



Youth Poetry Contest 2024-2025

**My Garden Has Vegetables
To Spare That I Can Share –
Helping Fight Hunger by
Sharing Vegetables From
Our Garden**

**An Anthology of Winning Poems
Kindergarten - 12th Grade**

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. And, we help coordinate the interests and activities of state and local garden clubs in the U.S. and abroad.

NGC's programs aim to help local communities, regions and states in identifying areas of need for community improvement; local garden clubs providing opportunities for service, education, and friendship; and partnerships with concerned organizations who provide resources and support to our local clubs and their projects.

The Annual Youth Poetry contest is just one of a number of contests and programs provided for youth. **Learn more at: gardenclub.org/youth-and-scholarships.**

Youth Poetry Contest

NGC's annual youth poetry contest is designed to excite and encourage youth to express and explore their creative thoughts through different types of poetry. The contest enables our youth to embrace their creativity through the art of writing.

Youth in Kindergarten through 12th grade participated through a local garden club. Local clubs sent their winners to their State's contest. State winners were sent on to their Region contest. Region winners competed in the National contest. This booklet includes all of the national winners.

This year's theme was: **"My Garden Has Vegetables To Spare That I Can Share – Helping Fight Hunger by Sharing Vegetables From Our Garden."**

National Scoring: Poems are judged by grade level. Each grade level can have (1) first place, (1) second place, and (1) third place. Honorable Mentions may also be awarded. Each grade level can also have ESOL and Special Needs winners.

Title (10 points), Content (40 points), Creativity (30 points), Style (20 points). Total 100 points.

Acknowledgements

It has been a pleasure compiling the creative writing of our youth. Thank you to National Garden Clubs, Inc. **President, Brenda Moore**, for continuing the Youth Poetry Contest. I appreciate the help of the youth chairman at the local, state and region levels. I am grateful to the garden club members who worked with our young, inspiring writers. Thank you to **Susan E. Yoder, Indiana Youth Activities Chair** for her design and layout expertise. And, a very special thank you to the poets for sharing their originality, thus making this a very entertaining booklet. It has been a pleasure working as chairman for this project.

James Pavelka, Chairman

Region Directors

- Central Atlantic - **Monica Hansen**
Delaware, Maryland, National Capital Area, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania
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Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia
- South Central - **Sarah McReynolds**
Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas

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Child Privacy Note

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is committed to protecting the privacy of minors. Poets are listed only with their first name and last name initial, state and sponsoring local garden club.

Editing Note

Poems are published as submitted by the poet. Grammatical errors, and word spacing errors, etc. have not been corrected.



Youth Poetry Contest

National First Place Winners

Kindergarten

Kindergarten - Astrid R.
Sunny Hills Garden Club
Oregon

OUR GARDEN

We're going to plant a garden, a garden, a garden.

We're going to plant a garden, a garden, and plant an apple tree.

We're going to wait for springtime, for springtime, for springtime.

We're going to wait for springtime, when the soil is soft and warm.

Our seeds will grow into pretty plants, pretty plants, pretty plants. We will have lots of food to eat, and lots more we can share.



Kindergarten Special Needs - Allison M.
Hobart Garden Club
Indiana

GARDEN FUN

Water plants

Pick tomatoes

Watch butterflies

Hear birds enjoying God's food

Sharing with others who have more

Kindergarten ESOL - Dean D.
Pine Forest Garden Club
Georgia

POTATO

Brown, Round

Sofy, dirty, crispy

Yummy

Potato



Youth Poetry Contest

National First Place Winners

First Grade

First Grade - Audrey S.
Hobart Garden Club
Indiana

First Grade Special Needs - Cami W.
Odum Garden Club
Georgia

SHARING FROM MY GARDEN

I like to share tomatoes
Because it makes me feel good.
I like to share my flowers
Because they smell very good.
I like to share sweet peppers
Because they taste very yummy in my
tummy.

HUNGER WITH CUCUMBERS IN IT

Cucumbers are my favorite vegetable
Instead of me eating them,
I will give cucumbers to
People that don't have much food.

First Grade ESOL - Katia R.
Odum Garden Club
Georgia

MY NEIGHBOR GIVES ME VEGETABLES

My Neighbor gives me watermelons and carrots
And onions and corn and tomatoes
And when my neighbor gives me vegetables
It makes me happy!





Youth Poetry Contest

National First Place Winners

Second Grade

Second Grade - Talia V.
Plattsmouth Garden Club
Nebraska

MY BIG GARDEN

I woke up in the morning.
I went to go water my plants in the garden.
But I had too many vegetables.
Who would want vegetables.
They all said, "No."
So I went to people who didn't have a home.
I gave them some of my vegetables.
They gave me flowers because they were so happy.
I felt so happy so I went back home and my Garden looked perfect.
The next day there were more plants.
So I ate some and gave some more away.
I just kept doing that every day.

Second Grade Special Needs - Linlee S.
Odum Garden Club
Georgia

HUNGER AND VEGETABLE POEM

Hunger means that people have no food
They love each other
They feel like they're hungry, sad, mad
They need family and friends
They share their vegetables
They live everywhere in the world
Tomato, potato, carrot, onion, pea

Second Grade ESOL - Phoebe T.
Odum Garden Club
Georgia

HELPING PEOPLE WITHOUT FOOD

Helping people without food
Everybody should be full and have a good time sleeping
Let us help them have food
People need to have clean food and be healthy
I could give them some vegetables from my garden
Nice people do that
Growing chilies, tomatoes, okra, bitter melon, and spinach
People would love to eat those vegetables
Eating veggies are healthy for you and everyone
One out of every 5 kids n America doesn't have enough food
Please share your food with them
Love people like you are loved
End world hunger by sharing vegetables from your garden
Will you share vegetables from your garden?
I would
Today and everyday, we need to help others
How will you help?
Our world doesn't have much food
Understand that every 15 seconds, a child dies from not having enough food
That makes me feel bad for them
For people who don't know about them, read this!
Others might know and others may not know
One day, I hope there will be good vegetables for them
Doing for others makes the world a better place.



