

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL

**WATER CONSERVATION  
ART & POETRY CONTEST  
2009**



Entries are to be submitted by: Friday, March 13, 2009

Award Ceremony: To Be Announced - National Drinking Water Week

This program is aligned with New York State Learning Standards and New York City Performance Standards for elementary and middle school students.

# 2009 WATER CONSERVATION ART & POETRY CONTEST

## GUIDELINES

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to announce the 23rd annual Water Conservation Art and Poetry Contest. This year, we are inviting fourth, fifth and sixth graders to creatively express their understanding of New York City's water supply, our wastewater treatment system, and the importance of water conservation. Students are encouraged to create original art and to compose poetry that reflects an appreciation for New York City's precious water resources.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

All fourth, fifth and sixth grade students attending New York City public, independent and parochial schools can enter the contest.

### WHAT ARE THE CONTEST THEMES?

This year's contest has four central themes (listed below). Each entry should address one or more of the focus questions found below the themes, or an original idea that relates to NYC's water resources. If you would like educational materials to help you incorporate contest themes into your curriculum, please call the DEP Education Office at (718) 595-3506 or email us at [educationoffice@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:educationoffice@dep.nyc.gov). We're happy to help.

#### • WATER - A PRECIOUS RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

- How do trout and other aquatic wildlife depend on forests to keep water healthy?
- What can we do to help keep water clean?
- What are the unique properties of water that make it special to all of us?
- Why should we drink tap water rather than bottled water?
- Why is Jamaica Bay important and how can we help protect it?

#### • THE NEW YORK CITY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

- How has New York City's water supply changed over time?
- How do watersheds help to supply us with water? Why are they important?
- Where does New York City's drinking water come from and how much is used daily?
- How is water distributed throughout New York City? What is the Third Water Tunnel?
- Why is the historic High Bridge important?
- How do we make sure our water is safe to drink?
- What do DEP scientist, engineers and other staff do to make sure our water is safe to drink?

#### • THE NEW YORK CITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

- What happens to the water we use after it goes down the drain?
- How do NYC's wastewater treatment plants work?
- What is the Staten Island Bluebelt and why is it important?
- Why is it important to dispose of waste properly?
- Why do we need to keep storm drains clear and litter off our streets?
- How has New York City's harbor water quality improved?

#### • WATER CONSERVATION

- How much water is used in NYC daily? How can we conserve water in our everyday lives?
- Why is water valuable to us?
- What are fire hydrants for and why must they be used properly?

## WHAT ARE THE RULES?

Follow these simple rules to make sure all student entries are eligible for judging.

- ① All entries must focus on 2009 Art & Poetry Contest themes.
- ② Each school may submit up to TWO entries per grade: 4th, 5th and 6th grades.
  - Additional entries will not be judged and students may be disappointed.
  - We are happy to provide Certificates of Appreciation to additional school winners. Please email your request to us at [educationoffice@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:educationoffice@dep.nyc.gov).
- ③ Students may work in small groups of up to four children.
  - Each student must fill out an identification card that lists all other group members.
- ④ Entries must be no smaller than 8.5" x 11" and no larger than 22" x 28".
- ⑤ Entries must be mounted (glued or taped) on heavy duty paper or poster board.
- ⑥ Artwork and poetry may be submitted in any medium - crayons, paint, pencil, pen, etc.
- ⑦ All entries must have a complete, accurate identification card attached to the back.
  - Teachers should check these identification cards to make sure all information is correct. This information is used for notifying students, parents, teachers and principals about the Award Ceremony.

## HOW WILL THE ENTRIES BE JUDGED?

Entries will be judged on creativity in interpreting one or more of the contest themes, accuracy of information, originality, and skill. An impartial panel of judges selected by DEP will review the entries. One art and one poetry entry from each borough will be selected as Borough winners. All other entries will be designated as City-wide winners. Both Borough and City-wide winners will be honored at the Award Ceremony.

## WHO WINS?

Every entry correctly submitted to DEP is a winner. Up to two entries will be accepted from the 4th, 5th and 6th grades from each school. All winners will be honored at a special award ceremony at **The Cooper Union** during National Drinking Water Week. At the Ceremony students will receive a certificate and small gifts in appreciation of their participation. Winners, teachers and principals will be notified by letter in April.

## WHEN IS THE DEADLINE?

All entries must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009. Each school should send ONE package with no more than SIX entries. All packaging should be flat. Send entries to:

Min Kan, Environmental Educator  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection  
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 19th Floor  
Flushing, N.Y. 11373-5108

**HAVE FUN!**



# WINNING POETRY

## Millions of Gallons to Save



The Earth is covered in water,  
But fresh bodies make up only one percent.  
And if we do not conserve them  
The water soon will be spent.

One thousand sixty-eight million gallons,  
Is used in New York City every day.  
If that number doesn't get smaller  
The amount of fresh water may.

Fresh Water is important  
For each and everyone.  
Here are some ideas  
That help to conserve some.

In the bathroom, take shorter showers  
And don't let the water run.  
Install water saving fixtures.  
Now your job has just begun.

In the kitchen, you don't need to stick  
Dirty dishes in a constant running flow.  
Put the water in a basin  
The grease will come off easier.  
That you should know!

In the laundry, clothes like company  
While they spin and tumble in the wash.  
Make sure the machine is full  
So when you turn it on there are clothes to toss.

Leaky faucets must be fixed.  
Fire hydrants should be closed.  
If you follow this advice.  
More fresh water is what you have chosen.

**By Esther**  
**Home Schooled, Bronx**

## Me, Water

Some people waste me,  
And throw me down the drain.  
While others love me,  
By drinking me or dancing in the rain.

What do I do when  
I go down the drain?  
I head to the sewers,  
A water treatment takes my remains.

I go through a mixer.  
With sedimentation too.  
Coagulation and flocculation  
Where I am filtered just for you.

So the next time you turn on your  
faucet,  
I'll come rushing out.  
Remember to use less of me  
There's not enough to go about.

As you have noticed,  
I am reused day by day.  
By adults and small children,  
Water is the name to say.

**By Janelle**  
**PS 38, Queens**

## FLUSH

Water goes down  
But where does it go?

With a splash,  
it tumbles down the pipes  
towards the sewer

deep underground  
water passes through screens  
and is filtered

off it gurgles  
to the treatment plants

into big tanks the water flows  
and settles  
letting the trash  
and sludge  
to separate

not clean enough  
into another tank  
where bacteria  
nibbles away at the dirt

but yes there is still more  
chloride and hypochlorite  
both enter  
destroying all the germs

the water  
clean  
from here to the bay it flows

renewed  
recycled  
fresh once again.

**By David**  
**PS 204, Brooklyn**



**New York City Department of  
Environmental Protection**

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Emily Lloyd, Commissioner

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Visit our website at:

[www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep)