

Grade 4 Winners

1st Place (tied), Overall Winner: Aurelia Neils, Sonoran Desert Relatives

1st Place (tied): Violet Hamm, The Roadrunner Haiku

2nd Place (tied): Alivia Duckworth, A Masterpiece

2nd Place (tied): Noah Lopez, Dust Storm

2nd Place (tied): Madeline Morano, My desert

2nd Place (tied): Scott Hendricks, The Heat and Air

3rd Place (tied): Abigail Hill, Home

3rd Place (tied): Miral Alnimri, Desert Song at Dusk

3rd Place (tied): Gilberto Cardenas, Haiku Poem - Pack Rats

HM: Cerulean Guruilian Sternberg, The Sonoran Desert

HM: Ivette Badillo, The Sonoran Desert's Beauty

HM: Julian Guerrero, Just Trying to Live

HM: Xin-Yang Saoirse Chen; Past, Present, and Future

HM: Thomas Reding, untitled

HM: Leon Balderman, Desert Poem

HM: Joshua Covarrubias, The Mighty Saguaro

HM: Adrian Onpeng, Relaxing Night in the Desert

HM: Liliana Goolsby, Clever Coyotes

HM: TJ Port, Desert is a Home to Many

HM: Peter Childers, A Day in the Desert

HM: Anelyn Chacon, Haiku Poem - Wild Cats

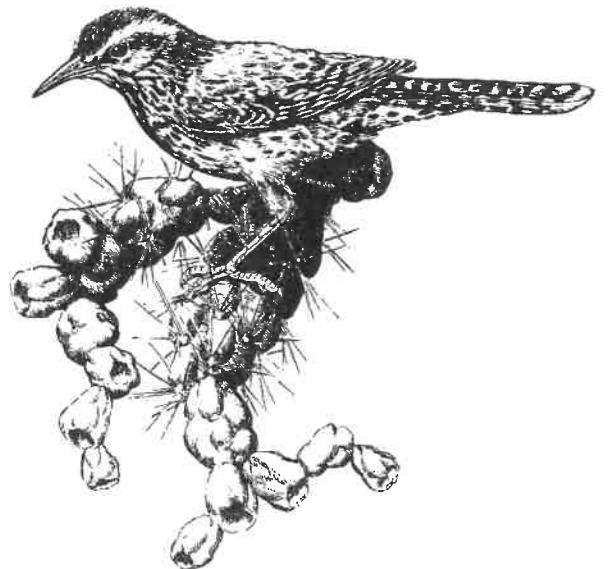
HM: Amari Perez, Haiku Poem - Desert Rain

HM: Jovan Valenzuela, untitled

HM: Shaili Adhikari, untitled

HM: Oliver McLaren, The Amazing Sonoran Desert

HM: Bruin Isaac Tineo, The Lucky Snake



Sonoran Desert Relatives

I was born in the Sonoran Desert
Where the sun streams down heavily
I learned to walk among harvester ants
I now run along the paths of deer
I am related to every plant and animal that shares this home
Each relative contains so much wisdom
Acquired over millions of years
I take my time and gather this knowledge

Ground squirrels show me how to live in a peaceful community
Javelinas establish an obligation to fiercely defend those we love most
Owls instruct that silence is sometimes essential
Cactus wrens demonstrate that a strong voice can be necessary too
Rattlesnakes reveal the importance of making noise when something is wrong
Hummingbirds point out the significance of always looking for surrounding beauty
Packrats exhibit the value of collecting sacred treasures
Toads explain the importance of rejoicing in the rain
Gila monsters guide me to walk slowly and deliberately
Roadrunners display the need to continuously run towards what you choose
Tarantulas teach me to never forget the way home
Scorpions show me to look to the stars if ever I feel lost
Saguaros guide me to stand strong despite hardships
Mesquites reveal how to share with every being in need
Chollas help me walk lightly on this precious earth

I gather each valuable lesson
As I collect prickly pear fruit in my summer basket
Each experience nestles down in my heart
Much more to discover
So much to learn
Yet, many overlook and do not appreciate
We must open our eyes and our hearts
We are all connected
Let us nurture our homelands
As the desert nourishes us altogether.

The Roadrunner Haiku

Golden desert light
the roadrunner races past
gone before I blink.

Violet Hamm
The Roadrunner Haiku
Fourth Grade
1st Place(tied)

Aurelia Neils
Sonoran Desert Relatives
Fourth Grade
1st Place(tied)/Overall

The Heat and Air

When the water disappears from the ground the clay becomes rough.

The ground turns into hard dirt.

The clay begins to crack as it dries.

Lines spread across the ground like broken glass.

The cracks make shapes like triangle patterns

Some pieces are small and some are large and jagged.

The ground feels dry when you touch it.

It feels like something heavy and stiff.

In the Sonoran Desert the dry earth shows dryness.

The cracked ground fits like a puzzle.

The hard ground goes crunch under my feet when I walk on it.

Desert

Blazing

Scott Hendricks
The Heat and Air
Fourth Grade
2nd place(tied)

Dust Storm

The storm rises like in. Angry Cloud.

The air, it's dusty and hard to breathe.

Animals disappear from the storm.

The sky looks thick like smoke.

The dust rolls towards you like a wall.

The wind blows, wind and wild and fearless.

The sand stings your skin.

Swirling tumbleweeds

Whispering roars

Dusty cloud

Noah Lopez
Dust Storm
Fourth Grade
2nd place(tied)

A Masterpiece

I see the birds flying high
as I look up in the sky.

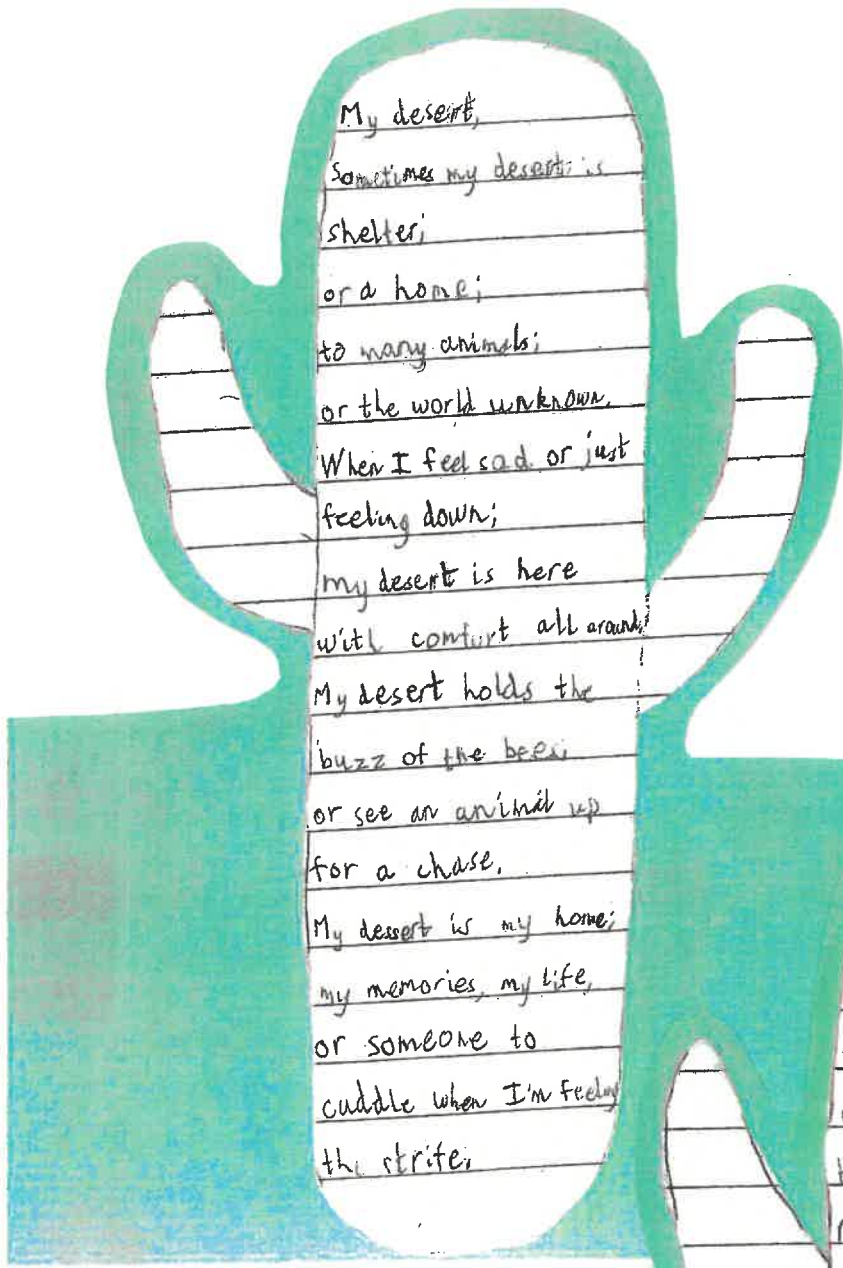
I see the big trees
and hear the buzzing bees.

I smell the flowers
and look at them for hours.

I feel the breeze
that gives me peace.

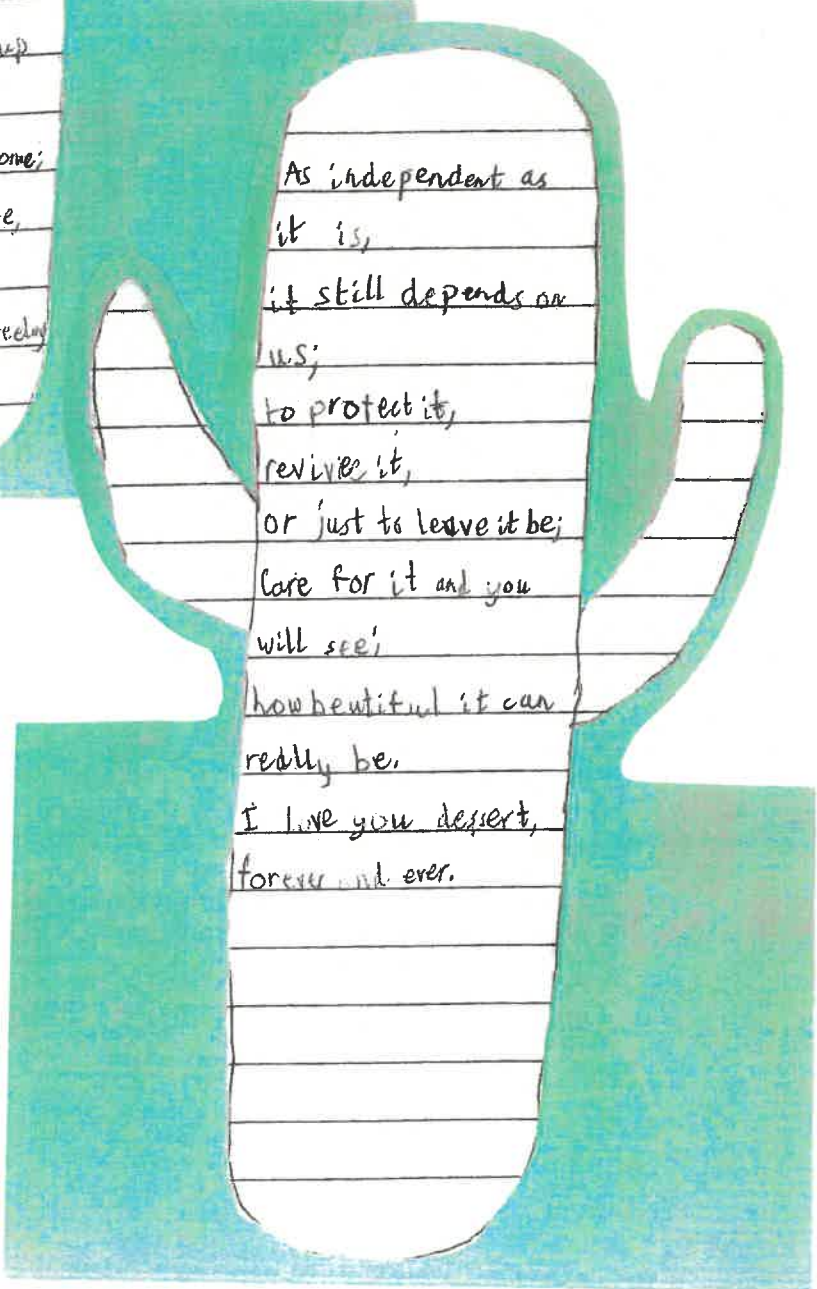
The Sonoran desert
is a masterpiece.

