



Colorado River of Words winners with Colorado Poet Laureate David Mason and Colorado Chief Justice Gregory Hobbs

M. Gawler, Category II

Explore the natural and cultural history around you.

Express your discoveries in poetry and visual art.

K-12 students are invited to participate!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS DECEMBER 1, 2011

Each year, Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book, in affiliation with The Library of Congress, conducts River of Words (ROW), a free international poetry and art contest for youth on the theme of WATERSHEDS. The contest is designed to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of the place they live, and to express, through poetry and art, what they discover.

The contest is open to any child in the world, from 5-19 years of age. Older students must have not yet completed high school. There is no charge to enter.

Students may enter on their own, or as part of a group (classroom, Girl Scout troop, 4-H, etc.). All entrants receive acknowledgement in the form of a "Watershed Explorer" certificate. State-level judging is done by Colorado writers

and artists, and winners are recognized each spring in Denver at our Student Literary Awards and published in an anthology.

About 100 poems and artworks from both U.S. and international entries are selected as finalists each year. Poetry submissions are judged by River of Words co-founders Robert Hass, who served as US Poet Laureate from 1995-1997, and writer Pamela Michael. Art entries are judged by children's book writer and illustrator, Thatcher Hurd. All winners receive ribbons, books and/or art supplies, t-shirts and other prizes. Eight Grand Prize winners—four in poetry and four in art, in four different age categories—are chosen from the U.S. entries.

- Category I** — Kindergarten-Grade 2
- Category II** — Grades 3-6
- Category III** — Grades 7-9
- Category IV** — Grades 10-12

**FOR COMPLETE CONTEST GUIDELINES AND ENTRY FORMS GO TO:**

[coloradohumanities.org](http://coloradohumanities.org) and click on the word "Students" in the upper left side of the menu. Contest entry deadline is December 1, 2011. Teachers will also find our free "Poetry of Rivers" curriculum there, authored by award-winning Colorado poet Kathryn Winograd.

**RIVER OF WORDS WINNERS**

**Blizzard**

I work with wind.  
I mound in big piles.  
I come from the sky.  
I feel my friends with me when we land.  
I affect life with my cold touch.  
I wish to stay forever.  
When I melt in the mountains,  
I create a stream, a flood, a raging river.  
I cut through mountains, buildings, valleys.  
I re-build next year doing the same thing.

Will Snodgrass, Category I

**When The Wind Blows**

When the wind blows, my hair flies gracefully.  
When the wind blows, it flows like rushing water.  
When the wind blows, rain falls.  
When the wind blows, the tree leaves sway.  
When the wind blows, the ducks quack in the ponds.  
When the wind blows, I pick cranberries.  
I feel like a butterfly flying in the wind, when the wind blows.  
It's nice when you're with the wind.

Sophia Hartgrove, Category I

## LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

STUDENTS IN GRADES 4-12 ARE  
INVITED TO PARTICIPATE!

**Write a letter to an author (living or dead) from any genre. In your letter, explain how that author's work has changed the way you thought about the world or yourself.**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS  
IS JANUARY 6, 2012.**

Each year, Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book, in affiliation with the Library of Congress, and in partnership with Target stores, presents Letters About Literature (LAL), a national reading and writing competition for readers in grades 4 through 12. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author who writes poetry, fiction, or nonfiction, contemporary or classic, explaining how that author's work changed the student's way of thinking about the world or themselves.

**There are three competition levels:**

**Level I** — grades 4 - 6

**Level II** — grades 7 and 8

**Level III** — grades 9 - 12

Winners, announced in the spring of each year, receive cash awards at the national and state levels. State winners are published in an anthology and recognized in Denver at our Student Literary Awards ceremony.

**For guidelines, free curriculum, entry forms and coupons, please visit [coloradohumanities.org](http://coloradohumanities.org) and click on "Students" in the upper left.**



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# RIVER OF WORDS & LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