Youth Poetry Contest

National First Place Winners

Third Grade

Third Grade - Ameer F.
A&M Garden Club
Texas

A GIVING GARDEN

I come and plant some corn seeds,
And slowly watch as a crow feeds.
I watch a deer eat our lettuce,
While munching so quietly he forgets us.
And as a mole eats the roots of a beet,
He smiles as if it's sweet.
Sharing is caring, from humans to animals,
A garden is a bounty for all of us.

Third Grade Special Needs - Maddux M.
Odum Garden Club
Georgia

SHARING MY VEGETABLE GARDEN

Good morning vegetables.
Asparagus is growing.
Radishes are ready.
Dill is Showing.
Eggplants are growing steadily.
Nitrogen is good for my veggies.
Sharing is caring, so let's share.

Third Grade ESOL - Geraldine H.
Briarcliff Garden Club
Georgia

GARDEN OF HOPE

Garden of Hope
Always be Kind
Ready to Share
Dazzling and yummy veggies
Enter a garden and
Nobody is left behind





Youth Poetry Contest

National First Place Winners

Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade - Rosalie D.
Framingham Garden Club
Connecticut

MY GARDEN

My garden is so beautiful,
It shines in the light,
And at night the blossoms are bright
But the vegetables are not ripe yet.
But when I wake up the whole garden is
awake! There's carrots that are going to be
cake.
There's cucumbers, they smell so delicious
I could put them on a plate.
And asparagus oh so green,
I could crunch a carrot, munch on asparagus,
And eat cucumbers all day long.
But without a friend I won't enjoy it.
So come and sit with me and we can eat!



Fourth Grade ESOL - Nathalie G.
Pine Forest Garden Club
Georgia

THE POEM OF VEGETABLES

Vegetables are good for you
Like beans, peas, cucumber
But you have to share
With other people
Like family and friends

Fourth Grade Special Needs -
Cali W.
Odum Garden Club
Georgia

EDAMAME

Enjoyable for this whole world
Delicious and salty
And melts in your mouth
Makes me want to share it with the world
As awesome as your grandchild getting an
A+ on a test
Makes the whole world smile
Everyone loves edamame that's why I
saved some to spare
So I can share some edamame with the
world
Like family and friends



Youth Poetry Contest

National First Place Winners

Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade - Lilly R.
Madison Garden Club
Virginia

MY GARDEN WORK

Very delicious and nutritious.
Everyone should share,
Go and enjoy the fresh air.
Every tree and plant we grow,
Takes time to be part of the show.
Away they go every year,
But they'll be back, don't shed a tear.
Let's all celebrate their hard work.
Everybody, LET'S
SHARE SHARE SHARE!



Fifth Grade ESOL - Raquel R.
Pine Forest Garden Club
Georgia

CUCUMBER SALAD

Tasty, Colorful
Salty, Round, Fresh
A lot of ingredients
Great for sharing

Fifth Grade Special Needs - Morgana F.
Odum Garden Club
Georgia

HUNGER IN THE WORLD

(A Tanka Style Poem)
Hungry people here
In our home America
We can give them fruit
We can give them vegetables
We can help our hungry friends



Youth Poetry Contest

National First Place Winners

Sixth Grade

Sixth Grade - Hisham S.
Highland Heights Garden Club
Ohio

GARDEN'S GIFT IN ARMS

In the heart of spring, seeds take flight,
Beneath the sun's warm, golden light.
Rows of green in neat parade,
A garden blooms where hope is laid.

Hands in soil. A leafy touch,
We nurture life, we love so much.
Tomatoes ripen, peppers gleam.
.In every leaf, a vibrant dream.

With every harvest, joy unfolds,
The greens shared, a story told.
For those in need, a humble gift,
In every basket, spirits lift

Carrots, bright and leafy greens,
Feeding the needy, fulfilling hunger.
Together we stand, hearts aligned,
In the giving, we find our peace of mind.

So let the garden thrive and grow,
With every seed, compassion sows.
A cycle of kindness, all around.

Sixth Grade Special Needs - Hailyn B.
Screven County Garden Club
Georgia

THE GARDEN PARTY

I was in my garden one day
The vegetables looked like they wanted to play.
The tomato was laughing,
The corn was photographing,
The peppers were dancing,
And the radishes were shyly glancing.
What a great day to be in the garden!

Sixth Grade ESOL
No Winner





Youth Poetry Contest

National First Place Winners

Seventh Grade

Seventh Grade - Vera S.
Plattsmouth Garden Club
Nebraska

SHARING FEAST

I walk down my dirt path,
Away from all the bustle.
I walk down to my garden,
And hear the soft leaves rustle.

I lay out a blanket,
And sit on the ground,
I take some seeds from my pocket,
And bury them all around.

I plant more and more,
While I think aloud,
Who could I share these with?
Why, I could share with a crowd.

After planting all my seeds,
I walk to the ones that have grown.
I lean over one plant,
And see a peak of red shown.

I pick a big bright red tomato,
Then pick five more, at least.
I turn to walk back up my path,
This is a great start to my sharing feast.

