SCILES RANDOLPH COLLEGE 2022

THE HEARTOF COMPLEXITY

Finalists' Contributions from the 2022 Randolph College Science Festival Poetry Competition

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Solar Power!

Plants and animals use solar power.
Reptiles use it to warm up, slither, and run.
Plants use it to grow, live, and produce.
And I use it too.
I have solar panels on my roof.
They make electricity that power my lights, computer, and TV.
They help keep clean the air, water, and land.
I hope you will use solar power too.

First Place Josiah Jones

Under the Son Academy Grade 2

primary school

The Bees

Buzz, Buzz, Buzz The bees are flying from their hive. They suck the nectar from the flowers. Buzz, Buzz, Buzz They are making honey. They must be storing honey for winter. Buzz, Buzz, Buzz It's been spring, summer, and now fall. Their wings go so fast, you can barely see them. Buzz, Buzz, Buzz When winter comes their will be hibernation. When spring starts again a new generation.

Second Place Gideon Jones

Under the Son Academy Grade 2

The Motion of an Anteater

An anteater's path of motion When he's looking for some ants Is like a crazy squiggle That goes past some plants.

He's tracking all around Until ants are in his sight The motion is the same As a chicken scared at night.

Third Place Carter Van Gurp Bedford Hills Elementary School Grade 1 Teacher: Chantelle Deddens



Weird Things

I saw thorns on leaves I didn't believe Webs in trees Grass in flowers Weird to see When I walked on rocks in the sidewalk with a weird tree What is next I can't wait to see

Adrian Henderson

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School Grade 1 Teacher: Angela White

Rainbow

Red. Orange. Yellow. Green. Blue. Indigo. Violet. A rainbow. It came out because of water and sun. Let's go out and have some fun.

Lydia Jones

Under the Son Academy Grade 1

primary school

Sports

Sports Fun, kick Tiring, catching, throwing Run to the goal All kinds

Brody Marks

Addition

Addition Fun, altogether Increasing, joining, adding Addition is the SUM Combined

Evie Jenkins

Potion Bottle

Potion Bottle Bubbly, Witchy Mixing, Exploding, Imagining Potions are really cool Liquid

Indie Gillum

Unicorns

Unicorns Magical, Cool Flying, Loving, Smiling Unicorns are imaginary Horses

Paisley Childress

primary school

The Motion of a Butterfly

A butterfly wing's motion When it flies from flower to flower Goes gracefully up and down With just a little power.

It's like a fast flutter Until it stops to get a drink The motion is the same As eyelashes when they blink.

Jona Chisolm Bedford Hills Elementary School Grade 1 Teacher: Chantelle Deddens

The Motion of a Puppy Tail

The motion of my dog's tail When he chews his squeaky toy Goes quickly back and forth Because he feels a lot of joy.

It goes from side to side While he's playing with his sock The motion is the same As a swinging grandfather clock.

Aidan Garland Bedford Hills Elementary School Grade 1 Teacher: Chantelle Deddens

The Motion of a Snake

A snake's path of motion As it slithers in the trees Goes in a weird squiggle Until he finds some leaves.

Up and down and to the left But when it's night, he's still. The motion is the same As rocks rolling down a hill.

Hunter Johnson

Bedford Hills Elementary School Grade 1 Teacher: Chantelle Deddens

The Motion of a Ride-On Rocket

The motion of the ride-on rocket At the Short Pump mall Bounces roughly back and forth And so my dad I call.

I am surprised to see The steering wheel decorated with mice The motion is the same As a penguin waddling on ice.

Olivia Serro

Bedford Hills Elementary School Grade 1 Teacher: Chantelle Deddens

elementary school

A Global Warning

My eyes scan the deserted landscape. Dust whispers to me as it shuffles past The once-beautiful field has shapeshifted into a rocky terrain littered with lives Taken By us Flowers wheeze with the wind, as they take one last breath Leavesweep over a departed seed, like a mother that's lost a child Trees have withered to stumps The soil shivers, frightened of what we'll do next Plumes of thick black wisps darken the sky, they block out the sun The clouds are parched of their healthy water And all I can think of as factories churn As the surviving trees depart As plants perish As animals take final breaths Is that All these lives... Were taken by us.

