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best 2007

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Girl gains respect for powerful poetry

West Woods pupil's poem picked out of thousands of entries

Story and photo submitted by Jennifer Arzberger

YourHub.com user

Erin Kopal, fifth-grade student at West Woods Elementary, sprinkles her writing

YourHub.com is looking back at some of our favorite reader submissions from 2007. This one appeared in the May 10 edition of this section. Erin Kopal and her teacher, Jennifer Arzberger, celebrated this accomplishment by writing this article together.

with similes and metaphors.

A formal letter arrived on March 26 stating, "Out of tens of thousands of entries from around the world, we chose about one hundred finalists, and your fine work was included."

River of Words had selected her poem as a finalist in their international environmental poetry and art contest.

"No way!" exclaimed Erin as the letter was placed in her hands.

Talking Trees

Trees talk
All the time,
They yell,
They whisper,
They even rhyme.
When they're angry
They blow their leaves
Sometimes they let out
A deep s-i-g-h.
They tell the truth
They even lie.

Erin Kopal

Kopal believes poetry can be used to evoke feelings of delight, comfort and encouragement. She has explored writing poetry about a variety of topics including nature, trees, water, wind, friendship, secrets, love and questions about the world.

Erin has faith that doing your personal best can help you make your dreams come true. Erin's writing was inspired by the wonders of nature. She hopes her work will help others to preserve the beauty of our planet.

River of Words is a nonprofit organization that supports literacy, the arts and environmental awareness.



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Erin Kopal, student at West Woods Elementary, enjoys writing in her fifth-grade classroom. Her talent for poetry earned her high praise from River of Words.
SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER ARZBERGER