

# WITESOL Writing and Art Contest

2021-2022 Winners



Theme: What It Means to Be a Neighbor

WITESOL Grand Prize Art Winner (K-2 Primary)

# Sharing the Tire Swing

By: Yahir Payan Alvarado



Note from the Artist: "The two hearts show the neighbors sharing the tire swing."

# WITESOL Writing and Art Contest 2021-2022 Winners

## Theme: What It Means to Be a Neighbor

*WITESOL is very proud to recognize the student winners and award them cash prizes for their creativity and hard work. Winners were selected after a panel of judges anonymously reviewed and scored their work. All of the students are multilingual learners who work with an educator who is a WITESOL member. The student winners attend schools in different parts of the state, but for student safety we are not listing their school name or city.*

### **Grand Prize for Art:**

Yahir Payan Alvarado - Primary K-2

### **3-5 Art:**

1st place: Zuri Tomas

### **K-2 Writing:**

1st place: Sofia Vega

2nd place: Montserrat Colazo

3rd place: Loran Nezir

### **9-12 Writing:**

1st place: Nick Lee

2nd place: Genesis Yang

3rd place: Kristen Lee

### **K-2 Art:**

1st place: Andrea Meza Garcia

### **Adult Writing:**

1st place: Norma Hernandez

2nd place: Si Wah

3rd place: Khin San

### **3-5 Writing:**

1st place: Giselle Sanchez

2nd place: Marifer Reyes Villegas

3rd place: Yaneli Gonzalez

## Neighbor Helper

By: Sofia Vega

You may be thinking what does it mean to be a neighbor. Let me tell you about how a neighbor can make a difference. One time I was going to my neighbors house and I was riding my scooter but their driveway was so steep. I fell off of my scooter and my knee was bleeding. My neighbor came outside to see if I was okay. My neighbor got a bandaid for me. Then we went inside the house and played. My neighbor helped me and made my day better. Treat people the way you wanna be treated.

## Being a Good Neighbor

By: Montserrat Colazo

Being a good neighbor means to be nice. One of my neighbors shares vegetables with my family. We get some food from their garden. We go to their house, and they go to our birthday party. Having neighbors is fun.

## What Neighbors Can Do

By: Loran Neziri

What can you do with a neighbor? You can play soccer with your neighbor. You can help each other. You can have a playdate. If you get hurt your neighbor can help you. Your neighbor can get a bandaid. You can play with your neighbor if you don't have a friend. When you play with them you won't get bored. It is good to have a neighbor and good to be a neighbor to them too.

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

# Helping My Neighbor

By: Andrea Meza Garcia



# A Neighbor Would...

(A poem about what a neighbor would be)

By: Giselle Sanchez

A neighbor would be kind.  
Give a compliment to you  
Say nice things about you

A neighbor would be helpful.  
Helping with gardening  
Carrying heavy furniture  
Rake leaves off your driveway  
If you didn't have the correct tool they would share  
Shovel the snow around your house

A neighbor would be friendly.  
Knock on your door  
Ask you to enjoy a dinner with them  
Celebrate a holiday  
Invite you to their house

A neighbor would be responsible.  
A good babysitter  
Take responsibility for something  
If you go out he takes place for babysitting

A neighbor would be generous.  
Give you gifts  
Visit you if you move to a new city or new house

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

## Neighbor Acrostic Poem

By: Marifer Reyes Villegas

**N**ice

**E**njoyable to be with

**I**nseparable

**G**rateful

**H**elpful to you

**B**eautiful heart

**O**pen to hang out

**R**eliable to help out

I love my neighbor!