Taken by Global Warming.

First Place Alexandra Hoffman

elementary school

The Mysterious Phases of the Moon

The moon is mysterious Delicate and bright That's why it's important To get the phases right

The first moon phase Is called new moon You'll never be able to see it In the afternoon

Waxing crescent Is growing in the sky a thin sliver of the moon Like a slice of pie

First quarterIs next in line Halfway lit It looks devine

Waxing gibbous Is yet to come The moon grows into a silly shape Almost like your thumb

Full moonIs the brightest of them all You may see it shining When the night will fall

Waning gibbous Fades into the night As the moon seems to disappear

Continued

elementary school

Bite by bite

Last quarter Is filled half way You could see it in the sky All night, and some day

Waning crescent Is similar to the letter "c" That is a fragment of the truth That you can hardly see

The moon is mysterious Delicate and bright That's why it's important That you learned the phases right

Second Place

Sara El-Ahdab

Caves

elementary school

Dark and deep, high and steep, down here nothing ever sleeps.

Living things to your surprise, many of them don't have eyes. Water flowing in places tight, Forming stalagmites and stalactites. Lakes pool, rivers run, always flowing. Creatures down here are always glowing. Deeper and deeper, darker and darker, Light to find is harder and harder. Down here nothing's ever saved, want to go down there into the caves?

Third Place Lawson Neufeld Homeschool Grade 3

Nature's Future

elementary school

Can be swaying like bushes and trees, Can be as surprising as a clock's ding-dong, Can be soft as a summer breeze, Can be as beautiful as a hummingbird's song, Can be as sad as willow trees on a rainy day, Can be as hard as a butterfly with a broken wing, Can be as scary as branches sway, Can be so happy you just want to sing, The future can be despicable, But it's mostly unpredictable.

Jordan Berkenkemper

Thomas Jefferson ElementarySchool Grade 4 Teacher: Angela White

elementary school

Flowers

Beautiful Colorful Blooming Gowing Sprouting Stems Leaves Petals Pollen Swaying Opening Budding Vibrant Fragrant Flowers

Anna Mays

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School Grade 3 Teacher: Angela White

Underneath the Midnight Sun

Underneath the midnight sun, Every creature is silent. Not a single shiver is heard, Nothing can be violent. Every creature except for one, And this one is our favorite. A Tawny owl slices the sky looking for a treat, An unknowing vole slithers around not knowing what will happen. Our owl lands and catches its prey; its midnight is complete.

Jackson Barber

Appomattox Elementary School Grade 5 Teacher: Destiny Kidd elementary school

The Power of Pigment

elementary school

The baby deer lies in wait for its mother Hoping it will be camouflaged by its brown color

The owl spots it, his prey But the tiny frog isn't like any other Instead of being brown or gray, its blue in color He knows this is a warning of danger

Another chameleon walks up to me And steals the bug I see Red flashes across my skin Anger seething within

Being an albino is hard I can be spotted easily, even from afar With my skin all white and my eyes all red I'm usually eaten instead of fed

There my prey sits, paralyzed Well, actually hypnotized For I am the great cuttlefish My magic color changing abilities hypnotize my prey like a witch

Don't underestimate the power of pigment It's important to nature, like how a body needs a ligament

Alice Hansen

elementary school

Seasons

Seasons have feelings, Built with gentle, affectionate, care. But one thing that makes them unhappy Is when humans are deplorably unfair.

Seasons have names Based on their appearance Their leaves are scattered everywhere. Flowers spring to life

Humans ignore seasons completely Our roads split them in half. Their hearts are in pain, Apologies should be made on our behalf.

Animals nest under their midnight blanket, Moles hide in the souls of their shoes. All the while we dig up their crust, For nice, refreshing swimming pools.

Winter is cold, Summer sun scolds. Seasons changing, From warm to cold. In the daytime, the sky is blue. At nighttime, the owls hoo. But one thing is true, The season is new.