Seventh Grade ESOL
No Winner

Seventh Grade Special Needs -
No Winner





Youth Poetry Contest

National First Place Winners

Eighth Grade

Eighth Grade - Savannah A.
North Haven Garden Club
Connecticut

THE MAGIC OF COMMUNITY GARDEN

My garden is happy and lively
Full of colors and nutrition
Carrots, beets, radish, lettuce, kale, spinach,
cucumbers and tomatoes
Make a choice and take a taste
The magic of my garden will explode in your
mouth with each bite

My garden, your garden, our garden
It's the community garden

Your garden is open and welcoming
Carrots, beets, radish, lettuce, kale, spinach,
cucumbers and tomatoes
Full of smiles, hugs, and nutrition
Make a choice and take a taste
The magic of my garden will explode in your
mouth with each bite

Your garden, my garden, our garden
It's the community garden

Our garden is full with outstretched arms
Waiting to give comfort, care, and nutrition
Carrots, beets, radish, lettuce, kale, spinach
cucumbers and tomatoes
Make a choice and take a taste
The magic of my garden will explode in your
mouth with each bite

Our garden, my garden, your garden
It's the community garden

The community garden is of love and nutrition
Enough to fill your soul and more
Together we plant, reap, and share
In the community garden there is enough
vegetables for all
Carrots, beets, radish, lettuce, kale, spinach,
cucumbers and tomatoes
Seeing smiles, feeling the love, comfort, and
care
Warming our hearts while filling our body with
nutrition

I eat, you eat, we will all eat from the magical
community garden
Fighting hunger and sharing love

Eighth Grade Special Needs - Nahjae
R.
Magnolia Garden Club
Georgia

SHARING CARROTS

I have five acres of land where my garden
grows
There, carrots grow in the rich soil
The extra carrots I feed to my pigs
This year I share my carrots with the kids

Eighth Grade ESOL
No Winner



Youth Poetry Contest National First Place Winners Ninth Grade

Ninth Grade - Jessah S.
Newton Garden Club
Texas

Ninth Grade ESOL
No Winner

FOOD WE TAKE FOR GRANTED

Ninth Grade Special Needs
No Winner

I plowed the ground to make a garden
My writing skills you must pardon.
After seeing all the vegetables I planted,
I realized how much we take for granted.
I realized I can get food any hour,
Many others are eating any hing they can devour,
So I've decided to donate this year's crop
Hoping the number of hungry people might drop.





Youth Poetry Contest

National First Place Winners

Tenth Grade

Tenth Grade - Alex M.
Cleveland Flower Arrangers Guild
Ohio

CHOPPED

Lettuce is green and abundant,
Yet the taste never wows me.
Its flavor is not noticeably good,
It is bland.
It requires something more to achieve
greatness.
It needs an ally to combat the battles of
hunger like croutons ,cheese, dressing
The choices are endless.
Anyone can grow lettuce in their backyard.
It comes in various types
Iceberg, green leaf or romaine.
Each distinct & able to unlock different
flavors.
But none close to their potential
Straight out of the garden.
Being chopped makes it come alive.
Alone it's criticized for being basic,
And often overlooked in meals.
Yet lettuce is why it all tastes so good.
So grab a piece, see the potential,
And understand its importance.
Unlock the greatness
And start chopping!

Tenth Grade Special Needs - Clifton T.
Hobart Garden Club
Indiana

MY GARDEN

I have many vegetables
In my beautiful garden.
I will be generous
And share with all who are in need.
You can find me at the YMCA.
We can make you strong.
My vegetables are free.
Come and get all you need.

Eighth Grade ESOL
No Winner





Youth Poetry Contest National First Place Winners Eleventh Grade

Eleventh Grade - Chloe H.
Corbin Garden Club
Kentucky

THE SPECIAL DELIGHT

In my garden, green and bright,
Veggies grow, a pure delight.
My tomatoes, carrots, crisp and bright,
Waiting to share this special delight.
With every seed, we ease the fight,
With fighting hunger, and spreading delight.
Together hand and hand we stand,
Hope and kindness from our plant.

Eleventh Grade ESOL
No Winner



Eleventh Grade Special Needs -
Caiden C.
Hobart Garden Club
Indiana

GARDEN OF GIVING

In a sunny corner of my backyard,
my garden thrives...
Bursting with ripe tomatoes, crisp
cucumbers, and leafy greens.
Each season I plant with hope
and now my harvest has produced more
than I could ever eat alone.
It's the perfect opportunity to share my
bounty with all...
Neighbors, friends, and anyone in need.
With every basket of veggies passed
along,
My garden gives more than just food.
It spreads joy, kindness, and the warmth
of community.



Youth Poetry Contest National First Place Winners Twelfth Grade

Twelfth Grade - Jonathan D.
Hobart Garden Club
Indiana

Twelfth Grade Special Needs
No Winner

GARDEN OF GLORY

Twelfth Grade ESOL
No Winner

As the garden grows, the beautiful green shows.
The people below grow worried, with hunger
forthcoming.
But no worry, since my garden is a vast sea...
For plenty to take and many more to feed,
So when the time comes to harvest,
The people run out to my garden
With friend and foe,
To gallop through my garden,
With a smile,
Like I have never seen before...



Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Central Atlantic Region

Kindergarten - Savannah B.

Pucketos Garden Club

Pennsylvania

National Honorable Mention

SHARING GARDEN

In my garden
I have beans
Do you want some? Yes, please!

I'll give you broccoli.
Take some corn, too.
My sharing garden
Is for me and you.

Second Grade - Felicity G.

The Garden of Long Valley

New Jersey

CARE TO SHARE YOUR VEGETABLES?

Very Yummy vegetables
Everyone can eat them
Give them to your friends
Eat them whenever you want!
Tend to our vegetable garden
Awesome flavors in every bite
Backyard gardens are great for families
Love you veggies!
Extra veggies?
Share your spare to show you care!



First Grade - Ahlijah W.

Pucketos Garden Club

Pennsylvania

FOOD FOR ALL

Green Beans
Pumpkins too
Some for me
Some for you

Broccoli grows
In the garden

With the hungry
I will share
Because I care.

Fourth Grade - Ramon A.

Highland Heights Garden Club

Ohio

National Honorable Mention

"SHARING IS CARING"

Sharing
It's good and kind
Helping, giving, sharing
Help people if homeless in need
Sharing



Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Central Atlantic Region

Fifth Grade - Amellia G.

