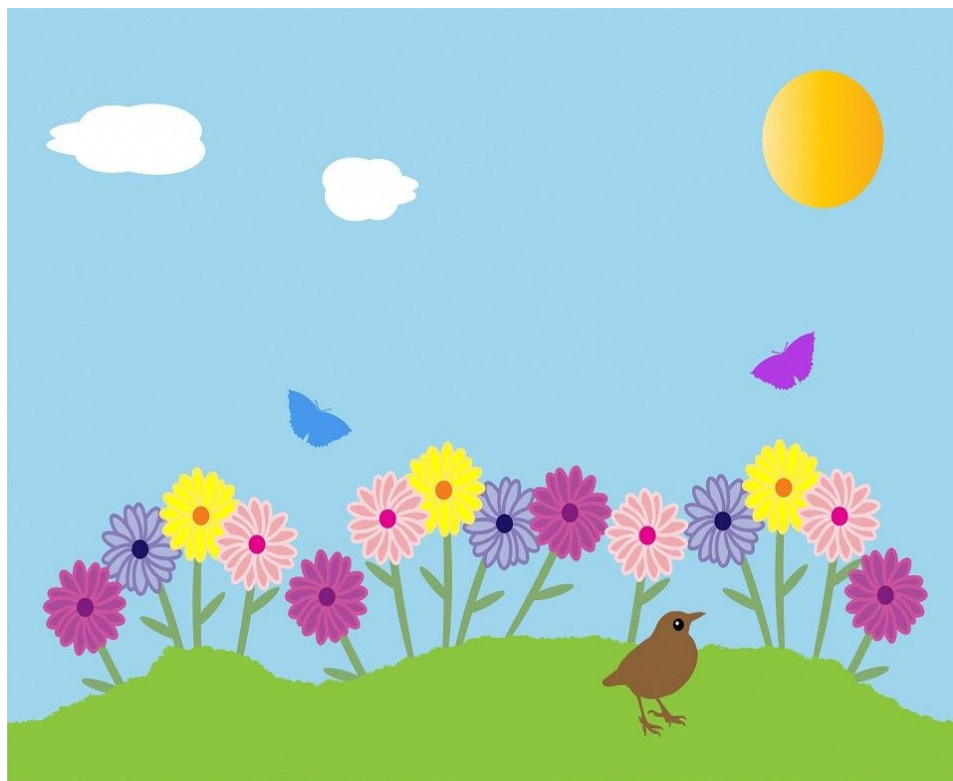


Down the Garden Path



**Anthology of Poems Written
By our Youth 2019 - 2020
National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Acknowledgments

Special appreciation is expressed to our NGC President, Gay Austin, for support to make the youth activities program a successful one. Also, appreciation is expressed to the youth chairmen at the local, state and regional levels. We especially thank our garden clubs who work with schools and individuals to encourage young writers to put their thoughts on paper.

Thank you, young poets, for sharing your talent to make this an enjoyable book. Keep up the good work.

Jan Thomas, Chairman

Marty Bowers, Co-Chairman

REGIONAL CHAIRMEN

Central	Jim Pavelka
Central Atlantic	Vivian Abel
Deep South	Jean O'Shield
New England	Deb Ort
Pacific	Aleta MacFarlane
Rocky Mountain	Denise Fink

ANNOUNCEMENT:

PLEASE FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES AND DATES ON NGC WEBSITE. THEME SHOULD NOT BE USED AS TITLE.

REMEMBER, 10 POINTS.

GARDEN CLUBS

The following clubs may not have many winners but wait until next year. That may be their time to shine.

GARDEN CLUBS

CENTRAL REGION

Illinois

Edwardsville Garden Club

Iowa

Vinton Garden Club

Missouri

Brentwood Garden Club

Capital Garden Club

Fulton Garden Club

Grow and Glow Garden Club

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

Maryland

Calvert Garden Club

Shipley's Choice Garden Club

Worcester Co. Garden Club

New Jersey

The Garden Club of Long

Beach Island

New York

Dix Hill Garden Club

Garden Club of New Rochelle

Ohio

The Gates Mill Garden Club

Pennsylvania

Ingomar Garden Club

Pucketos Garden Club

DEEP SOUTH REGION

Florida

Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club

Georgia

Dogwood Garden Club

Magnolia Garden Club

Odum Garden Club

Mississippi
Tennessee

Southern Lily Garden Club
Hernando Garden Club
Aldergate Garden Club
Paris Garden Club

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Connecticut
Maine

New Haven Garden Club
Bar Harbor Garden Club
Hampden Garden Club
Seacoast Garden Club
Framingham Garden Club

Massachusetts

PACIFIC REGION

Arizona

High Desert Designers GC
Pecan Grove Garden Club
Federated GC of California
Poway Valley Garden Club