Penny Helm

elementary school

Our Queer Planet

Mercury, and Mars Venus, and Saturn Jupiter, and Neptune Pluto, and Uranus All wonderful planets with their own unique quirks But just one stands The most queer planet of them all Earth

H20 and Carbon Light and sound waves Life cycles and ecosystems Duck bill platypus' and venus flytraps Its tectonic plates and under the surfaces With volcanes big and small, underwater and on shore And last but not least the most queer of them all Us

Humans We change the world in good ways and bad Damage and Repairage Each and every day We share Earth with other living and nonliving things With dogs and cats, Boulders, and fallen sticks The earth is our home and nothing will change that Even if it is the most queer of them all

Teagan Foster

elementary school

The Water Cycle

It's begins on the ground and travels up to the clouds And looks down at the ground When it feels so proud to be allowed As it goes up and clouds surround

When it feels so stuffed And wants to fall As the clouds rebuff And as the water drops feel so small

This is when it falls down Into the earth it will come Soaking into the ground Under the hidden sun

As we touch the grass As we look up at the clouds As we gaze at a world so vast As the rainfeels so proud to be on the ground

Wrynn Ottinger Bedford Hills Elementary School Grade 4 Teacher: Heather Burkhardt

elementary school

Stars

Stars, stars they light up my night Stars, stars, so beautiful in the sky They are made of gas And take up mass Shooting stars are not stars They are what we call meteors The sun is a star Just an average sized one It is the closest star to me And that's how it will be for infinity The sun is the only star in our galaxy The rest are beyond and beneath Big dipper little dipper They are what we call constellations Constellations are stars that are together And look like simple images

Millie Imboden

Bedford Hills Elementary School Grade 4 Teacher: Heather Burkhardt

elementary school

The Sunset

painting the sky shades of pink and orange fading to blue and purple white fluffy clouds a work of art a masterpiece lighting up the sky. As the sunset fades away, the stars begin to shine.

Kendra Gowen

Appomattox Elementary School Grade 5 Teacher: Kim Jones

elementary school

A Plus Sign Life

Why is it so bad to be a plus sign? adding adding all day long it never stops, never gets a break always works never rests add all day plus plus - till the day is done ding ding! Work is never done Still more work every day, there's is still more to do That is why a plus sign is never free for all eternity

Anya Otwell

R.S. Payne Elementary School Grade 3 Teacher: Hannah Crews

middle school

The Heart of Complexity

In the depths of the ocean's heart there is only stagnant turquoise

A dark abyss is steadily stirring with sinking, salty water

It's an utter opposition to the surface waves that glimmer blissfully,

Whirring in an ecstatic haze

A continuous glassy shield that glimmers in the sunlight

The ocean's heart is an endless sanctuary An unexplored world inhabited by peculiar creatures Who occupy the vast, hazy undersea,

Living lives that contrast to civilization above the shore

Civilization unexposed to the elegant depths of the ocean's heart

First Place Audrey Watts

Nelson County Middle School Grade 8 Teacher: Lisa Schoener

Love: In Motion

middle school

Love Love is a science. Love is a way, Love is the night, And Love is the day, Love is the seasons. Love is a force. Love is what makes The world go off course. Love is psychology, And it will convey. That it is what makes the trees and leaves sway. Love is the thing That we all must share. After all. Love is what put all the math and that there. Love has potential. To succeed in all else, And the kinetic To use it not just stay on the shelf. And Love will repeat, In its curious way, That it is the night And it is the day. So Love is a science, I just want to say, It seems like the world agrees anyway.

Second Place Anna Apkarian

Linkhorne Middle School Grade 8 Teacher: Katie Cyphert

middle school

Mother Earth

She's quite hard to predict, Her schedule isn't what you'd call strict. Her spontaneity can be debilitating. She's not the best at indicating, If it's good or bad she's going to inflict.

Somedays her bones creak and ache, Which yields her crust to break. Somedays, she'll be in the mood to please, Those days tend to be warm with a subtle breeze. We anxiously await her wake.