The Garden Club of Long Valley
New Jersey National Honorable Mention

GROWING FOOD & FRIENDSHIPS IN YOUR GARDEN

Lettuce, corn, tomatoes and peas
Growing so fast in summertime breeze

Potatoes, green beans and winter squash
grows
Right up until the winter brings snow

Zucchini is delicious, you really should try it
I have extra, no need to buy it

Fresh from the garden and on to your plate
Eat healthy food and you'll grow great

If your garden grows more than you need
There's people in town that you can feed

Sharing is caring, it will make you merry
Cucumbers, apples and sometimes berries

Share your vegetables, herbs, and flowers
Swap food and stories for hour and hours

Growing, sharing and cooking food
Can really put you in a good mood

Whatever you share, large or small
Can help a family eat healthy in winter,
spring, summer and fall

So donate to a food pantry, cook a meal for a
friend
They'll eat it happily! The end!

Sixth Grade - Hisham S.

Highland Heights Garden Club
Ohio

See Page 10



Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Central Atlantic Region

Seventh Grade - Peyton G.

*Highland Heights Garden Club
Ohio*

National Honorable Mention

MY GARDEN

In my garden where sunflowers sway,
Lies a bounty of green in the light of day. Rows of
veggies,vibrant and bright, Whispering secrets in
the warm sunlight. Tomatoes blush in their ruby
attire,
Zucchini stand tall, like dreams that inspire.
Carrots peek out from their earthly embrace, Each
one a treasure, each one a grace.
With every harvest, my heart feels light,
For the joy of sharing ignites a bright light. Hands
full of goodness,I gather and share,
A feast for the hungry, love woven in care.
From my garden to tables,I spread out a feast,
For in giving, I find I am released. Together we
gather,
Together we grow, A community blossoming,
kindness in tow.
So let's fight the hunger, let's make it our goal,
With Vegetables plenty, we nourish the soul.
In my garden, there's
Enough to spare,
A world filled with hope, when we learn to share.

Eighth Grade - Lily B.

*Tusca-Ridge Garden Club
Pennsylvania*

National Honorable Mention

THE TOWN GARDEN

The downtown garden is a lonely place
Except you can't call it a garden with all the empty
space

The people in town do not want to go
Cause people think they aren't allowed to grow

They believe that gardens shouldn't be shared
But one day someone did something that nobody
dared

She planted a carrot in that garden downtown
And all of the people expectantly frowned

But she came to the square and said to them all
This garden shouldn't have an imaginary wall

This garden could be a place where community
grows
But nobody knows how a community goes

We must plant things together in this place of
despair
So we can all make this garden a place we can share

We can talk with the others about what to plant
And people could make friends and begin to rant

And over time as people come here everyday
They'll be glad we put this barrier away

Cause every night when these people have dinner
with friends

They think back to the garden that helped everyone
blend

The End

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Central Atlantic Region

Ninth Grade - Roman T.

*Gates Mill Garden Club
Ohio*

National Honorable Mention

KINTSUGI - A BROKEN SYSTEM I MAY HELP REPAIR

People are hungry
I have good to share with them
A needed repair

Twelfth Grade - Geneva T.

*Gates Mill Garden Club
Ohio*

VEGE-TABLE FROM MY TABLE TO THEIR TABLE

Produce
Produces produce
That I might share from spares
To those in need of nourishment
I care



Tenth Grade - Alex M.

*Cleveland Flower Arrangers Guild
Ohio*

See Page 14



Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Central Region

Special Needs

Kindergarten - Allison M.

*Hobart Garden Club
Indiana*

See Page 4



First Grade - Audrey S.

*Hobart Garden Club
Indiana*

See Page 5



Kindergarten - Leo R.

*Hobart Garden Club
Indiana*



APPLES

Applesauce

Pretty colors

Pick off the tree

Like the crunch they make when you bite into them

Eat them with peanut butter

Share them with others

Except the woners

with worms, they go to the birds

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Central Region

Second Grade - Ethan A.

O'Fallon Garden Club

Illinois

National Honorable Mention

WE PROVIDE FOOD FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

Summer is my favorite time because
we plant and harvest the crops.
We always share the love of crops
with the people in the shops.
I hope the people love our crops to
feed their hungry family.

Fifth Grade - Caiden V.

Shepherd of the Hills Garden Club

Missouri



VEGETABLES FOR ME AND FOR YOU

I've planted and watered and watched the
plants grow
And now It's time to harvest and hoe
I've canned and preserved and filled every
shelf
I've so many things to use for myself
Something important just came to mind
Maybe the are others who are hungry I could
find
It would be fantastic to get to share
And to show others that I care
Tomatoes Cucumbers and Cabbages too
Carrots and lettuce for me and for you

Fourth Grade - Edan L.

Shepherd of the Hills Garden Club

Missouri

National Honorable Mention

APPLE TREE

There once was a little girl with big brown eyes
The little girls loved apples
When she was born, her parents planted an
apple tree.
The tree grew year after year until finally there
were apples.
She picked a basket full of apples.
The little girl made some of her favorite apple
things.
Apple cider.
Apple sauce.
Apple pie.
Apple cobbler.
And she shared it with everyone. Even a toddler.

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Central Region

Sixth Grade - Allena R.
Mudlarks Garden Club
Indiana



HARVESTING HOPE: A BOUNTY TO SHARE

In my Garden, where dreams take flight,
Veggies flourish,a dazzling sight.
Tomatoes blush in the golden sun,
Carrots peek out,their race just begun.
Cucumbers spiral, a twisty delight,
Peppers flaunt colors,oh what a sight!
Spinach unfurls in a leafy parade.
In this green haven, joy is displaced.
Zucchini grins with its plump, sunny face,
Filling the world with kindness and grace.
With every harvest, my spirit takes wing,
Sharing my bounty ,oh, what a joy it can bring!
Gather around ,let laughter ignite,
With veggies aplenty, hearts feel so light.
Hunger withers where generosity grows,
In each vibrant bite, compassion bestows.
So come,take a seat, let our stories flow,
Together,we'll plant seeds of hope as we sow.
In his garden of dreams, where love intertwines,
A tapestry woven with magical vines.

Seventh Grade - Emma B.
Hendricks County Garden Club
Indiana

National Honorable Mention

GIVE HUNGER THE BOOT

Sharing veggies is great fun
To make hunger finished and done.
If we all do our part
To fill a belly and a heart.
People will be happier if we help them out.
So pitch in, and fight hunger with a shout,
"I will help to give veggies and fruit,
I will help to give hunger the boot!"

Eighth Grade - Brody T.
Grow and Glow Garden Club
Missouri



FEAST BEFORE SLEEP

Picking plums, pears, pumpkins
to prosper the people
Now gather under the steeple, say a prayer,
time to share
Pull out each other's chairs,
hearts full of care
Nothing but feelings of
warmth in the soul,
nothing could compare
Time to eat an immaculate feast
Stomach full, thank every soul
And wish them good sleep

Youth Poetry Contest Winners Central Region

**Special Needs
Tenth Grade - Clifton P.
and
Special Needs
Eleventh Grade - Caiden C.
and
Twelfth Grade - Jonathan D.**

*Hobart Garden Club
Indiana*

See Pages 14-16



Eleventh Grade - Jerral M.

*Hobart Club
Indiana*



LIVE AND HELP THRIVE

You have heard it told,
Live and let live.
I will tell you now,
Live and help thrive,
so that the community shall never die!
Be one with the drive to share.
For each other we must care.
With fruits of our labor
and the fruits of the ground,
we extend our table to you
with happiness abound.

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Deep South Region

ESOL WINNERS

All ESOL National Grade-level winners are from the Deep South Region.

See Pages 4-16 for their winning poems.

SPECIAL NEEDS WINNERS

The Deep South Region had Special Needs First Place Winners in the following grades: 1,2,3,4,5,6, and 8!

See Pages 5-12 for their winning poems.



Special Needs

Kindergarten - Holden F.

*Odum Garden Club
Georgia*



PLANT AND SHARE

I want to plant some vegetables.
I want to plant some corn.
I will pick, and cook, and eat it.
And share with you for fun

Kindergarten - Kennedy R.

*Screven County Garden Club
Georgia*



MY GARDEN TO SHARE

My garden is in my front yard.
We plant the seeds in the ground.
Corn, broccoli, carrots, and green beans.
We water and pull the weeds.
Tomatoes and potatoes -
Ae share with the hungry people in town,
I like sharing from my garden,
We have enough to go around.

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Deep South Region

First Grade - Harper B.

Odum Garden Club

Georgia

National Honorable Mention

HUNGER

Helping people that don't have much like us

Using vegetables to help feed them

No one should go to sleep hungry

Garden tables could help people

Everyone should have food

Respecting others because I'm a nice kid

Third Grade - Laney J.

Paris Garden Club

Tennessee



THE VEGETABLE GARDEN I SHARED

I have a garden

It has lots of vegetables that I want to share

We have carrots, Lettuce, corn, and radishes

We go around the neighborhood and share
the extra vegetables

First we stop at the neighbors

We offer free produce

They are very happy that we shared our
garden.

We stopped at five different homes and
shared our veggies. Everyone was excited to
get fresh vegetables.

It made me feel happy to share.

Second Grade - Kennedy C.

Satsuki Garden Club

Georgia

National Honorable Mention

MY GARDEN HAS YELLOWS

My Garden has yellows

My Garden has greens

My garden has toad fellows

My garden has peas

My garden has a weed

But my garden has enough for those in need



Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Deep South Region

Fourth Grade - Taylor M.

*Beautiful View Garden Club
Georgia*

National Honorable Mention

SHARING VEGGIES FEELS SO RIGHT

I have carrots, peas and collard greens
Broccoli that is bright and green
But I don't want to eat them all,
I'll share my veggies with y'all.

If you want some it's alright
Sharing veggies feels so right,
Squash, celery, are so delightful,
Sharing them makes my lunch rightful.

When we share, the whole world will know
We all come together, so we can grow.
So, Let's share the corn and beets,
Sharing veggies makes me feel so sweet.

Fifth Grade - Cooper S.

*Satsuki Garden Club
Georgia*

National Honorable Mention

DOING MY PART

There's plenty here, more than I need,
With extra veggies , I can help feed.
The hungry ones who need a meal, Will no
longer have to steal.

I'll pick the veggies, fresh and sweet,
For those who may not get to eat,
Together we can start a trend.
For world hinger we must end.

If you have a garden ,too,
Share your veggies,it's the right thing to do!
Fighting world hunger, one vegetable at a time,
With kindness and care, we can all shine!

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Deep South Region

Sixth Grade - Julia B.

*Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club
Florida*

SEEDS OF HOPE



In my garden, things are growing fast,
Tomatoes, beans, and greens that last.
Cabbages . carrots, all in line,
I've got more than enough to share, It's fine.
Lettuce leaves and peppers too,
There's always something fresh to chew.
Potatoes down deep in the dirt,
I'll dig them up to share their worth.
The garden gives me more than I need,
So I'll share the love, plant the seed.
I think of those who don't have enough,
And try to make their days less tough.
I pick veggies, basket in hand,
Sharing what I've grown from the land.
Fighting hunger, one bite at a time,
Helping others feel pretty nice.
Food is love, food is care,
A simple gift to show I'm there.
And spread some kindness everywhere.

Seventh Grade - Javier L.

*Magnolia Garden Club
Georgia*

THERE'S VEGETABLES IN MY GARDEN



There're are vegetables in my garden with many
to spare
I'll grow so many of them with so much care,
All kinds of vegetables, some big, some small,
Such a variety, some short while some tall.
Too many for me to be able to eat
So I'll go to the streets and help those in need
All the vegetables you can think
Pumpkins, carrots, corn and wheat.

After so much sharing I realize one thing
Is that many people don't have something to eat.
I'm so lucky to have a garden with crops
But after so much sharing there is no more to
spare
And no more vegetables here and there
I must farm more vegetables
To help people in need.

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Deep South Region

Eighth Grade - Aiden V.

*Magnolia Garden Club
Georgia*

National Honorable Mention

FROM SOIL TO SOUL: SHARING ABUNDANCE WITH LOVE

In the garden, where life takes root,
Vegetables flourish, a verdant tribute.
With caring hands, we tend the land,
Nurturing growth, a bountiful command.

The fruits of our labor, a gift to behold
Bursting with nutrients, a story untold.
We gather the bounty, with hearts so true,
Eager to share, a kindness to ensue.

For those in need, our garden's yield,
Becomes a beacon, a hope-filled shield.
We offer our surplus, with open hearts,
Bridging the gap, as hunger departs.

Through this simple act of sharing our fare,
We cultivate our kindness, a bond beyond
compare.
In the garden's embrace, we find our way,
To nourish the body, and the soul, each day.

Ninth Grade - Adaira L.

*Wellington Garden Club
Florida*



WASTE NO MORE MY EXCESS

I grow in size, with crops vast and fair,
Yet my excess lies wasted, bare.

Flies gorge the rest, scraps in the dirt,
Unattended and discarded, I deem hurt.

Even in neglect, I find ways to grow,
Yet my hope is dim, passion slow.

When despair has darkened every scene,
A savior came and wiped me clean.

Fulfilled I am, abundant and strong,
My bearing valuable, I belong.

With compassion shared, burdens eased,
Hearts altered, my soul relieved.

Kindness spreads like wildfire, Each person find a
caring desire.

With a new purpose, I now proclaim,
Waste no more-let love stake its claim!

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Deep South Region

Eleventh Grade - Heather F.

Beautiful View Garden Club

Georgia

FRUIT GARDEN



Raspberries are red
Blueberries are blue
I have a colorful garden for you.

It started with a seed
Then it became a weed
With the weed it became a tree
At the end of the day that tree becomes three

They need the rain and shine
When you throw a rine
They may repine.

The more colorful the better
More sweetness than bitter
The better weather
The more the birds will flap their feathers

They can be made to share
Some types may be found rare
They glow with love and care
As the days go by there is no time to spare

They grew up and became a source of life
We use the resource to stay alive
These are the most colorful things in sight
They create a path of light
With the nutrients they give us the power to fight



Youth Poetry Contest Winners

New England Region

Kindergarten - Samantha A.

*North Haven Garden Club
Connecticut*

National Honorable Mention

DO THE RIGHT THING

Red, Orange, Yellow and green
Theses are the colors in the rainbow and the
garden too

I like veggies
Carrots, tomatoes, corn, and more carrots

When I have enough I like to share
Why? Because I'm really nice and it's the
right thing to do.

I eat cooked vegetables especially when I
make it
Give me carrots and corn anytime
I especially love juicy tomatoes, they are the
best

When I have enough I like to share
Why? Well I have already told you, because
I'm really nice
And it's the right thing to do

Second Grade - Paige L.

*North Reading Garden Club
Massachusetts*

GROWING AND GIVING

I look at my garden
What do I see?
Peppers green, red and yellow
Tomatoes large and small
Cucumbers hanging on vines
Potatoes growing underground
Lettuce in rows
Too many for us to eat
I'll share some
With my Nana, friends and neighbors
We can all eat veggies from my garden!



Youth Poetry Contest Winners

New England Region

Third Grade - Deanna D.

*Westport Garden Club
Connecticut*

National Honorable Mention

A HELPING HANDFUL OF VEGGIES

I have too many veggies
I have enough to spare
I give them to my neighbors,
And they're very glad I care.
Zucchini,cabbages, and broccoli crowns,
There are so many veggies that they fall to
the ground.
Mr. Peter gets pumpkin,
Mr. Carl gets corn,
Miss Carmela gets cucumbers,
And a pickle is born.
Miss Theresa gets turnips,
Miss Patty gets potatoes,
Mr. Sam gets squash,
And Mr. Tom gets tomatoes.
Everyone's happy; no one is sad,
And sharing makes me feel so glad.

Fourth Grade - Rosalie D.

*Framingham Garden Club
Connecticut*

See Page 8



Fifth Grade - Tessa L.

*Westport Garden Club
Connecticut*

National Honorable Mention

GIFTS

Mother celery
Father beet
Brother pumpkin
Sister greens
When the sun rises above the horizon
Bright sun rays start to show
Worms wiggle down below
Weeds be gone
Clouds roll in
Gentle rain drops sprinkle down
When the gifts from Mother Earth
Their value is of great worth
Mother celery
Father beet
Brother pumpkin
Sister greens
Share the day's bounty
With those around me
Share the gifts from Mother Earth

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

New England Region

Sixth Grade - Vivian V.
Barrington Garden Club
Rhode Island

National Honorable Mention

CATER FOR THE FAMISHED

Luscious, green and big
Filled from top to bottom, small to big
Immense variety of food
All so good bordered with oak wood
Ready to a pathway of energy.

A noise was heard from the garden
A surprise was seen
A model of hunger was present
Rumble, growl, grumble
Come on over, there is plenty to eat.

Lots of beets and wheat
Greenery of goodness
Pollinated by the bees
Treasure of energy to be shared
With those who crave and need.

Seventh Grade - James K.
North Haven Garden Club
Connecticut



TO DISPERSE THE PRODUCTION OF OUR LAND TO THE NEEDY

We have enough for ourselves,
and some left.
Which are for yourselves
and we still have some left.
Which are for others still.
Take the produce,
cook it and let the smell waft,
and share.

