

Grand Prize Art Winner (Intermediate - Grades 3-5)

Save the Koalas
By: Alina Bolanos



WITESOL Writing and Art Contest 2019-2020 Winners

Theme: Animals

Grand Prize for Art:

Alina Bolanos - Grades 3-5 - (WITESOL Member: Kari Johnson)

K-2 Writing:

1st place: Tonkhoa Daosuk - (WITESOL Member: Kari Johnson)

2nd place: Yaneli Gonzalez - (WITESOL Member: Kari Johnson)

3rd place: Genesis Tomas - (WITESOL Member: Kari Johnson)

K-2 Art:

1st place: Giselle Sanchez - (WITESOL Member: Kari Johnson)

3-5 Writing:

1st place: Allison Padilla - (WITESOL Member: Kari Johnson)

2nd place: Jocelyn Velazquez - (WITESOL Member: Kari Johnson)

3rd place: Zuri Tomas - (WITESOL Member: Kari Johnson)

3-5 Art:

1st place: Ulices Antonio Palacios - (WITESOL Member: Kari Johnson)

9-12 Writing:

1st Place: Devin Lind - (WITESOL Member: Molly Pollock)

9-12 Art:

1st Place: Jandelys Santiago Pinero - (WITESOL Member: Molly Pollock)

Adult Writing:

1st Place: Kangping Gu - (WITESOL Member: Rossitza Ivanova)

2nd Place: Aurora Barassi - (WITESOL Member: Brianna Deering)

3rd Place: Shiao Tao - (WITESOL Member: Anjie Kokan)

Adult Art:

1st Place: Jose Antonio Vazquez Pioquinto - (WITESOL Member: Karlyn Ehrhardt)

1st Place Writing - Primary (Grades K-2)

Scary Snakes

By: Tonkhoa Daosuk



Have you ever wondered about snakes? Let me help you learn about how snakes survive in their habitat, what they look like, their diet, their life cycle, and other fun facts.

Some people think snakes are scary looking. Some snakes are fat, thin, dry, and scaly. Snakes have bones.

Snakes look for safe shelter. Snakes live in warm and cold places. They live in oceans, desert, and forest too. Plus they live in city and parks.

Snakes look for delicious dinner. Large pythons eat pigs, frogs, and sheeps. Snakes squeeze their prey to death then swallow it whole!

Some people think snakes are bad parents. Large pythons lay thirty to a hundred eggs! Some snakes when they are cold wrap all together. When mommy lays eggs she then runs away and lets them take care of them self but baby snakes can protect them self already when they are a baby!

There are fun facts about snakes. Some snakes are good swimmers. Ball pythons are good pets. Most snakes eat thirty meals a year. Green Anaconda weigh 550 pounds.

Did you learn anything about snakes? I read and write all about snakes. Now you could try to write a nonfiction report on another animal.

2nd Place Writing - Primary (Grades K-2)

Monkeys

By: Yaneli Gonzalez



Monkeys are able to survive in their habitat. Monkeys depend on their habitat, diet, and live cycle for survival. They have black, gold and tan fur. Spider monkeys are quick animal and fast.

Monkeys live in rainforests. Monkeys also live in Africa, Asia and parts of Central America, Mexico, tree, and grassland.

Monkeys eat insects, bananas, leaves and seeds. Spider monkeys eat bird eggs and fruit.

Baby monkeys stay close to their mummies for the first year. Baby monkeys learned from their moms.

Spider monkeys look like spider when they hang up side down in trees. Did you know when Spider monkeys frighten they bark or growl. You are now an expert on Monkeys. You can help teach someone else about how Monkeys survive.

3rd Place Writing - Primary (Grades K-2)

All About African Penguins

By: Genesis Tomas



African penguins they live in burrows. They live in groups called colonies. They make holes and then they can get in the burrows. They put sticks in the burrows. African penguins have black and white fur. African penguins have short legs. They have two eggs at a time. African penguins go under water to get food. They eat fish and krill. African penguins are very very cute. But they are a little funny but they are still very cute. So I think you should learn about them.

1st Place Art - Primary (Grades K-2)

Who? The Owl
By: Giselle Sanchez



Note from the Artist: I used clay and glaze to make my owl.