California

Nevada

Las Vegas Flower Arrangers Guild

Washington

Ilahaee Garden Club

CENTRAL REGION POETRY

“The Tiniest Butterfly” 1st place

Abigail Davis, K, Fulton GC, MO

**Once I was walking by a berry bush.
I saw the smallest, most beautiful
Butterfly. It started to fly up to a
Blossom tree. I started to walk inside.
Once I looked behind me, I saw the
Butterfly, I started to run back outside
But then...I saw a whole pack of them!
They lifted me up and flew me up to the
Tree! I could see the whole garden.
It was beautiful!**

“Queen Bee and Friends” HM

Giana Travis, 1st., Fulton GC , MO

**There was a queen and a bee.
The bee stung the queen and she turned into a queen bee. She went with her
friends to a dance.
The friends were happy and embraced her difference. They danced and
danced all night long until a bee came.
They ran to where they belonged.**

The Adventures of a Butterfly 1st place
London Tafa, 2nd, Vinton GC, Iowa

**A butterfly is in the vegetable and fruit garden
He walks on the watermelon.
The butterfly has a friend.
They play tag in the strawberries.
The butterfly trips on a seed.
His friend gets him a Band-Aid.**

The Flower HM
Oliver King, 3th, Vinton GC, Iowa

**I had a flower with powers he was a coward.
His powers were making stuff sour. If you
Gave him sour he would become a coward.**

**Since he was a coward, he went into a tower
And he turned himself into a sour flower.
And he said, for now on I will be a sour flower
because my powers are to make stuff sour.**

Venus HM
John Riha, 4th, Vinton GC, Iowa

Predator trapper
Insect killer trap
Jumpstart your life
Flytrap

“A Bunny’s Adventure in a Garden” 90+ HM
Myan West, 5th; Grow and Glow GC, MO

Squeeze under the gate so tight,
We will have a good dinner tonight.

Oh, look the carrots are over there,
I recall do not want to share.

Tonight we will have a yummy soup,
Gather them up. Scoop, scoop.

Ooh, look! Strawberries!
We will have them with those blueberries.

Ooh, look! Radishes!
Aww, but the bad thing is,

**It's getting dark. Almost time for bed.
I guess I'll go, 'cause mama said.**

**The Garden HM
Harrison Carter, 6th, Brentwood GC, MO**

**As the grass grows,
It also dies.
As the farmer plows
In the big blue skies,
It's the garden where I go.
As I feel the wind flow
Earth,
Birth,
Live,
Die,
It's
All
A
Part
Of
The morning
Sky!**

Take Me Anywhere HM
Anna Schatte, 7th, Capital GC. MO

**The bees are flying above and taking with them pollen
wish that I could join them as they suck the sweetness
They do their work with perfection and I admire
They're neatness**

**I, the pollen, am waiting there until I'm being taken
The bees they fly and tale my friends to make something sweet**

**I wish I to were being taken for flying can't be beat
I watch as they suck sweet nectar and take me for a ride
The bumble bee will not drop me until I must be swapped
Oh, bumble bee in the air, you can take me anywhere!**

A Great Garden Excursion 3rd place
Blake Schaper, 8th, Edwardsville GC, IL

**A garden is a grand retreat.
It is a rainbow-colored citadel.
It is full of tasty things to eat,
And many a sight, sound, and smell.**

**A garden is an island retreat
For beautiful insects and creatures.
Many a splendid animal you will meet,
And you will see many of their features.**

**In a garden you will find exotic foods,
All full of vitamins and flavor.
This delicious smorgasbord alludes
to a banquet of a king's favor.**

**A garden hosts spirits of imagination,
Adventure and tranquility.
So, lose yourself to dreams in any garden facility.**

**So next time you find yourself in a garden place,
Take a quick look around
Exotic Foods and creatures are in this space,
Imagination and adventure abound.**

**Wondrous Garden Tie – 3rd place
Ava Fleury, 9th, Capital GC, MO**

**When I walk through a garden, I feel safe and sound
And breathe deeply to take in the things that surround.**

**Hibiscus blooming from the rich, wet ground,
As hummingbirds buzz till their nectar is found.**

**The bright yellow day lilies rise from the garden floor.
The lilies are so gorgeous, need I say more?**

**Why yes, I should for the garden is filled to the brim.
And this poem is only starting to begin.**

**The delicate, pink petals of the zephyranthes blossom from it's sweet,
nectar core,
Making the sight so appealing so everyone can adore.**

**The sweet scent of magnolias fills the soft spring air,
The breeze blowing softly enough for me to take care.**

**The delicate petals of the peonies look paper thin,
But I know that they are strong for their beauty is without and within.**

**I direct my attention to the trees, surrounding like a storm, the garden the
eye.**

In the tallest one's branches, I see a small bird flying by.

