joyously, happily—  
Do I smell bacon?

The firs in autumn  
Oblivious to the time  
Dance, as Christmas draws near.

Landrie A., age 13, in California

**FEATURED:**

**Summer:**

Schools are like ghost towns  
Scorching days that never end  
Sticky ice cream hands

**Flowers:**

Better as a gift

Smell like a sparkling spring day

Delicate beauty

Megan M., age 12, in Indiana

**FEATURED:**

**Spider**

A spider weaving

The wind tears the intricate web

Never giving up

**Mud**

The wind whips my hair

Mud squishes between my toes

A robin chirps gaily