1st Place Writing - Intermediate (Grades 3-5)

Perfect Pandas
By: Allison Padilla



Did you know the babies of pandas are named cubs? Pandas and me are different and a little bit the same. Pandas are so cute.

Pandas and me have three things the same. I am a vegetarian because I eat fruits and vegetables. I do not eat meat. Pandas eat plants too. I swim very well and pandas do too. The panda and I both like to climb trees. In Honduras, I climbed mango trees. I would get the mango and eat it with salt up in the tree. I would watch the soccer games with my cousin and eat the mangoes up in the tree. Pandas like to eat bamboo up in the trees.

The pandas and me have different things too. Pandas have black and white fur but I have brown hair. Pandas eat bamboo but I do not eat bamboo. I eat pasta. Pandas live 20 years but people live more than 20 years. People live like 88 years or more. Pandas live in China, only in China. I was born in Honduras but I live in the United States now.

Pandas and me have some things the same and some things different. I want to be a panda because they are a lazy bear that climbs trees. Do you think I could be a panda?

2nd Place Writing - Intermediate (Grades 3-5)

Obedient Octopus
By: Jocelyn Velazquez



Did you know that I only live for 6 months to four years? Some people might be upset I live a very short life. During my short life I try to keep to myself and be quiet. Now I can show you my interesting facts and why it is cool to be an octopus.

People might think I'm a horrible monster but I'm actually very shy and harmless. I live on the ocean floor so you won't see me very often. Also you might think I'm **STRONG** but really... I would rather escape than fight back. Furthermore, I never bite people only if they are trying to capture me.

Now that you can see I'm actually a very good animal. Also I only have sharp jaws to so I can eat my prey. I also need something to eat. Now do you still think I'm a terrible monster or not?

3rd Place Writing - Intermediate (Grades 3-5)

The Spookiest Spiders

By: Zuri Tomas



Did you know that black widow spiders (such as myself) are poisonous, and when we bite a human we can make them sick and even kill them!? Some people are horrified when they see any type of spider like me. But I'm not so bad after all.

If you grab me I will most likely bite you and it may hurt (or not) but sometimes I will not bite you, only if you capture me I will bite you, so watch out!!! But guess what, I trap with my mama and wrap them in silk, and it tastes delicious, yummy! I eat other young spiders and (but I'm not proud of it though) my mama eats other female spiders because those spiders annoyed her a bunch and they were kind of mean! All those little pesky bugs-me and my mama inject poison into them and then eat them with my mama not my dad though. (Read to find out what my dad eats.) My mama's sac can hold 1,000 little baby eggs (which are all my brothers and sisters) and then my mama puts it on the web. Now the final truth, what my dad eats, what my dad eats, ok,ok so what my dad eats is birds (it's kind of gross) because my dad is huge so that's why he eats birds. In conclusion, some people think I'm a big scary monster (so sad) but I'm actually not. At least I take away all the nasty bugs for ya! So you better like me now! OR ELSE!

1st Place Art - Intermediate (Grades 3-5)

The Flying Hummingbird
By: Ulices Antonio Palacios



1st Place Writing - High School (Grades 9-12)

The Puerto Rican Coqui By: Devin Lind



One of the most fascinating frogs in the world is the Puerto Rican coqui. The mysterious coqui is very common in Puerto Rico- found almost everywhere. Although the coqui may look like all other frogs, the coqui is surprisingly very strange. For example, unlike many frog species, the coqui does not have webbed feet. In addition, what makes this frog so unique is the sound that it produces. This sound that they produce is also where the frog got its name from. "Co-kee" is the famous sound heard all over Puerto Rico which is a signal used by male coqui in order to attract female coqui.

1st Place Art- High School (Grades 9-12)

El Coqui

By: Jandelys Santiago Pinero



A Fox in the Hills

By: Kangping Gu



The fox squints and lays on the ground languidly as if she has no connection to her surroundings. In the moonlight, she looks soft and graceful, just like a gorgeous girl. She's quiet and beautiful, she's innate. During the daytime, she runs in the forest, her body flashing with gorgeous luster. Her eyes are shining, and her hairy tail cocks proudly. She chases the rabbit like a brilliant flame. However, she's not embarrassed at all, she's even elegant.

