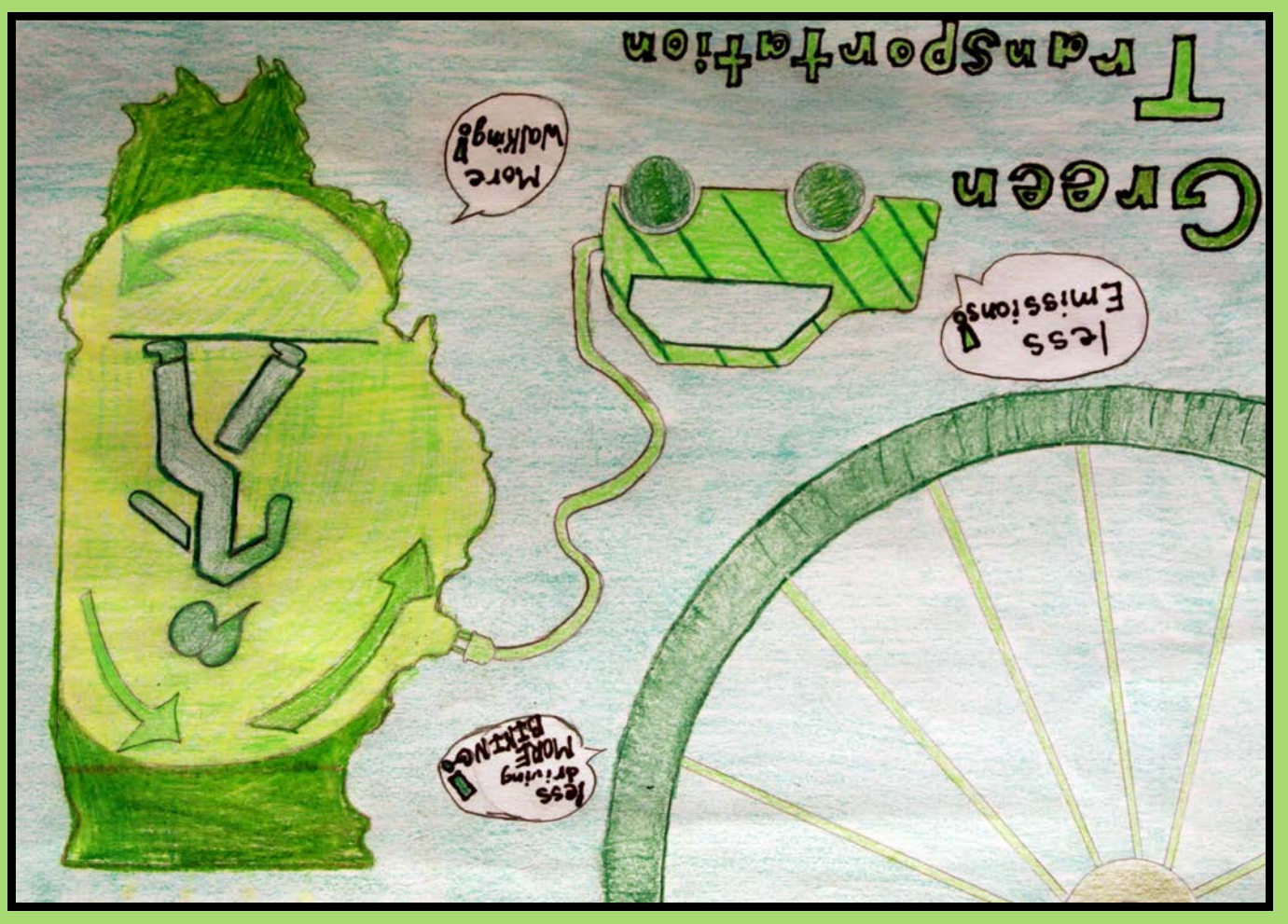
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency



Grace Kahler • 5th Grade • Countryside School, Champaign

2016 Poster, Poetry and Prose Calendar

Transportation and Air Pollution... What Are the Green Solutions?

"This year's theme challenged students to look at the cleaner options available in the transportation sector, something we all rely on daily," said Illinois EPA Director Lisa Bonnett. "Through this program, we hope to encourage these young minds to be active in creating a healthy environment."

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Transportation and Air Pollution…
What are the Green Solutions?

You can help stop Illinois' air from being polluted.
Come on, I'll give you reasons that can't be disputed.