**Their soft chirping is like music to my ears,
an orchestra performance that always deserves cheers.**

**The garden is filled with wondrous things to be found
Can you find them all, from the sky to the ground?**

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION POETRY

I Dance a Wonderful Dance 3rd place
Emilia Sanford, K, Garden Club of New Rochelle, NY

**Flowers make me dance
A rose is my favorite
I pick one for mom**

In the Garden 2nd place
Eva Thompson, 1st, Calvert Garden Club, MD

**Bunnies hopping,
Butterflies flying,
Bees buzzing,
Flowers all around.
Ladybugs dance across the sky,
It is beautiful.**

“We Planted a Seed” 3rd place
Abby Hooper, 2nd, Ingomer Garden Club, PA

**We planted a seed
And we saw a big weed**

**We pulled the weed out
The seed started to sprout**

**The weather got hotter
So we gave it some water**

**It started to grow
Under a rainbow**

**Next to our plant
There was a big ant**

**Our sprout grew and grew
Into a flower that was blue**

**It is really fun
To garden in the sun**

My Imaginary Butterfly HM
Abigail O'Reilly, 3rd, Dix Hill GC, NY

**I imagine a colorful butterfly with blue polka dots
I imagine it eating nectar from a flower-filled garden
It flies as it floats in the wind
It is so beautiful
I imagine being a colorful butterfly with blue polka dots
I imagine eating nectar from a flower-filled garden
I imagine floating in the wind
I feel so beautiful**

The Perfect Garden 1st place
Trinity Coury, 4th, Pucketos GC, PA

**I once found a magical place
The perfect garden, a beautiful space
Hundreds of acres, busy with bloom
There wasn't a single trace of gloom
There were all the colors, from pink to green
There wasn't a shade that I hadn't seen
Up and down, high and low
Wherever I'd go
My adventure was great**

**I had all kinds of fun but now it's over
The adventure is done
Goodbye Brookgreen Gardens
I will miss you so
I had a magical time
I hope you know**

**Beautiful Cherry Blossom Tie 3rd place
Addison Slave, 5th, The GC of Long Beach Island, NJ**

**I encounter a lot as a cherry blossom tree
Bees buzz and birds hum my friends sing to me
The beautiful wind drums**

**I sway my majestic pink fingernails
To all my companions I see sunflowers and daisies
And everything in between I stand in the midst
Feeling out of place but my friends don't mind
In their book I'm an ace**

**Everyday kids climb me like I am jungle gym furry critters too
Nests are made very carefully
In my luscious, soft, pink hair built for you**

**My friends greet me when they awake
I am the most magical figure, they have ever seen
I stand still, like a proud princess of a king
I never fall over or lean**

**Swish, Splash the water goes
Beautiful geese pass my home
Sometimes I don't know if they remember
Me when I was bare as a bone**

**I used to stand there brown and petrifying but now
I am a marvel for the eyes to see
I go on a journey from my exquisite turning
When I become a big beautiful tree**

**In my little flower garden a lot goes on
I watch the adventures unfold
I hope I have astonishing experiences
Until the day I grow old**

GRANDMA'S VERY OWN GRAND TAMPER 1ST place
Renata Lovitt, 6th, Worcester County GC, MD

My favorite stories – there've been a few:

With Peter Rabbit I escaped Mr. McGregor's garden

I've played hide-and-seek with Curious George and his

Bunny friends and I've planted carrot seeds in my garden

With Linus in the Pumpkin Patch I've waited for

The Great Pumpkin to rise. I've had adventures with

James and the Giant Peach. I've climbed peach trees and

I've made peach pies.

Oft have I been told of the day my great grandmother –

To my Aunt Lisa's childish delight – unearthed a fat

Earthworm of quite optimal length. Now some forty years later as if I were

there, I recount with fondness my Aunt Lisa galloping off into the sunset with

an exceptionally gallant earthworm affectionately named,

“Gray Horse.”

Grandma's role in my great-grand-dad's “hospital” garden goes something

like this: Not unlike Johnny

Appleseed, the pair collected Japanese red maple

seedlings from beneath that old backyard tree. These

they nurtured with kindness and love in their very own

“hospital” garden. Those dear patients grew and thrived, and now some sixty years later they tower in their *own* backyards providing shade to those neighbors’ children’s children.

But by far the story most meaningful to me is that of my own role as my Grandma’s “Grand Tamper.” Each year, you see, from zinnias matured. The year before, Grandma broadcast seeds in fertile soil for me to tamp with the flat end of my garden hoe. Filled with faith, the soil we mist and wait with hope to fill our hearts and then our vases with blossoms of our love.

One day, I will carry on this storytelling tradition with my very own children. In *our* special garden – telling them tales of mischievous rabbits, curious monkeys, Galloping horses, tree hospitals and of course, Grandma’s very own Grand Tamper.