Third Place Anna White Nelson County Middle School Grade 8 Teacher: Lisa Schoener
Our Beautiful World

The endless seas of blue. those secretive waters. That plain green land, the islands, it's daughters. The world's beauty is found almost everywhere, from the warm tropical trees to the cold land left bare. This beauty isn't common though, just look and you'll see that other planets left with life on it aren't yet found in the galaxy. In our solar system there are 8 planets in all. Each planet is special, size large to size small. But I think the coolest one is Earth, our home, for it's the only one where life can roam. It's the third planet from the sun, fourth planet in size. blue and green patches are it's handsome disguise. Earth has one moon. colorless and bare. yet it still shines all month long with no sign of wear. The Earth is unique in millions more ways, but for now I'll let my other reasoning do most of the praise.

Molly Scruggs

Altavista Combined School Grade 7 Teacher: Andrea Rice

Astronomy

Asteroids flying around space. Space has endless wonders. Trillions of tiny stars. Round and round the earth orbits the sun. Orion is a beautiful constellation that is shaped like a hunter. North star stays still while everything around it moves and is very bright. Orbiting different planets. Mercury is the smallest planet in the system. Ymir is the moon of saturn.

Laycee Talbott

Altavista Combined School Grade 7 Teacher: Andrea Rice

Maximum Capacity

I choose 9 billion people is probably the max amount of humans Farth can hold Seven octillion atoms per human is theorized. 000,000,000,000,000 atoms are theorized to be on Earth. 50 000 000 000 000 000 000 atoms per every piece of dirt. Atoms never touch. That means that we all fly. Scary huh? We have to go to ancient Greece of 400 B.C. to find the history of atoms. There was a brilliant philosopher named Democritus, He proposed the Greek word atomos, which means uncuttable. And so as he explained, all matter was eventually reducible to discrete, small particles or atomos.

Scott Adkins

Altavista Combined School Grade 7 Teacher: Andrea Rice

The Math Riddle

I sat down to figure out A math problem I could do without The crazy maze of numbers So much easier to eat cucumbers These numbers, I cannot crunch I give up, I'll go get lunch Now I'm back to try again I sit down and pick up the pen Then I realize the words I missed I clench my teeth and curl my fists The words in bold make my blood run cold: **Use a calculator**

Grace Geffken

Onward Christian Academy Grade 6 Teacher: Erica Gray

The Thoughts of Thunder

Rumble, rumble, bang, bang, pow, pow Do you hear that, is it the sound of thunder? The loud and mighty force that symbolizes a storm is a brewing And after that alluring sound comes a flash A luminous, sizzling, zig-zagged flash, lightning I watched the drops race as the rain spew on my window Take cover now because rain is drip drip dropping

from above

Anna Grace McCloskey

Linkhorne Middle School Grade 8 Teacher: Katie Cyphert

Stars

middle school

Stars. The stars. Burning so bright up there, Doing their own thing without a care So big bright and yellow Some red some blue some non visible But still gorgeous nonetheless.

Your eyes twinkle when looking at them and, Oh How I wish to be among them one day Just up there burning bright and possibly loved, Bright and visible A burning ball of gas? No... and yes Something I love.

Stars

Madilynne Phillips

Linkhorne Middle School Grade 8 Teacher: Katie Cyphert

The 4 Seasons

The snow falls, The children laugh, The parents enjoy their hot coffee, While the kids all play, Winter.

The flowers bloom, The tulips are bright, The leaves on the trees, Are as green as a lizard, Spring.

The pool is crowded, Kids all screaming and laughing, Sunscreen all over, Ice cream trucks blare their music all over, Summer.

The leaves all fall, The smell of pumpkin spice, Pumpkin Patches opening, Leaf piles all over the place, Fall.

Riley Plice

Linkhorne Middle School Grade 8 Teacher: Katie Cyphert

middle school

The World is a Wonderful Place

The world is a wonderful place, With wonders scattered across its face, Yes, the world is a magical place, I'll tell you why.

Birds and bees and bats will fly, Clouds drift across the sky, Above the roses, look, a butterfly!

Drifting earth that knows its worth, Clouds of dust and molds and must, Mushrooms and whole lives that bloom, Ice and mice, so very nice, And vines that grow and fish that glow,

And even though There are kinds of life that have gone and will go, There will be others that will grow, And even so, There will be new mountains that rise, All the way up to the skies, And the sun will rise, And magma will crystallize, And bones will fossilize, And birds will harmonize

Time passes every day, And yet, the earth won't sway, And the sadness will soon decay,

So, please know that yes, the world is wonderful,

middle school

And the world is magical, And the world is fantastical, So learn about the cracks that score its face, So learn about the stars in outer space, So learn about the ocean and its motion, So learn about emotion and its devotion To make our planet a better place.