Eighth Grade - Savannah A.
North Haven Garden Club
Connecticut

See Page 12



Youth Poetry Contest Winners Pacific Region

Kindergarten - Asrrid R.

*Sunny Hills Garden Club
Oregon*

See Page 4



Second Grade - Max C.

*Conejo Valley Garden Club
California*

National Honorable Mention

I SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

I like to grow in a row
20 carrots or so
I also plant cabbages
To give them to my bear who has bandages
I grow potatoes as big as 20 tomatoes
I give my vegetables to my mother
And she feeds me, my friends and my brother.

First Grade - Lydia E.

*Enumclaw Garden Club
Washington*



LET'S EAT VEGGIES

I like veggies for brunch
I like veggies. Munch. Munch, munch.
I like veggies a bunch, bunch, bunch.
Let's eat veggies again for lunch!

Fourth Grade - Jude S.

*Marine Hills Garden Club
Washington*



NUTRITIOUS GIFTS

Tomato, red, and, jucy,
Hanging on the vine loosely.
Carrot , in the ground,
Sleeping safe and sound.
To show othersthat I care....
These veggies I will share!
Forget cookies and cakes.
These can still be baked.
These veggies,they're delicious
Also , quite nutritious.
To show others that I care..
These veggies I will share!
I am now town bound
With these veggies I have found.
The people, I will meet them.
The veggies, they will eat them.
To show others that I care..
These veggies I will share!

Youth Poetry Contest Winners Pacific Region

Eighth Grade - Ava E.

Enumclaw Garden Club

Washington

National Honorable Mention

A SALAD TO SHARE

The veggies in my garden are ripe for the picking.
Bright tomatoes, juicy carrots ,and crisp lettuce.

A salad is going to be made today.
Shred the lettuce, cut the carrots, slice the tomato, and mix it up.

I will invite my friends to eat at my table with me.
Memories will be made, and fun times will be had.



Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Rocky Mountain Region

Kindergarten - Gwen V.

Plattsmouth Garden Club

Nebraska

National Honorable Mention

CARROTS AND BROCCOLI TO SHARE

I woke up in the middle of the night.
I saw the moon.
I saw some carrots and broccoli
In the moonlight.
I saw seven carrots and three broccolis.
That was a lot!
I am going to share it with some
Old people because they didn't have
Enough carrots or broccoli.
They feel happy.
I felt tired.
I fell back to sleep.

Third Grade - Kenai H.

Plattsmouth Garden Club

Nebraska

National Honorable Mention

CARROTS AND BROCCOLI TO SHARE

My garden is such a delight,
My vegetables are, oh, so light!
Come on by I have potatoes and tomatoes,
carrots,
And so much more.

Do you like cabbage or onions?
I have those, too.
Maybe you want a few.

First Grade - Talia V.

Plattsmouth Garden Club

Nebraska

See Page 5



Fourth Grade - Will H.

Plattsmouth Garden Club

Nebraska

National Honorable Mention

A GARDEN THAT WILL NOT DIE FOR TIME

Some trees are green,
and have a gleam
from the sun.
It is bright,
and has light.
The apples are red,
Inside a garden bed.
It is summer,
but when it's winter,
that's a bummer.
When it starts to die,
it will say goodbye
and will no longer
be able to share and care
it's fruits and vegetables.

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Rocky Mountain Region

Fifth Grade - Carlie C.

Plattsmouth Garden Club

Nebraska

National Honorable Mention

MY GARDEN

My plants are growing fast and tall
You see this is my way to fight hunger

Growing in the air
Although my garden is small,I can make a
difference

Radishes,corn,beans, squash
Delicious veggies for you and me
Eat up be hungry no more
Now my garden can help everyone!



Seventh Grade - Vera S.

Plattsmouth Garden Club

Nebraska

See Page 11



Sixth Grade - Gabe C.

Plattsmouth Garden Club

Nebraska

National Honorable Mention

SHARING GREAT GARDEN GOODIES

We have extra from our gardens,
Time to share with those who do not.
Lettuce, cucumber,and tomatoes,
Make delicious salads to eat.
Strawberries and rhubarb,
Make sweet, tart jam for thee,
Yellow corn with white kernels too.
It is buttered with black pepper.
People who cannot eat soon will know,
That people with gardens know as well,
It is great to share this time of year,
So,all can feel some festive cheer.

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

Rocky Mountain Region

Eighth Grade - Ian G.

Plattsmouth Garden Club

Nebraska

National Honorable Mention

OVERFLOWING HARVEST: SHARING THE BOUNTY OF MY GREEN OASIS

In the quiet dawn, where dew still dreams,
My garden wakes to golden beams.
Each leaf and vine a story told,
In emerald shades and marigold.
The tomatoes blush with summer's kiss,
In rows of red, their cheeks aglow.
The cucumbers curl in morning mist,
And peppers in their colors show.
The squash and beans, a leafy maze,
Have woven tales of sunlit days.
In soil, rich with the earth's embrace,
Each seed has found its sacred place.
Yet more than just these gifts of green,
The garden's heart, in whispers seen,
Is the joy of sharing, soft and true,
A bond of love in every hue.
So, I gather what the garden spills,
With baskets full of nature's thrills,
And offer to my neighbors dear
A taste of summer's bounty here.

For in this act, the garden's grace
Finds meaning in the giving space.
And as we share the fruits of earth,
We celebrate both life and worth.



Youth Poetry Contest Winners

South Atlantic Region

Third Grade - Elloree F.

*Garden Club of Aiken
South Carolina*



MY GARDEN

Plant the seeds and pulls the weeds.
People everywhere I have things to share.
I am so proud I'm feeding this crowd.
On my veggie box was a fox.
He ate my cheese and let out a sneeze.
I did not pout for I'd get that fox out.
He went away: I say hooray!
Grow, grow, grow I'm almost out,
I need some for my family or they will pout.

Fifth Grade - Lilly R.

*Madison Garden Club
Virginia*

See Page 9



Fourth Grade - Sadie L.

