



**HARMONY**  
**CLAUDIO MAGOBET, AGE 10**  
**OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA**  
**JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY –**  
**GLOBAL FAMILY SCHOOL**  
**TEACHER: SUSAN WALTON**  
**2009 CREEK SEEKER PRIZE**

2009 River *of* Words Youth Poetry & Art Contest  
Creek Seeker Grand Prize

**Misunderstood**

In a sacred place, a creek is alive,

Shallow, murky, moving water.

A water-strider walks along the water.

"Look closely, follow our movements," the green water whispers.

A misplaced turtle bobs up and down, swimming gracefully.

Its striped shell and red head floats near the surface and then disappears.

Ripples spread over and over again, like a never-ending secret.

A wilted tulip drifts by.

Water springs out creating unforgettable ripples.

And if you look closely, you can see the copper glow of pennies, the  
creek hopelessly misunderstood for a fountain. Dead leaves drift upon the  
water.

The turtle observes this silently.

While the only spectator in the creek is Abe Lincoln's copper face.

*Caroline María Woods-Mejía, age 12*  
*Berkeley, California*  
*Poetry Inside Out*  
*Teacher: John Oliver Simon*

2009 River *of* Words Youth Poetry & Art Contest  
Creek Seeker Prize

**Strawberry Creek Poem #2**

Leaves scrape brown water

Curled miniature waves tumble against rock

Brown eucalyptus skins lounge like banana peels

Hanging discarded from branches, piled on stone

Red light shines on treetops

Glimmering as the sun goes down

*Maggie Gallagher, age 12*  
*Berkeley, California*  
*Poetry Inside Out*  
*Teacher: John Oliver Simon*

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Creek Seeker Prize

**Courtland Creek**

It's natural, it's beautiful, it sounds like all birds  
all the water is...  
running slowly  
the trees  
cover a dream  
leaves are the...  
house of the water...  
rocks protect the flower  
life is me...  
standing in a  
beautiful spot  
where I can truly see up in the sky  
sunshine like a big orange that falls from the tree  
and brings all the light  
animals, births singing to life.

*María Fernanda Guzmán, age 12*  
*Oakland, California*  
*Poetry Inside Out*  
*Teacher: John Oliver Simon*



**LOON**

**SARAH THOMAS, AGE 14  
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA  
ISLAND STUDIO (EL CERRITO)  
TEACHER: SANDI POTTER  
2009 CREEK SEEKER PRIZE**

2009 River of Words Youth Poetry & Art Contest  
Creek Seeker Prize

**Alhambra Creek**

When you open your eyes and truly search  
You won't just see the eagle on his perch  
You will see the squirrel dart for his friend  
And the clever fox hiding in her den

The many little fish that have no names  
And the brilliant blue Jay making her claims  
Now see the beauty this is creation  
The wonders that are a revelation

I am a gift to Fauna and Flora  
I am the liquid form of aurora  
I am a gift from God to all of you souls  
Yes, even to the rats, and mice, and moles

I am running the Marathon with Time  
I am a bibble-babble so sublime  
I am really alive but, still I'm not  
Like a stretched tale with a repeating plot

So, though you may not appreciate me  
I would enjoy staying pollution free  
Give that I feed the beauty about  
That is the trees, and bees, and rainbow trout

So, I suggest courtesy for all things  
This includes creeks and streets and public swings  
Trash goes the proper receptacle  
To keep me, Alhambra, respectable

*Torin Wright-Keyes, age 15  
Martinez, California  
Briones School  
Teacher: Marilyn Brouette*

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Creek Seeker Prize

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**Hear, See, Touch, Feel, and Wonder**

I hear many birds chirping soft beautiful songs.  
I notice an old tree dying.  
Next to it, a new tree, just beginning to grow.  
One life ends as another begins.  
I run my fingers gently through the grass.  
The wind blows in all this space.  
I feel like I can touch the moon.  
I wonder how time will change you,  
my friend.

*Emily Loebel (grade 3) and Alaina Julian (ESA Mentor Graduate)  
Martinez, California  
John Swett Elementary School and Environmental Studies Academy  
Teachers: Melissa Stephenson and Rona Zollinger*

2009 River *of* Words Youth Poetry & Art Contest  
Creek Seeker Prize

**Haiku**

I throw a pebble  
in the stream I hear bubbling  
water in my face.

I see big trees there are  
squirrels playing tag, I hear birds  
by the chirping sounds.

Wind in my face  
the sun in my face – bright sun,  
hard wind, that's the world.

*Jessica Jauregui López, age 11*  
*Oakland, California*  
*Poetry Inside Out*  
*Teacher: John Oliver Simon*



**SURVIVAL**  
**JULIA MARTIEN, AGE 14**  
**EL CERRITO, CALIFORNIA**  
**ISLAND STUDIO**  
**TEACHER: SANDI POTTER**  
**2009 CREEK SEEKER PRIZE**

***The following photos are from the:***

Strawberry Creek Watershed: Site-Specific Sculpture

Berkeley Montessori School, 7th grade class

Berkeley, California

Teachers: Lisa O'Reilly & Simon Hurd

2009 Creek Seeker Prize