## What is a Good Neighbor?

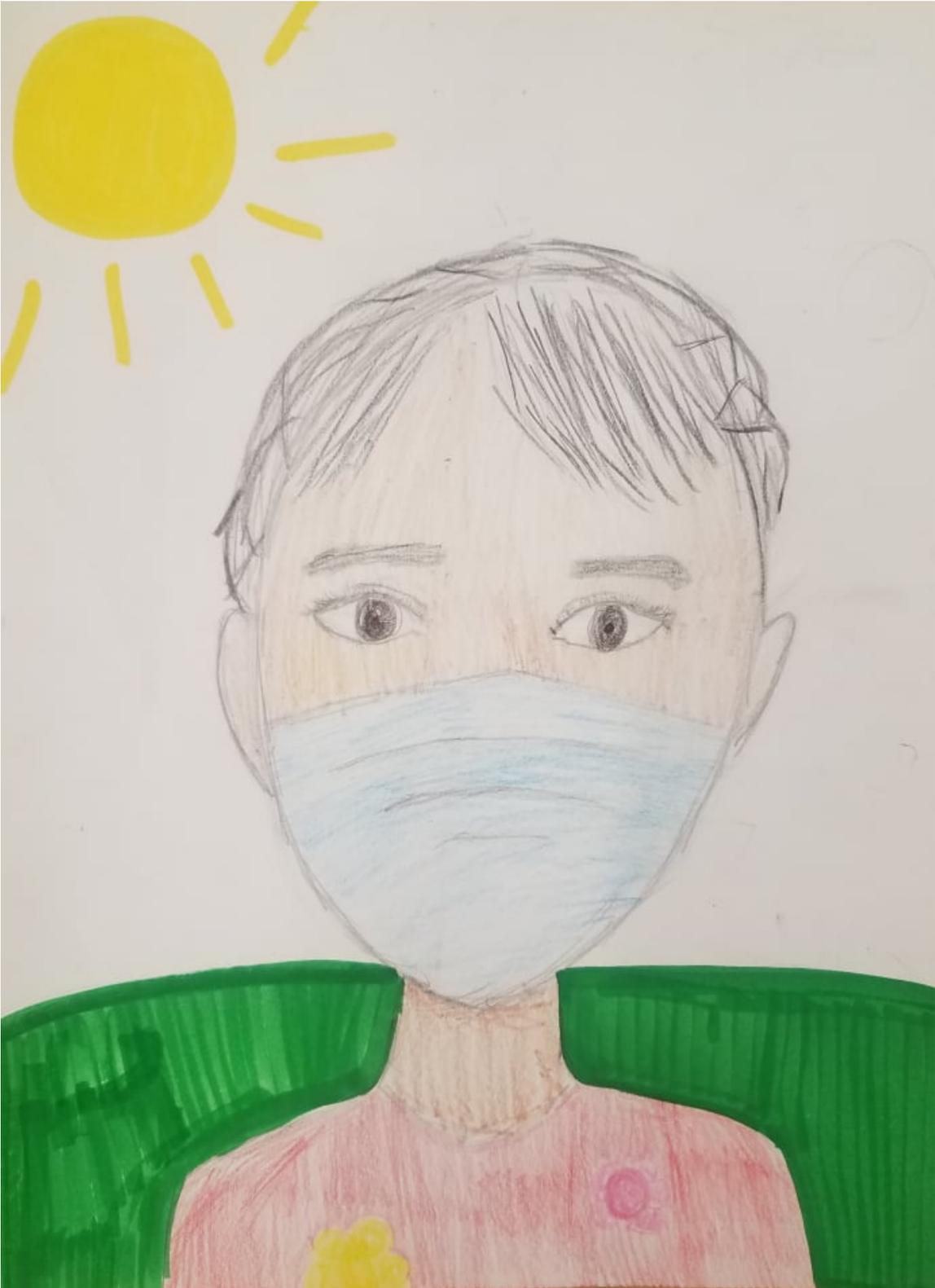
By: Yaneli Gonzalez

What is a good neighbor? Well, they can be good, nice or sometimes they are really nice or really good! A neighbor helps you or they can carry your groceries or just help you make your garden. A good neighbor is a friendly person and they could help mowing your back yard or helping you shovel the snow. They can help you with your math homework. They can take you to the park or to the market. Or a kid can be a good neighbor by mailing a letter and being nice to their neighbor. It can also make them feel happy and it could be heart warming to them. Or the kid can also help an older neighbor by planting plants in their garden and their front yard! A good neighbor is there for hard times like if a pet dies like a little cute animal like a dog or a hamster. A good neighbor is like a friend on your street or at home. Being in a friendly neighborhood is a good thing and a nice thing.

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

# Protect Your Neighbor

By: Zuri Tomas



## What It Means to Be a Neighbor

By: Nick Lee

The word “neighbor” to me is a person or community that is near you. On the one hand, neighbors are helpful to everyone because they can help with everyday tasks. In addition, when you are new to the neighborhood and have no one to talk to, your neighbors might become your new friends. On the other hand, many people don't communicate with their neighbors or try to get to know them. Getting along with your neighbors can be hard if you are shy or not used to talking to the people around you.