She's already full of food but she still chasing, nosing, and hiding. I can see her grinning secretly. "They are afraid of me, they are shaking," she said. "I caught them in various ways. They mocked me and said I was insidious. But I let them go." I saw that she fell to the ground pretending to be dead. So the little rabbit walked carefully by the fox and got caught by her. She looked at the rabbit's panic struggle, and she was excited. I saw her went into the rabbit's nest and lay comfortably in it.

The fox used all her means. She cheated other animals, ate them and occupied their homes. "Do you believe me?", she said charmingly. My answer was yes. I began to immerse myself in her beauty, unable to extricate myself. She tempted me to be closer to her. The fluffy tail was shaking in front of my eyes. Who doesn't want to touch it? Her sensitive ear was also paying attention to my behavior. She knew me. I follow her every words, although I know she's lying.

My mind is somewhat unhinged for days. I am full of her. I even dreamed that one day, She will become a person, hiding by my side, trying to catch me and eat me. I am just like a weak animal. I've come back to my senses and saw the fox lying lazily under the tree, asleep.

A Charming Surprise

By: Aurora Barassi



Since I was little I've always gone to my friends' house and they had pets, and of course they liked them. "My dog is my best friend!" my friends used to say. Interesting quote, right? Not jealous, but shocked, feeling so strange being the only one who would never think like that. I never had a favorite animal. There wouldn't be a reason to cover all my bed with stuffed animals. As everybody could tell I've never been a child who particularly loved animals. Buying me a dog wouldn't be a very good idea. But guess how that turned out? For no reason one day, coming back for Christmas, I found out we weren't four anymore, but five. As I was yelling at my brother, a Chocolate Labrador was right in front of me under the Christmas tree. Suddenly, while I was mad at my family, who acted like they didn't know I didn't want a pet, Sophie was running to me. It seemed like she knew I was part of the family too. How could a dog know that?

Sophie had just turned three months. So tiny and extremely soft, she was sniffing and licking me. It seemed like she liked me and, to be honest, I liked her too. I remember that occasion strongly. In a moment everything changed: it looked like I was no longer afraid. I knew that in few days Sophie would become my best friend. I discovered that dogs can be sincere, and above all don't lie. They don't deceive because they don't feel the need too. They also keep you company even when you don't want to, nor will ask how you feel. Dogs don't cheat because you're the only person they have. A dog is the only living being who is generous and selfless, he or she will save you before saving themselves. Sophie and I don't spend much time together, but the fact that she is there, reassures me a lot. Before I never imagined spending my life with a dog, now I can't think of a life without Sophie.

Nine Colors of Luck

By: Shiao Tao



Does luck have color? I think there are colors, and luck has nine colors.

There is a lovely deer that has been kept in my memory. He's Bambi the fawn. Before I came to America, I learned that there were many deer in Wisconsin. I was very excited at that time. I thought if I was lucky, I'd get to see what a real deer looks like.

One night at 12 o'clock, I had just finished my homework at my host family's house. I was a little sleepy and confused. I was thinking, what should I do? I came to the window of the room. It was nice to watch the stars in the sky and listen to the insects singing. Suddenly, something caught my attention. What's that? Under the street light! WOW! It's a beautiful deer. I couldn't believe it. Under the light was what I have always expected. I was lucky at that moment. At the same time, I also thought of a very beautiful legend.

When I was young, adults told me a wonderful story, the nine color deer. A long time ago a young man came to the snow mountain of the plateau in order to get the snow lotus. His wife was seriously ill. Only the snow lotus on the top of the mountain could save her. However, the extreme cold didn't give the man any chance. A miracle happened when he was dying. A nine color deer appeared in front of him. It was the patron saint of the mountain. It was moved by the young man's love for his wife. The nine color deer saved the man's life and gave him luck and hope with the power of nine colors.

That man was lucky. I think I am, too. So, if you ask me why nine colors are lucky, this story is my answer.

1st Place Art- Adult Education

The Pride of Mexico
By: Jose Antonio Vazquez Pioquinto