After all, I believe many of life’s grandest adventures Begin in a garden, be it fiction or be it not.

Hidden in Plain Sight HM
Geneva Turkish, 7th, The Gates Mills GC, Ohio

**Apples doing well,
Daffodils still blooming,
Very cute squirrels
Eating all the
Nuts.**

**Tadpoles keep on growing
until they are frogs.
Rabbits Eating all the carrots.**

**Snails in the lettuce,
New plants buried in
The fresh dirt.
Happiness spreads across the
Earth!**

**Gardens,
Are a must have for all.
Rustling leaves on the trees,
Dew on the grass.
Everyone needs to care more for living things!**

Journey Through a Dream (90+) HM
Lauren Karg, 8th, Ingomar Garden Club, PA

**Twisting ivy grapples the wall,
Patient apple trees waiting for fall,
Sunflowers, reaching, growing tall,
Adventures in the Garden.**

**The blooming roses let their aroma blow,
The chirping birds put on a show,
I have yet to put up my trusty scarecrow,
Adventures in the Garden.**

**Me and my shovel make a synchronized pair,
The tulips show sophistication and flair,
The feeling of tranquility is in the air,
Adventures in the Garden.**

**I see the elegant, emerald vine,
I smell the earthy fragrance of pine,
This sacred haven is all mine,
Adventures in the Garden.**

Dead Abyss 1st place

Nia Savana, 9th, Shipley's Choice GC, MD

**Through the brambles and brush,
there was a wondrous enchanted garden,
that called to me.**

**Following the entwined vines,
over the bridge,
under the naturally artistic draping canopy,
and across the perfect pacific Persian blue stream filled
with fish I ventured.**

**The amazingly enchanting flora and fauna,
had me awestruck.
The dancing fireflies,
lit the scintillating star speckled sky with a warm
inviting glow,
and filled the air with the hum of a melodious song.**

**I wandered further into the garden
Towards a trio of tilting willows
Which were covered in brilliant bright baby pink buds.**

**I sat on the lush green grass.
Which was painted with patches of violets,
and dotted with blue bells and tiny white flowers,
and fited with clusters of daffodils, lilies and tulips.**

**The whitetail deer pranced on the bank of the stream,
and drank the cool crisp water.**

**Out of the corner of my eye,
I saw something more beautiful than anything I'd ever
seen before,
it was the reddest rose I could ever imagine.**

**I wanted to take it for my own,
As I stepped closer caught in an unbreakable trance,
I heard a voice warning me not to steal it.**

**It was too late for before I could stop myself,
The rose was in my hand the stem severed from the rest
of the bush and the petals wilting.**

**Before I knew it the once beautiful enchanted garden,
that was once filled with whimsy and wonder,
faded into a dark, dull, dreary, dead abyss.**

DEEP SOUTH REGION POETRY

A Day in My Garden 2nd place

Price Partridge, K, Hernando Civic GC, MS

**I walked on my dirt path
Into my food garden.
I planted many seeds
Weeks ago
What do I see?**

**I see food to eat!
Purple grapes, orange carrots
Red watermelon, yellow corn
Green lettuce and red and white strawberries.
Yum, yum!**

**I ring the food
Into my house.
Look, Mom!
See my garden food
Let's eat!**

The Flower Needs HM
Aubrea Sims, 1st, Dogwood Garden Club, GA

A Flower needs stems.

A Flower needs water.

A Flower needs to have roots to stay.

A Flower needs seeds to start, but can't without soil.

Do you know what else plants need?

Yes, you!

Plants can grow better if you give love.

Love makes every living thing grow better.

Adventures in the Garden HM
Addison Taylor, 2nd, Magnolia GC, Georgia

Sun is shining
Seeds are growing
Plants are blooming
Birds are in the trees
Squirrels eating
Bees buzzing
Always an adventure
In the garden

My Adventure in the Garden 2nd place
Keegan Smartt, 3rd, Aldersgate GC, TN

**I'm collecting all my veggies
For my vegetable soup.
I walk to the field
As I pass the chicken coop.**

**I collect some spices
For a good smell.
Then I collect some carrots,
That went pretty well.**

**Don't forget tomatoes.
They make the soup taste good.
After I'm done with the soup,
We'll have a feast in my neighborhood.**

**I like what happened today,
It wasn't just an adventure.
It is a great time
I spent with all of the nature.**

The Blessed Garden (tie) 3rd place
Savannah Tidwell, 4th, Magnolia GC, GA

**A garden is a place
Where all things grow.
Where magic blooms
And God's love is spread.
The garden is a special holy place
Where we can go to pray.
I love the garden
Because I see beautiful flowers like
Roses,
Daisies,
Poppies
And all the different types of flowers
That the good Lord made grow.**

My Grandmother's Garden (90+) HM
Nicholas James, 5th, Magnolia GC, GA

**Dragonflies, caterpillars, butterflies and bees
Flowers, bushes, grass and trees.
All of these are in the garden place
A wonderful and fun adventure space.
Frogs, lizards, bugs and bees there**

**They eat the plants sometimes bare
There's caterpillar food and nectar plants.
I think I even saw some ants.
They live in her garden where some of them sing
I watch them from her covered swing
They really don't know that I am there
watching them with a quiet stare.
A tiny world that is so unique
I'm glad I get to take this peek.**

**The World of Gardening 3rd place
Carina Sarlay, 6th, Magnolia GC, GA**

**Flora
Lush, lovely
Care, hoe grow
Flowers, fruit, herbs, foliage
Pollinate, rake, sow
Beautiful, peaceful
Landscape**

**Landscape
Bounteous, sumptuous
Pluck, propagate, produce
Shrubbery, hedge, scrub, plants**

**Germinate, grow, gather
Captivating, expanding
Terrain**

**Terrain
Botanical, bountiful
Planting, weeding, pruning
Flowers, fruit, herbs, foliage
Spade, dig, cut**

**Harmonious, walled
Greenery**

**Greenery
Graceful, abundant
Shrubbery, hedge, scrub, plants
Support, sustain, sow
Expanding, enriching
Tillage**

**Tillage
Enthralling, verdant
Gratify, desire, allure
Freedom, loam, vista, scenery
Comfort, cherish, nourish,
Poised, elegant
Flora**

Her Happy place 1st place
Ava Frias, 7th, Ft. Lauderdale GC, FL

**There she stood
Soil stained hands and feet
The sun shining on her cheeks
She was amongst her trusty old friends
Mango as sure to offer her a treat
And scotch bonnet same heat
Rosemary and lavender lead her
Down the stone path
To the veggies who were
Begging for a bath
Onto the quartet of mint
Chocolate, apple, pepper, and spearmint
They need a quick trim
She'll make some tea
Mug filled to the brim
The wind chime rings
And her heart sings**

Bee's Point of View (90+) HM
Charlotte Dunlap, 8th, Hernando Civic GC, MS

**I zip through the garden
Wings whip through the air
The breeze flows freely
Without a gust of care**

**I land atop a flower
To sip its sweet scent
Bright blues and pinks bursting
Wherever I went**

**The breeze flows free
While we bees find our trees
To be nested and well rested
For another day
Of a year's play**

**Through the garden with its
Free breeze, sweet scent,
bright blues, and perfect pinks
Is nothing without us bees
Nestled up in our trees**

**Souring Through 2nd place
Lizzy Ilko, 9th, Paris GC, TN**

**With vibrant wings I soar pass
Rows of hued flowers and fresh cut grass.
The wind whispers to the trees
Its story kept secret on the breeze.
The brook gurgles and dances along
Singing to travelers a happy song.**

**This bountiful oasis is walled in
Hidden from its perished kin.
This garden is one of the last few that stands
An island of life amid desolate lands.
Long ago, they were green
But you drove on with a metallic sheen
And so, I go soaring through
Leaving behind a warning for you.
The Earth is a garden, vast and bright
So please take care to protect her light.**

ESOL

1st – 3rd grades

**Adventures in the Garden 3rd place
Omar Guerrero-Guera, 1st, Dogwood GC, GA**

**A garden looks like tomatoes.
My garden sounds like a cat.
A garden smells like apples.
My garden tastes like papas.
A garden feels happy.**

My Adventure in the Pinevale School Garden 2nd place
Omar Lopez-Hernandez, 2nd, Southern Lily GC, GA

It was the first time in the Pinevale Elementary School garden.

I saw seedlings

And I saw the grape tree.

The grapes were green.

We walked around to the other trees.

I was having fun!

A plant starts out as a seed.

Then, it becomes a seedling,

Just like those I saw in our garden.

The seedling gets nutrients through its roots.

The sunlight on the leaves is how

The seedling will get energy through

Photosynthesis to grow into a plant.

I am an Earthworm 1st place
William Lopez-Sanchez, 3rd, Odum GC, GA

**I am an earthworm
Wiggling and jiggling
In the soil
In the fall season
Breaking up the soil
Hoping to stay in the garden and not
Get caught in a hook!**

Esol 4th and 5th grades

My Adventures in the Pinevale School Garden
1st place winner
Leslie Soto James, 4th, Southern Lily GC, GA

**It was yesterday
I went on an adventure
To my school's garden.**

**We saw very small plants,
Called seedlings.**

**As we walked, we saw the sunlight
Shine on the plants.**

**Then we went around to the grapes.
They were not ready yet.**

**Can you believe it! Wow!
A pear tree was in our school's garden.
I smelled it. It smelled like a lemon tree.
It even tasted like it,
Because it wasn't ripe.**