Alivia Duckworth
A Masterpiece
Fourth Grade
2nd place(tied)



My desert,
Sometimes my desert is
shelter;
or a home;
to many animals;
or the world unknown.
When I feel sad, or just
feeling down;
my desert is here
with comfort all around.
My desert holds the
buzz of the bees;
or see an animal up
for a chase.
My desert is my home;
my memories, my life,
or someone to
cuddle when I'm feeling
the strife;

Madeline Morano
My desert
Fourth Grade
2nd place(tied)



As independent as
it is,
it still depends on
us;
to protect it,
revive it,
or just to leave it be;
Care for it and you
will see
how beautiful it can
really be.
I love you desert,
forever and ever.

Gilberto Cardenas
Haiku Poem-Pack Rats
Fourth Grade
3rd Place (tied)



Desert Song at Dusk

The canyons and valleys offer a view,
with saguaros standing tall and true.

The birds are chirping through,
over red rocks and skies of blue.

As we sing beyond the day,
warm sand cools as light slips away.
Time flies in its own way,
in desert gold that fades to gray.

We hear animals roaring,
coyotes calling, cicadas buzzing.
Past us are the eagles soaring,
high where endless skies are pouring.

We see the colorful sun,
painting mountains one by one.
as it bleeds to the moon's fun,
and the desert night has finally begun.

Miral Alnimri
Desert Song at Dusk
Fourth Grade
3rd Place (tied)

Home

Home, such a simple term,
to some it means a house,
to some it means a place.

To me it means the Sonoran Desert.
A place where life is hot and beautiful.

Where seasons do not exist
And we look forward to the cool winds.

Home, has taste, feel, and smell
with places unlike any other.

Where water comes and goes
And life keeps you on your toes

Home such a simple term,
Life wraps around it.

But here in the Sonoran Desert
we Feel more, Live more and Love more!

Home means love, life and the Sonoran Desert!!!

Abigail Hill
Home
Fourth Grade
3rd Place (tied)

The Sonoran Desert's Beauty

With delicate blooms upon harsh thorn
a vibrant, wild, and ancient place is born.
The roadrunner flies from the scorching heat
with the desert floor beneath its flying feet.
So cherish the sands and the open vast sky
where the sun and the stars keep the spirit high.

The warm dusty wind brushes upon my face
while I watch the canyons in this big open space.
The sun's golden rays shines luminous and bright
and the moon's delicate glow slightly beams at night.

Ivette Badillo
The Sonoran Desert's Beauty
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

Just Trying to Live

Down deep in the desert, the gray wolf makes its space.
It spots its prey and starts the chase.
Swift and silent, driven by need.
If it's just to live, would it be greed?

But roads and cities take their land.
Fewer places left to stand.
Let's protect the wild, let the forest breathe.
So peace and freedom, the wolves will achieve.

Julian Guerrero
Just Trying to Live
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

The Sonoran Desert

When dawn has come
the sky glows orange
and the desert
is washed
in its glow
wildlife awaken
lizards crawl
thrushes chirp
Saguaros seem to wave
like to greet us
as the day
begins anew.
When night
has come
the sky fades
to black
and the desert
gets washed
in darkness
wildlife awaken
owls hoot
bats flutter
ocotillos swish
like to greet us
as the day
comes to
an end.

Cerulean Guruilian Sternberg
The Sonoran Desert
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

Xin-Yang Saoirse Chen
Past, Present, and Future
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

Title: Past, Present, and Future

Erosion shaped the Sonoran Desert's past,
wild winds and flash floods
teaming up on tropical lands,
turning them into an endless modern desert,
a paintbrush of the past,
through seasons of a changing climate.

Spring makes the desert warm and flowery.
Petals of marigolds and California poppies unfold
as the desert tortoise awakens from hibernation.
Cactus wrens nest while Anna's hummingbirds
feed on flowering, majestic saguaros.
Lizards scurry between sandy rocks.
We admire the colorful, blooming flowers,
creating breathtaking displays.
Glorious pops of yellow, pink, orange, and purple
glow under the warmth of golden sunlight.
Spring spreads quickly as more petals erupt open.

Dry summers take over as spring whispers farewell.
Gila monsters and rattlesnakes crawl on scorching land;
nocturnal coyotes and bobcats stalk through the night,
avoiding the aridity as shadows silently cover them.
Venomous scorpions prey fiercely on sneaky insects,
running from round barrel cacti to towering saguaros.
People hike along intricate desert trails,
feeling the heat as they hike.
Summer heaves all wonders under the extreme sun.

