



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

1st 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

3rd 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

2nd 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