Exhaust from your cars can hurt the air,
But you don't need to take a car everywhere.

If you live close to some where,
Hop on your bike to get over there!

You can grab some friends and carpool.
Using many cars would be so cruel.

Don't take many cars, it's such a fuss.
Save the Earth, hop on a bus.

On the trees and the ground there is dirty litter.
Pick up the trash to save the home of a little critter.

Remember to recycle your papers, plastics, and glass.
Please don't just throw it into the beautiful green grass.

Please don't cut down the the beautiful tall trees.
The stubs don't look nice, they go up to my knees.

If we do not take care of our beautiful land,
Bad things will happen to the oceans, fields, and sand.

Those beautiful fields where we like to play,
Will become a trash dump if you don't recycle today.

Now you can see why I want to stop this pollution.
Will you lend a hand and join my revolution?

Emily Cassidy • 5th Grade
St. Cletus School, La Grange

**Transportation and Air Pollution…
What Are the Green Solutions?**

December 2015

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January 2016

February 2016

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17	*18* Martin Luther King Day	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*
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Americans use 134.51 billion gallons of fuel each year! Just think, if half of the Americans used electric cars, we could cut our gas usage in half and this would help protect our environment!

Green Transportation is about changing the way we are currently doing things today and becoming more aware of doing things differently to help protect the environment we live in. Basically, changing the way we live and think! Living green is a combined effort for individual's and communities to put forth the effort to promote a healthy environment that future generations will carry on and maintain. Basically, everyone needs to SYNERGIZE to make our environment better!

Air pollution is a serious problem and since 2005 has killed 200,000 Americans from mostly transportation emissions. Your exposure to air pollution is even greater if you live in a densely populated city from industrial emissions, too. Also, humans aren't the only ones impacted, either. It is felt globally by all living things.....our environment! The average adult breathes nearly 3,000 gallons of air in per day. Air pollution has been linked to health issues human beings have experienced: low birth weight, asthma, bronchitis, high blood pressure, and even premature death.

What are some solutions for better air quality? Solutions require governments to recognize how air pollution impacts humans health and the economy, while taking immediate action to make the necessary changes. The need to quit using coal and move away from fossil fuels and replacing them with clean, renewable energy. Governments are using wind or solar energy to help. Manufacturing companies are having to become more responsible with their manufacturing activities even though they still cause pollution, they are controlled more heavily by the government. Car manufactures are building more energy efficient cars which pollute less than before. As individuals, we can use other means of transportation (bus, train, or bike) with less cars on roads means less fumes. We could promote the use of electric cars, too. If we use bio-fuels like corn and fish oil it could help reduce pollution. We can use energy (light, water, boiler, kettle, and fire woods) more because lots of fossil fuels are burned to make electricity. This will cut down on the amount of pollution we create. Manufacturing industries create a lot of pollution, so if we recycle and re-use products, this will cut down on having to make new items (plastic bags, clothing, paper, and bottles).

The only way to improve air pollution issues is to change the way we live and think as Americans. We can make adjustments by using smaller efficient vehicles, relying more on public transportation, walking, bike riding, and car pooling to and from places to help protect our environment. Are you up for the challenge by making some changes in the way you live and to help educate others on the importance of protecting our environment by doing your part?