*Corbin Garden Club
Kentucky*



A REALIZATION ABOUT STARVATION

In the world there are many ups and downs
They are all around.
From homeless to foodless in our nation, there
is a lot of
Starvation we need realization.
If we could only share
And show that we care.
Spare your vegetables from your festivals and
take them to a
Food bank.
If you have a garden and have extra produce,
do your neighbor a favor and share some
garden flavor.
Do your part to end huger today, your garden
could be
their buffet

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

South Atlantic Region

Eighth Grade - Lexi S.

Seed and Weed Garden Club

South Carolina

National Honorable Mention

THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

My beautiful garden deep in the forest
Known to be Northwest.
There are where my vegetables grow,
Many people say they seem to glow.

I could keep them all to myself
But recently I've spied
The hungry that has cried and cried.
So I've decided to welcomely share
To show that I truly care.

From this day forward,
I'm telling you this with passion
Don't be greedy, always share
To show that you care,
And watch what will happen.

Soon I began to see,
Giving is much more important,
Than what you receive.
Soon I began to feel,
Sharing is caring,
And that truly is the best gift of all.

Ninth Grade - Addison C.

Corbin Garden Club

Kentucky



A GUIDE TO THE GARDEN

This beautiful garden lined up against a
chalky brick wall
Gets visitors night and day, summer and fall
Its vines grow up trees
And the wind blows them off with ease
Its vegetables let out a strong scent
While people walk by them looking for the
perfect pick
They look for wilts ,holes, and any
imperfections
"Free for everyone"
The sign shouts at pedestrians
Hoping to guide them to the garden

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

South Atlantic Region

Tenth Grade - Madlaen S.

*The Garden Club of North Carolina
North Carolina*

AUTUMN BOUNTY

In my autumn garden
The tasseled cornstalks stand,
The pumpkin and the okra
Are firm beneath my hand.

They lead me to envision
A warming homegrown meal
To share with all the hungry
When winter's cold we feel,

To share with every living thing
Beneath the autumn sky,
his golden cornucopia
When changing times are nigh.

So I shall share my harvest
When what I've sown, I've reaped,
And everyone who eats of it
Full and content I'll keep.

Eleventh Grade - Chloe H.

*Corbin Garden Club
Kentucky*

See Page 15



Twelfth Grade - Amy W.

*Corbin Garden Club
Kentucky*

THE SEEDS WE HOLD

life. everlasting, is found
among the autumn harvest.
something in the fruit, rotting soon
is eternal in a way nothing else is.

Apples fall without a sound.

you wish to wait before taking bite
but bright red skin calls you. your teeth
hit core, you crave for more
your inners feel brighter, more clean
this is a feeling that will last.



Youth Poetry Contest Winners

South Central Region

Third Grade - Ameer F.

*A&M Garden Club
Texas*

See Page 7



Sixth Grade - Tristah T.

Newton Garden Club

Texas National Honorable Mention

NEIGHBORS SHARE

Today I went outside to my beautiful garden.
Picked all my vegetables,
And hip hopped down the neighborhood.
They said the food was good
And thanked me for sharing
It makes me feel great,
For the neighbors to know I am caring.

Fifth Grade - Liam H.

*Newton Garden Club
Texas*



BOUNTIFUL GARDEN FOR ALL

I went to dig potatoes,
I also picked tomatoes,
I wanted to see
What was in my rows.

Squash, cucumbers, melons, too.
Mustard greens, eggplants. Peppers, whew!
I like to explore my garden.
I love having something to do.

With soil between my toes,
The plants beneath my nose,
There was a bounty of beautiful colors
Plenty to share with family, friends, and foes.

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

South Central Region

Seventh Grade - Fiza D.

A&M Garden Club

Texas

National Honorable Mention

SHARE THE BLESSINGS OF NATURE

In the garden
The sun shines bright
Sharing with us
A beautiful light

On the ground
Down below
Healthy fruits and vegetables
Like to grow

Earth has much to offer
Big to small
We should be kind and generous
To all

Gardens are filled with blessings
From little bees to lots of vegetation
We should share everthing
Because it's God's creation

Ninth Grade - Jessah S.

Newton Garden Club

Texas

See Page 13



Eighth Grade - Salam F.

A&M Garden Club

Texas



CYCLE OF GRATITUDE

Summer brings crisp carrots, sweet corn
And thjoy of sharing and laughter
Fresh vegetables pass from hand to hand
Cheerful summer squash, sweet potatoes
Bringing us together as th sun shines

Fall brings a ssense of love and beauty
The trees shade us as we dig up radishes
Pluck sweet peas and brussel sprouts
We sing as we harvest, and when finished
We join together to enjoy a meal together

Winter brings joy and wonder, but also
Hardship; only the hardiest plants survive
We gather to harvest kale and leeks
Our noses turning red as we digup
The latest onions and then sit, hand in hand

Spring brings hope, renewal,rejuvenation
And sugar snap peas, sorrel, and spinach
We gather the tender green leaves to share
Knowing that,in our hands,we hold
Nature's tools of love, joy,and pleasure

Youth Poetry Contest Winners

South Central Region

Tenth Grade - Callie B.

ARP Garden Club

Texas



OH THE BEAUTY OF NATURE

From the birds that help spread the tiny seeds,
To the bees that helped pollinate the
flowering trees.

Resulting in magnificent colors all around,
And bountiful crops sprouting from the
ground.

My garden plants grow so big and tall,
And produce all the way throughout the fall.
As we shower the plants with love and care,
They supply enough produce for us to share.
If everyone offers a helping hand,
We can do our part to preserve this great land.

Eleventh Grade - Hinckley C.

A&M Garden Club

Texas

National Honorable Mention

ME N' THE BEES

I grow my own carrots and peas
in synergy with them bees
But I'm just a kid
I did what I did
I grew too many, take some please.