**Gardens are Healthy 2nd place
Omar Lopez-Sanchez, 5th, Odum GC, GA**

**Gardens are beautiful with marvelous colors with
Vegetables to eat
They make delicious treats
Vegetables are beets they are so sweet
They grow with the sun's heat
Vegetables are sweet but some are bittersweet
Vegetables give you protein only if you eat
Vegetables are so good they help your heartbeat
They are so healthy they can give you a beat
Vegetables can give you protein to be an athlete**

Garden Adventure 1st place
Luke Griffis, SN 5th, Odum GC, GA

Garden adventures await!!
Alyssums growing,
Rabbits running around.
Day lilies sprouting up everywhere.
Earthworms crawling in fertile soil,
Nymphaea's floating in the pond.

Ants in their mounds,
Daffodils watch over the garden.
Turtles moving like sloths,
Urbina's golden like the sun.
Roses red, orange, and blue.
Everlasting daisies dancing in the sun.

NEW ENGLAND REGION POETRY

Garden Rabbit 3rd place
Finn Monahan, 1st, Bar Harbor GC, Maine

When I went to water the garden,
I saw something moving in the grass.
A rabbit came out of the grass!
It was eating a carrot.
When it saw me,
It hopped away.

THE RAIN IS FALLING 2nd place
Leah Murphy, 2nd, Seacoast GC, Maine

**The rain is falling and the flowers are growing.
The fairies are giving sparkles to the garden
that the veggies and the fruits grow in.
When the wind blows the trees
swoosh and sweep all around.
When the rain and sunshine show
the plants all grow.
When fall comes the pinecones and leaves fall
and turn different colors.
Nature walks are fun!**

“The Flower Garden” 1st place
Savanna Alleyne, 3rd, North Haven GC, CT

**In the garden there are daisies, roses and sunflowers
You can see butter flies gazing up in the shy and taking nectar from the
Spiders making spider webs and eating insects that they catch
Ladybugs sitting on flowers in her red and black
Crickets singing and talking
Caterpillars on the leaf eating, waiting to become a chrysalis**

**Stomp, stomp, as the humans come into the garden
We all scatter away when we see big, giant feet
We are scared, we run and hide
The humans are trying to be helpful**

**They give us water and make us look neat and pretty
Soon there is silence and no more humans**

**In the garden, my flower garden, there are daisies, roses and sunflowers
The garden is alive in all her beauty
Shades of purple orange, white, red, pink and yellow
What an adventure**

**Spring Returns (90+) HM
Maureen O'Connell, 5th, Framingham GC, MA**

**I dug my feet into the soft soil
It was cool beneath my feet on this hot day
I smelled the breeze and wished I could eat it
I sat down by the flowers
I leaned against the great oak behind me it felt good
I felt good I liked it**

**I looked up
The clouds covered half of the sun
I stared up at the clouds
They looked like marshmallows
The huge trees looked down at me
I felt small
But small isn't always a bad thing**

**I looked back down at my flowers
Pansies, roses, bluebells, and marigolds looked back
Hydrangeas seeped with blue and pink
While buttercups reached for the sun
Iris's produced their best colors for me
And sweet alyssum faced down
They didn't need sun**

**Moonflower so big, white and beautiful
I guess that's why it's called a moonflower
I wish I could bring it with me wherever I went
The poppies shone bright red in the afternoon sun
The flowers all of them smelled so good**

**Like chocolate chip cookies right out of the oven,
Freshly mowed lawn,
And butter browning all at the same time**

**I loved my garden and everything in it
Those spring and summer days were better with my garden there
But then the wind came
The bitter cold snow made everything white
And it killed my flowers
The garden
I had risen from seeds
Was gone
Only brown scraps were left**

**All that work
All that time
All those beautiful flowers
Wasted**

**Then spring comes around again those flowers that died
They left something behind
Seeds**

And new plants sprout

**Redbird 2nd place
Hannah Spahr, 6th, Hampden GC, Maine**

**I jog outside, tiptoeing into the garden
Silently holding my camera, I spot it
Nestled in a tree, quietly observing everything it sees
Surrounded by flowers, it chirps
Standing in awe, I snap a photo
It flutters out of its nest, landing in leaves
crunch.**

**So gracefully, so beautifully, its red wings flapping in the sky
As it flies away, click
One more photo to treasure
One more memory I won't forget**

Lost in the Garden 2nd place
Maggie Metzler, 7th, Hampden GC, Maine

**The pink flowers beckon me as I look out the window
Just the tip of the iceberg
In my garden of dreams**

**As I walk through I am amazed at how
The flowers are in bloom
The weeds are gone
How beautiful of a garden**

**Pink, red, blue, purple, green
The colors of life**

**As I go deeper and deeper
I lose track of where I am
More and more garden calls to me
As I lose time to my fun**

**I sit and take it all in
My garden of dreams**

**Time seems to disappear in the garden
As I explore
My garden
All the imperfections
Only make the garden more and more**

