



# 2011 poetry contest winners

In conjunction with the *POET Tree* Arbor Day festivities, POET held a poetry contest asking 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in plant communities to express their views on nature in poetry. The contest drew in hundreds of poems!

This year, the contest started off with South Dakota Road Trip (SDRT), an educational program that took place in schools across the state and taught students not only about SD history, but about renewable energy and taking care of the environment as well. Five contest winners were chosen from this program, received a Visa® gift card, and moved on to the national level.

Then the five chosen winners from SDRT went up against entries from the biorefinery communities. Only the top winner from each biorefinery was selected to participate in the national contest. Five national winners were selected from the SDRT and biorefinery poems. The national winners received a Visa® gift card as well as the opportunity to be a published poet.

Congratulations to all of the 2011 contest winners and thank you to everyone who participated!



## 1st place

Clayton D.R. Vandenburg  
Bedford Community School District  
POET Biorefining – Corning, Iowa

Tall, skinny, short and round  
Sometimes white, sometimes brown  
Always giving, never complains  
Doesn't like snow, Loves spring rains  
Cleans the air, blocks the sun  
Home for the birds, we climb for fun  
Can you guess what it is?  
Do you know what it could be?  
One's of nature's greatest gifts,  
It is...the tree.



## 2nd place

Mikaylah S. Murphy  
Alexandria Monroe Intermediate School  
POET Biorefining – Alexandria, Ind.

Trees, bushes, grass, oh my,  
Even the clouds in the sky.  
Smoke, pollution, littering too,  
A clean environment is up to you.  
Keep it green and take care,  
So our kids can breather clean air.



## national contest winners

Trees are green, sky is blue,  
I love nature, and boy, it's true!  
Wind is blowing through my hair,  
Birds are chirping, filled with care.  
As I look up at the summer's sky,  
100 geese fly right by.  
Clouds of white, fields of green,  
I see an eagle, whose eyes are keen.  
Nature, Nature, here and there,  
Nature, Nature, everywhere!  
In the sky, in the trees,  
Even in the summer's breeze!  
Leaves are leaving, almost fall,  
Winter's after autumn's call.  
Squirrels, fish and turtles too,  
Mother Nature, I love you!

## 3rd place

Shelby G. McClain  
Redkey Elementary School  
POET Biorefining – Portland, Ind.

## 5th place

5th Place  
Benjamin David Reichenbach  
Manchester Intermediate School  
POET Biorefining – North Manchester, Ind.

## 4th place

Lauren N. Ganson  
Ridgedale Elementary School  
POET Biorefining – Marion, Ohio

### Spring

The bee buzzes through the breeze,  
Trying to fly through the pretty spring trees.  
The trees provide us with clean air,  
Helping people everywhere.  
Daisies blooming big and tall,  
Growing from their seed so small.  
Now big and tall the daisy sees,  
The big blue sky and budding trees.  
Let's help our Earth to grow with ease.

### One Will Make a Difference

One stone  
In the desert  
Is a Mountain

One voice is a  
Million in  
Silence

One tree is  
A forest,  
A beautiful view,  
A haven

Keep our world fresh and new  
Plant a tree

One small sapling will make  
A difference

# south dakota road trip contest winners

## 1st place

Jessica Welu  
Hill City Elementary School  
Hill City, S.D.

Reduce, reuse, recycle  
Instead of a car, use a bicycle  
Less pollution in the air  
People helping everywhere  
When Earth Day comes  
We'll celebrate with chums  
We twirled and swirled  
Because we helped the world

## 3rd place

Caleb Gebhard  
Gertie Belle Rogers Elementary School  
Mitchell, S.D.

### The Meadow

Twenty acres of grass and flowers  
Great fun for many hours  
Many animals running around  
Prairie dogs under ground  
Coyotes very loudly howl  
Under the watch of an owl

## 2nd place

Margaret Barnett  
Wagner Community School  
Wagner, S.D.

### Cleaning the Earth

Green, green grass galore  
Recycle, recycle trash no more  
Clean, clean our Earth's dirt floor  
Change you see as you open the door.

It's time, it's time to look around  
For there's no more trash on the ground  
Look, look for we have found  
An Earth clean all the way around

## 5th place

Tess Oplinger  
Menno Elementary School  
Menno, S.D.

### Nature

Nelly Nature has  
Beautiful Butterflies,  
Some Squawking Squirrels,  
Tall Talking Trees,  
Laughing Little Leaves,  
Green Gorilla Grass,  
Salty Sun and the Shimmering Sky  
For Five Flocking Falcons!

## Recycle

Earth is beautiful as you can see,  
Just how beautiful could it be?  
If there were no littering and more recycling, too.  
Everyone working together there's much we can do.

Earth would be cleaner  
Trees and grass would be greener  
Please pitch in and do your part  
By picking up a bottle is a good start

So let's all take a stand  
This is our land.  
We may miss the old world we had  
As much as we are glad.

## 4th place

Caitlyn LaCroix  
Scotland Elementary School  
Scotland, S.D.