Javelinas and ringtails visit the cool wonders of autumn;
graceful wings glide as most birds migrate.
Agave species and the desert willow
grow among the lovely sights of fall.
You could stargaze under the endless night sky
or view dazzling sunsets.
Autumn leaves a trail of long shadows and cooling air.

Mild winters are home to bighorn sheep and mule deer;

very few species show themselves.
But yucca, creosote bushes, and ocotillo
stay firm, surviving harsh winters.
People camp through the cold desert season,
watching birds briefly chirp a melody.
Winter brings windy, freezing breezes.

The future is said to be hotter and drier,
with damaging fires lighting the desert.
Wildlife struggles to survive;
nature fights against habitat loss.
What will happen to the Sonoran Desert
if all of that habitat vanishes into thin air?
Will it stand firm against global change,
or be transformed forever?

Leon Balderman
Desert Poem
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

Desert Poem

The dunes lie still beneath the amber light,
The wind draws silver lines across the sand,
A road runner turns slow within the fading sight,
While shadows stretch like rivers through the land.

The land remembers footsteps long erased,
Old canyons hold the echoes of the sun,
Each grain of sand drifting, patiently placed,
Where time moves slower when the day is done.

The cactus waits where thirsty miles unfold,
Its arms raised quiet to the empty sky,
A stubborn green against the dust and cold,
While distant storms pass silently nearby.

The desert breathes beneath the cooling night,
The stars ignite like embers in the dome,
The wind returns with whispers soft and light,
And every silent dune becomes a small home.

Relaxing Night in the Desert

I see a bird glide through the quiet night sky.
I hear crickets chirp softly as they pass by.
I feel the gentle wind brushing my skin.
I smell cool desert air drifting within.
I taste the silence, calm and deep.
All my worries fade away in my sleep.

Adrian Onpeng
Relaxing Night in the Desert
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

The Mighty Saguaro

The saguaro stands tall
arms reaching high
dry and wrinkled skin
touching the blue sky.

It stands in the heat
through sun and no rain
strong in the desert
through wind and through pain.

A home for the birds
like the cactus when
a generous shelter
again and again.

Tall, mighty, and giving
in all it can do
the saguaro reminds us
to stand strong too.

Joshua Covarrubias
The Mighty Saguaro
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

A Harris hawk flies,
a goldfinch sings.
I ponder.

The desert sky rries,
and blesses the tree with rain
I walk yonder.

Creosote heals the desert's people,
but we destroy,
by reating

Saguaro's tower over
the desert skies
they're waiting.

Thomas Reding
Untitled
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

A Day in the Desert

***The sun majestically rises
Beautiful light creeps across the sky
A bird flys out of a saguaro
A flower falls, birds race for the fruit
Over in a cave a bobcat yawns
It's mouth opens wide
Ant hill's in the desert heat
Ants crawl over the sand hill
Horned lizard snags an ant
Saguaro cactus rules the desert
Guarding the saguaro a snake rattles
Tonight the gila monster swipes an egg
The javelina prowls, snakes hunt
Grasshopper mouse cries to the moon!***

Peter Childers

A Day in the Desert

Fourth Grade

Honorable Mention

Liliana Goolsby
Clever Coyotes
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

Clever Coyotes

Coyotes are dark and dusty brown.
Runners that move near the edge of town.
When one is spotted, people go hide.
They run away and stay inside.

Sometimes alone, sometimes in packs.
They hunt with teamwork and clever hacks.
They listen, learn, and quickly adapt.
Smart survivors, difficult to be trapped.