BEAUTIFUL

Secret Garden 2nd place
Spencer Carpenter, 8th, Seacoast GC, Maine

**Shovel in the wet dirty ground
Sunlight gleaming through small, gray clouds
Birds chirping songs into the sky
Pine, sap moisture
Plants growing high,
seeking life.**

**Secret to the world, but not in my head
Often I find myself daydreaming for hours,
Wishing the garden was real.
I have a secret garden,
It is here that I can feel.**

PACIFIC REGION POETRY

FLOWER HM
Serenity Sacchado, K, Illahee GC, WA

**First plant your seed
Let it grow
Out of the pot
Water it
Every day
Really pretty flower and rainbow
It's beautiful and I love flowers!**

The Seed 1st place
Natalie Pinkerton, 1st, Pecan Grove GC, AZ

**I just planted some flowers.
But at night, in came the showers.
It rained too soon, in the light of the moon.
Just a little seedling wishing to sprout,
Maybe he's happy it's not a drought.
Then the next morning, I was happy to see,
That there was a sprout where the rain used to be!
All the other flowers, will soon work up
A pretty little garden, to join my golden buttercup!**

A Leek on a Mountain HM
Zachary Cosand, 2nd, Sunnyvale, CA

**A leek on
A mountain peak
A bird and its beak
Peeking at the leek**

Spooky Surprise in the Garden 1st place
Dante Afable, ESL 2nd, Pecan Grove Garden Club

**Walking by the trees,
I see fruits like lemons,
On the ground sweet strawberries,
And vegetables like broccoli,
There are flowers that grow big,
By the spooky scarecrow,
Full of cobwebs,
Oh no!
The spider is walking.
Don't bite me!**

I like being in the Garden HM
Reilynn Austin, 3rd, Las Vegas Flower Arrangers Guild, NV

**The most important thing
In life
Is to learn how
To give out love and
To let it come in
To love is nothing
To be loved**

**Is something, but
To love and be loved
That's everything
It doesn't matter
Where you go in life
What you do or how much
You have
It's who you have
Beside you I'm so glad
I have you**

**Nature's Garden 2nd place
Myia Gardner, 4th, Illahee GC, WA**

**Early in the morning,
frost still on the leaves
out in the wilderness may you see
a blossoming blossom far off in the trees
Spring has passed,
the sun it shines
far from winter
and the cold, cold snow
Here we are with lots of flowers blooming.**

SECRET (90+) HM
Viola Crook, 5th, Poway Valley GC, CA

Crunch! Crunch!
A little girl wanders through the garden,
Her eyes trail off to a patch –
A ring of mushrooms!
She leans in close –
hears little voices singing.
Fairies?
Curiosity gets the best of her –
She swings her arm out in a desperate attempt to snatch one
But instead falls into the circle.
Everything around her transforms;
Little sprouts become trees,
Tiny blossoms become flower gardens.
She has never seen such a beautiful garden.
Or is it a forest?
Doesn't matter, She is absorbed in the nature.
“Lucy! Lucy! Where are you?
Time is up –
She lifts her head,
brushing off the dirt from her face.
Everything is back to ordinary.
“Lucy, what were you doing?” her mom says seeing her covered in dirt.
Skipping to the gate Lucy hums the fairy's melody with a mysterious smile.
She doesn't hear her over the song in her head.

A SEASON IS A SEED HM
Jacqleen Bier, 6th, Illahee GC, WA

**At night a seed will grow
With the seasons to and fro.**

**In the winter the seeds will
Start to flicker in the wind.**

**Some will fly very high in the cold colors in the spring.
Birds with wings eat the berries
To help reproduce more berries.
Little stubs will begin to grow.**

**In the summer the flowers have grown
Giving off radiant love with the warm colors.**

**In the fall, the flower withers and winter comes again.
The seed of the year turned into a flower.**

**Those seasons are summer, which is the flower,
Winter the seed, spring the stub and
Fall the reproduction.**

Garden Gophers (90+) HM
Miriam Crook, 7th, Poway Valley GC, CA

**Tipi tap tap,
I run through the garden
Crunch goes the leaves,
the autumn rainbow.
But what is that I hear?
From down below,
The ground starts to quake.
The dirt starts shifting,
Like a miniature bomb is going off.
And up from below,
Pops a little gray gopher.
Tunneling and digging,
What food does he take now?
He takes my heart,
He wriggles his way over to me,
Just saying hello.
I give him some crackers,
That I had in my backpack.
He licks my hands clean,
Scampers away.
What will I find tomorrow,
When I'm in the garden.**

Home, Sweet Desert Home 1st place
Felicia Foldes, 8th, High Desert Designers GC, AZ

**Gaze into the distant architecture of the desert – see the Saguaros’
uniqueness.**

They have always been the modern furniture of this residence.