Simonn Booysen

Nelson County Middle School Grade 8 Teacher: Lisa Schoener

middle school

Hypothermia

Below 20 degrees Fahrenheit As I look around there is no one in sight Colder and colder the air starts to get Feels like mother nature is really upset I start to feel tired I can't hold my breath Now I know I am close to death I try and I try to stay awake But there is an ache my body can't shake There is confusion My memory is hazy I really hope I'm not going crazy I fade further as every second goes by I try to stay calm cause I don't want to cry Is this it, is this the end I fear that I won't see my family again Now there is peace my stress is no more I fall asleep but there is no snore

Scarlett Terrell

Nelson County Middle School Grade 8 Teacher: Lisa Schoener

Trial by Fire

Rocks fall down From a darkened sky The red glow of a volcano Lingering by

A village turned to ashes With nothing left around No birds flying by Not a cricket Nor a sound

As I cry for mother nature to stop I look around and... Wait, a raindrop?

As the rain falls down Covering everything around A bird flies by And I start hearing sounds

For the chaos has stopped And a dandelion sprouts.

Tony Giacona-Spry

Nelson County Middle School Grade 8 Teacher: Lisa Schoener

RIP my cat (ode to physics)

physics is real things learning about cars and force physics killed my cat

First Place Wyatt Moore E.C. Glass High School Grade 11

Mushrooms : Life and Death

You'd never believe What hides underneath the soil And grows from the fallen trees What peeks out from the ground In red, yellow, orange Patterns of blue, black, brown They create life from death Decomposing and regrowing They redistribute the wealth put one foot on the grass and underneath lays over 300 miles of mycelium mass the DNA of the forest it connects each tree, flower, and leaf perfectly in rhythm, almost chorused mushrooms keep the earth recycling some edible, some poison but nonetheless, without them, the natural world would go spiraling.

Second Place

Elise Guard

E.C. Glass High School Grade 11 Teacher: Toby Johnson

high school

Space

Space

Five letters, infinite possibilities

Limits nonexistent, swallowed up by the thought of "What if?"

What if everything you've thought of ever before And that which you've yet to conceive of

Is out there

And you're the only person to have ever thought of it before

And scientists are missing out

Because they don't know about it

But you do

And even though the certainty that it's even real isn't really there

It exists in your mind

And therefore must exist

Somewhere

In the vast expanse of

Space

Third Place Gillian Ceballos-Kirby

E.C. Glass High School Grade 12 Teacher: Toby Johnson

Tornado Warning.

Shut the windows. 5 miles away. Run Downstairs. 4 miles awav. Hide under a blanket. 3 miles away. Wait for the crash. 2 miles away. Brace for the smash I mile away. Face frowning tight. BOOM. Destruction in clear sight. 157 mile per hour winds. Means a category 5. Tornado is alive. But we can rebuild this. Hand in Hand. Clean up the trash. Pick up scattered sand. The Tornadoes Wrath. Will not make us lose hope. We Will stay strong, persevere, and cope.

Dalia El-ahdab

Homeschool Grade 9

high school

Because of Us

The sweet hibiscus summer The rain falls and... Kills the plants The water is acidic Changed by fossil fuels Burned for energy Now burning the plants

The atmosphere is dusty Filled with particulates Choking the animals Because the oil is burning Filled with greenhouse gasses Because the trees are disappearing And we can't leave

The ice caps are melting Soon to accelerate global warming With ecosystems in danger right now With animals in danger all over the world The plants are drying up The world given to us is being destroyed The actions are close to permanent

The world is ending But we can still fix it We can fix our mistakes Changing our ways Improving the atmosphere Taking away the pollution Maybe we can