I was born in Milwaukee. Growing up, my neighborhood was always quiet, so I never experienced talking to my neighbors. When my family first moved to Sheboygan, my neighbors were talkative. When I visited them, I was super shy. I had never learned how to start a conversation with my neighbors before. But, in my middle school years, I was having trouble with my grades, and my parents and neighbors had a talk about this. Our neighbors agreed that they could help. So, my parents sent me and my two other siblings to the neighbors one at a time, and our neighbors helped us with our homework on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school. Every time we went to the neighbors, they told us a little bit about themselves; for example, the wife was an ELA teacher, and the husband was a biology teacher. Eventually, my grades started to improve. And, even when we weren't working on homework, we began to say hi to each other all the time.

When I think back about what kind of neighbors I have, I believe that I have some good neighbors after all. My neighbors and parents found a way to communicate with each other and be there for each other. Due to the pandemic, I have not had the chance to communicate with my neighbors, but I do believe that will improve in the future.

# What It Means to Be a Neighbor

By: Genesis Yang

If teenagers were to be neighbors and living by themselves, they should consider what kind of neighbors are next door. Bad neighbors can negatively impact our lives, but good neighbors find ways to help each other.

On the one hand, bad neighbors are the kind of people who have parties every weekend or so and have the music playing at the sound of 58. You'd probably go over and tell them to turn the music down because you're having a hard time focusing on your test. Their answer would probably be, "Oh sorry, I really didn't mean to turn it up that loud. And I'll make sure to turn it down." But they never turn it down. You'd probably be mad that they are not turning the music down and email your teacher that "I can't study because my neighbor is playing loud music in the background." However, the teacher probably won't care. So now you fail your test and probably can't get the results you need to pass. Now on the other hand, good people may be living near you and may ask if they can help you with groceries. You should be thankful that your neighbor is willing to assist you with the bags. Maybe sometimes your neighbor is going out of state and asks you, "Hey since we are good neighbors, will you mind if you can get my mail for me, because I will be leaving town tomorrow at 5:30 a.m." Hoping that you'd listen, you should be saying "Yes." Or, let's say that your neighbor just got home from the store, and they are struggling to carry the groceries to the house. If you see them, you should help.

Based on the evidence, I would think that people should be considerate and treat others the way you want to be treated. Don't ever be that shady guy or girl who looks and acts like they don't need help; just follow the good side and not the other.

# What It Means to Be a Neighbor

By: Kristen Lee

In my mind, the meaning of the word “neighbor” is living next to someone who you could grow closer to in the future. The main traits that I believe are good traits of a neighbor are respectful, trustworthy, kind, and helpful. However, in my experience, the best neighbors are people you can lean on.

A positive personal experience my family and I have had is that our neighbors, who are my aunt and uncle and their children, come over to help us when needed. They both came over to our house on August 29th and August 30th, 2020, to help set up two big white tents, tables, and chairs for over 100 people in the backyard of my house for my older sister's wedding. My aunt also helped cook for the wedding with my mom and sisters, and my aunt and uncle both came to the wedding the next day. They both also came and helped me, my sisters, my cousins, aunts, and my mom fold paper money boats for my oldest sister's two-day funeral on November 23rd, 2020 and June 27th, 2021. They both also came to my oldest sister's funeral, too.

What others can do to improve their relationships with their neighbors is to talk to them more often or even help them with what they might be going through right now, like sending them flowers, sending letters, and going to talk to them about it. The most important thing is being there for them when they're having difficult times, as my neighbors did for my own family.

# Neighbors

By: Norma Hernandez

I think the neighbors are honest and kind. They are polite. They smile everyday when I see them in the morning and they say "good morning", "how are you?" and "have a nice day".

When I am in my house and I am not there to clean, they help me clean the snow or cut the grass. Usually here nobody touches things that are not their, then the cars can stay unlocked or the things can stay on the sidewalk. If I have a problem in my apartment, I know that I ask them for help. I feel safe and happy having them as neighbors.

## Nice Neighbor

By: Si Wah

I have good neighbors who are nice people. I like their children. They are good friend with my children. The children go to school together. They play at school. When we see each other we say hello. They are quiet neighbors. I like quiet neighbors because I need to sleep before I go to work at night. I am glad I have some nice neighbors. I hope we continue to be good neighbors.

## Nice Neighbors

By: Khin San

My neighbors are very nice. The roads are very clean and wide. Always people are walking around the area. I moved to here 3 weeks ago. It is my new neighborhood. We don't know each other, but they're always say hello and smiling. The park is near my house and I can walk just 7 minutes. I like to play soccer so I always going to play soccer with neighbors in the park, and than always we are talking about soccer and favorite soccer players. Now we have very good friendship with my neighborhood. I am so happy to live in my new neighborhood.