**Glance down at the desert floor...a carpeted playground for the youngest
Gila monsters
And horned lizards to skitter and scatter.**

**Open the window of this blazing neighborhood. Feel the pleasant desert
breeze.**

Listen closely to the solitary wind swooshing the Joshua trees.

**Hear chitter-chatter as it echoes from the bedroom above.
A mockingbird’s preference is sleeping high up.**

**Press your ear against the door of the lower bedroom. Rattlesnakes are
waking from their afternoon nap.**

**At this moment, Desert Four O’clocks mention it’s time for the daily tea
social.**

**Observe a mother quail preening her precious children.
They always appreciate being invited to the party.**

**Have a seat. Hedgehog Cacti bear their sweet fruit and flowers for the table.
Help yourself.
Company is always welcome!**

**Look up at the ceiling. The colorful, luxurious sunset as a coyote's favorite
finishing touch.**

**Light the Desert Candle flowers on the chandelier.
The day is coming to an end in this busy household.**

**Peek inside the giant Saguaro Cactus.
The squealing baby elf owl perches on the edge of his bed with a puzzled
expression on his face. Why are my neighbors not sleeping?**

**On this extraordinary evening, the community collects at the palace. Their
ruler, Queen of the Night, will flourish and charm...just this once.**

**Wake up! The coo00oo-woo-woo-wooo of the white-winged dove tells us it's
a new day.**

Come along! It's time for more Adventures in the Garden!

Peter (tie) 3rd place
Benjamin Crook, 9th, Poway Valley GC, CA

**Walking through the garden
Nothing to do
No one to play
Then out of the blue
A rabbit appears
Its fur glistening in the sun
What a wonderful surprise
On this beautiful summer day
I approach it
Carefully not making a sound
And then I pounce
The rabbit cannot make a sound
I rip open its neck
Chowing down on its remains
I lick my paws in delight
Oh what a wonderful adventure
On this beautiful summer day**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION POETRY

In My Yard HM

Gibson Carroll, 3rd, Plattsmouth GC, NE

**Out of the wild
Using imagination
To fill our minds with joy
Do outdoor activities
Our backyard has so many things to do
Oh how much I like my yard
Really beautiful
So good it fills my soul with happiness**

Garden Beauty (tie) 3rd place

Ryder Milczski, 4th, Plattsmouth GC, NE

**Beautiful butterfly
Flying around
In the morning
In the school garden
Trying to find food.**

My Garden (tie) 3rd place
Ellen Spicka, 5th, Plattsmouth GC, NE

**As I walked in my garden one day,
There was something that caught my eye.
A rainbow of colors
Everywhere I looked
When I saw that wonderful thing,
So beautiful for all,
I jumped for joy.
What a nice thing,
Seeing everything so bright,
It was like the flowers were in a painting.
It was just so pretty, to see that sight.
I wish that everything was like this,
So simple but so pretty at the same time.
Gardens are amazing things,
Made for everyone here today.
They're made for animals to come and play.
but most of all, they're made for joy
For every boy and girl.**

Adventures in Gardening (90+) HM
Vance Poppleton, 6th, Plattsmouth GC, NE

**There once was a garden that grew magic beans.
An old man traded some to a man with no means**

**This sort of thing would never happen now.
Trading three magic beans for the poor family cow.**

**He took the beans back to his home to his wife who was cross.
She yelled at him, grabbed the beans and gave them a toss.**

**Later that day to his surprise the beans grew, grew and grew.
The plant had grown up through the clouds, up into the blue.**

**He gazed up at the beanstalk and never felt so small.
He couldn't believe how big it grew he couldn't believe how tall.**

**He couldn't believe the size of the beanstalk he had grown.
He went to go seek advice from a farmer he had known.**

**The farmer's name was Jack and he knew what was in store.
You see, this "Adventure in Gardening" had happened once before.**

Spring Strolls HM
Sydney Barnes, 7th, Plattsmouth GC, NE

**As I peer out to my garden
I feel a sense of pride
It really is an alluring room
Except it is outside
I love the perception of stones and rocks
And driftwood and ferns too
The sounds of all my chimes
I know you'd like it too.
Yes, I like my garden very much.
I feel as though she,
Has been gifted with God's loving touch.**

The Talking Bean (90+) HM
Miles Poppleton, 8th, Plattsmouth GC, NE

**There was once a little garden,
That contained a magic bean.
This bean was rather kind,
He was rarely ever mean.
This bean became bored one day,
He wanted to go on a quest.**

**“I want to have an adventure in gardening,
One that will knock away the rest.”
He waited and waited,
For something to arise.
“All I have to do is be planted,
Why was that such a surprise?”**