Michaela Harvey

E.C. Glass High School Grade 9

Physics Year

Junior year has been moving with great velocity With so much potential energy. All of this motion is like an ocean Need friction to slow it down Or at least get some traction To control all this action Help me decelerate and get this momentum down Test grades have accelerated my grade Making me feel like I've got it made. But labs are like gravity pulling it down Making me feel like a clown. So many vibrations causing too many complications Conduction, convection, radiation I'm ready for summer vacation

Walker Wood

EC Glass High School Grade 11 Teacher: Benjamin Shockley

The Science of Life

Natural Selection, is the selection of choice between what lives and what dies. It doesn't matter what they are, what they eat, who they help cross the street, or who's puppy dog they babysit on the weekends. None of it matters whenever it's time for you to meet your maker. You ought to have a speech written and written well.

The whole premise or value of natural selection is the sheer unpredictability in itself, the no cares given attitude it carries alongside. I always try to live life to the fullest extent every day as if it were my last, as everyone should try. Because life moves by too fast and you never know when it could end. My pops always told me that life is the most important thing you will ever have, so treat it as if it was the only thing you truly own. That time is the longest short experience you will ever have and you have to make the most out of it or you'll never make it out alive.

Aiden Perdue

E.C Glass High School Grade 10 Teacher: Toby Johnson high school

Dull Without

It's like they were specifically placed there Like fresh diamonds, glistening so rare Like they've been there their whole life How do they do it? What do they include? No element or equation could compare Life seems dull when we're without Those blinding specks of light They seem so close, yet far out Dashes of a shooting star, painting the community up above It'd be dull without Comets or nebulas North Star or Milky Ways No shine glimmers like theirs Theirs that keeps us in a trance for days It'd be dull without

Cassidy Perdue

E.C. Glass High School Grade 10 Teacher: Toby Johnson

DNA

Who will we be Who will we make We wait to see As we form We are unaware Chromosomes build And choose to share Biological, identical molecules Replication begins and ends Sequences converted Growing apart as strands bend Twenty-three pairs we hope to have A set of nucleic acid My life begins

Mallory McKinney

E.C. Glass High School Grade 9 Teacher: Toby Johnson

Water Remains Forever

Water is the foundation for any organism, And while it is a building block for life, The substance cannot be created or destroyed, Even when amalgamated with other matter, Really it remains water always. Rewind to the beginning of time, Earth was young and newly created, Mostly dominated on the surface by oceans. Although that was long ago, Indeed water itself has remained. Not an ounce more or less than before. Sustained though the centuries. For even exposed to extreme temperatures, Or buried deep into the planet's crust, Rebelliously water will continue to be, Existing against every obstacle, Vast expanses cover the earth. Every particle still completely remains, Ready to support the lives that need it so badly.

Selah Eberz

E.C. Glass High School Grade 9 Teacher: Toby Johnson

high school

Heating Up

Icebergs shrink with the warmth. The tundra suddenly turns tropical. Seals have no safe place. Penguins have nowhere to slide. Polar bears begin to fight. And people think this is a lie? The data is indisputable. Our planet is melting. The sun doing the smelting. We need to make a change. The systems rearranged. These animals will die. A slow and painful death. If we do not reach out. And save them from this distress.

Austin Buck

E.C. Glass High School Grade 12 Teacher: Toby Johnson

The Boron To My Neon

Dear Boron, my lesser half, My patience can't be measured, For those threads grow meeker every interaction. I think of you: lackluster; Baring a back but no spine; A heart but no beat; A mind lacking coherence; An element of only negative charge; Dear Boron, my lesser half, The crook in my spine I cannot relinquish; The clouds on my sunny day; A waste of matter. I'd bid you adieu, But the chemicals in my brain values this hatred, And my heart knows no greater respiration than the noxious air filling my lungs. I'd bid you adieu, But I express not a lick of care for your welfare, Or what you think of my indifference. I hope we can stay as far apart as we appear on our table So that I never have to see your Infectious face ever

again

Cyan Smith

E.C. Glass High School Grade 11 Teacher: Toby Johnson

high school

Solar system

Huge dark spinning orbiting rotating starts asteroids milkyway planets orbiting gravitating Black Big Disk

Xavier Friday

E.C. Glass High School Grade 9 Teacher: Toby Johnson

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