Desert is a Home to Many

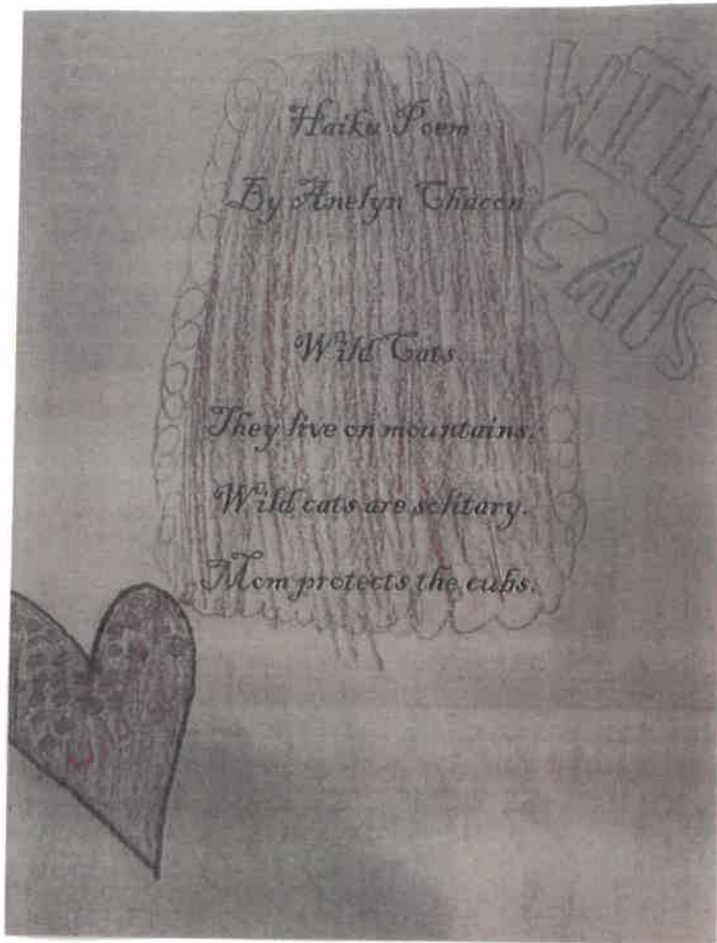
***There are many animals in the desert
Sun rises with quails triumphant song
Ground squirrels play and jump on each
other
They playfully wrestle like they're
brothers
Gila monsters feast on eggs
They find a meal and leave
Some raccoons are sneaky thieves
Baby bobcats watch the sun go down
Its a normal day in the desert, Wow!***

TJ Port

Desert is a Home to Many

Fourth Grade

Honorable Mention



Anelyn Chacon
Haiku Poem-Wild Cats
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

The Amazing Sonoran Desert

The best sunsets ever
Heavenly ecosystem
Elf owls hoot in cacti

Awesome thunderstorms
Minerals all around
Amazing sand dunes
Zing a roadrunner sprints by
I love this place
No way you're not coming back
Great place to visit

Slithering snakes all around
Old rock painting
Not bad water supply
Outstanding wolves
Really hot climate
Amazing insects
Nearby there is amazing cities

Doves call out at daybreak
Eagles fly overhead looking for prey
Snakes just struck
Earth's best place
Really great cacti
Terrific animals

Oliver McLaren
The Amazing Sonoran Desert
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

There's nothing better than the Sonoran Desert
It's beautiful and gold, like a pirate's treasure
It has a warm, perfect breeze
It also has long, tall trees
This is where the sun shines bright
This is perfect, I know I'm right
This is the place I call home
It's a beautiful, warm, hot dome
I love this amazing space
This desert earns first place

Jovan Valenzuela
Untitled
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

Haiku Poem

By Amari Perez

Desert Rain

Cool breeze falls on you.

My magic helps the desert.

Soothing sound and smell.

The Lucky Snake

In the daylight of the desert.

A snake is slithering in the desert.

The snake's tail started rattling. A warning.

The snake stopped.

It got something!

The snake was getting attention.

The snake sees a tiny jumping creature.

It found a kangaroo rat.

The snake started slithering towards the kangaroo rat.

The snake jumped towards it and swallowed it.

It was good.

But the snake is still hungry and starting to want more.

Not even a rat made it full.

Again, the kangaroo rat came.

The snake jumped towards it. Got its tail.

Sucked it up like noodles.

More came.

The snake was happy.

It jumped towards all swallowing one by one.

Amari Perez
Haiku Poem-Desert Rain
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

Bruin Isaac Tineo
The Lucky Snake
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention

I am a Gila monster.
I glide through the sand.
I'm used to the dry land.
It's hard to survive, but I
try my best.
People see me as a constant
threat.
All I do is try to survive.
Some people hunt me so
I hide.
But there should be another way
to greet me if you see my tail sway.
So use this fun rhyme,
to visit me next time.

Shaili Adhikari
Untitled
Fourth Grade
Honorable Mention