Benet Eversden-Duesterhaus • 6th Grade
St. Dominic School, Quincy

**Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?**

January 2016

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February 2016

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14 Valentine's Day	*15* Presidents' Day Washington's Birthday	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*
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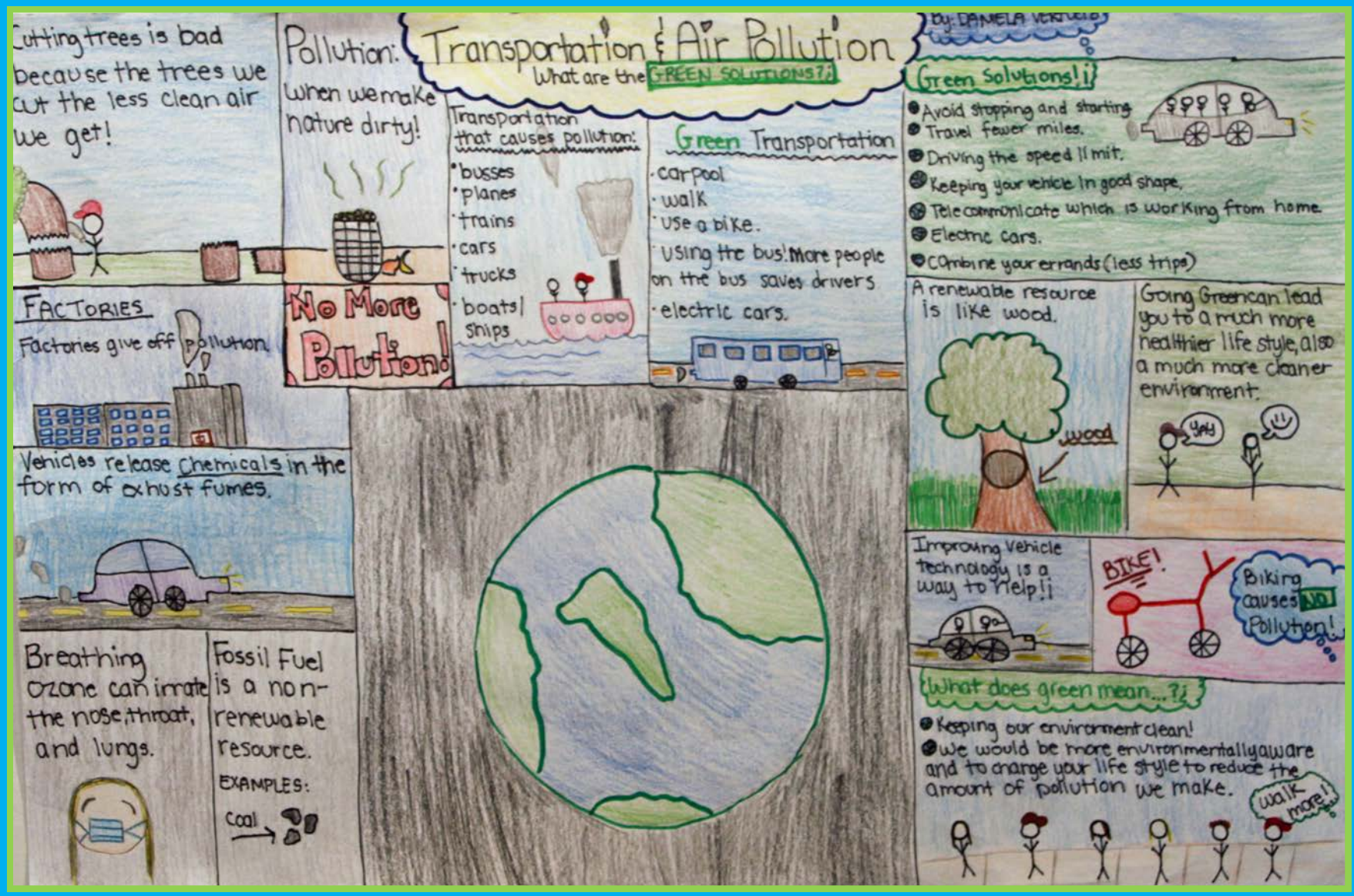

Daniela Vertucio • 6th Grade
Washington School, Glenview

**Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?**

February 2016

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March 2016

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27 Easter Sunday	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*		

The Dream

By: Jana Serrano

It was all so beautiful it was hard take it in all at once.The sky was bright blue and the clouds were white and fluffy. There was a light, gentle breeze that when it picked up the green leaves on the big trees swayed, and danced. The people walked and rode their bikes everywhere breathing in the fresh,clean crisp air. Everyone wore smiles and all you could hear was the delightful sound of laughter and the song of the birds chirping. And the smell, ah the smell of the bloomed flowers fluttered through the air.

Then ,suddenly it all changed. The beautiful place where everything was bright and peaceful turned into something else, something much more different. Dark and gloomy clouds rolled in out of nowhere. The light breeze turned into harsh winds that made the delicate leaves fall. The people all hopped in cars and buses and those who walked were breathing in the filthy air. Everyone grew grumpy and wore something on their face, something that did not look like a smile at all. Instead it looked more like unhappiness or discomfort. The sound of honking from cars and the terrible screeches from people rushed through the air. And the smell, ugh the smell was terrible. The wretched stink of gasoline was burning the clean air. The spectacular dream turned into a nightmare.

Haugh! the little girl gasped as she woke up from a mortifying nightmare. She sat upright in her bed and thought it was only a dream, but it was far from a dream. It was real.

The world that we are living in today was once the peaceful place in the dream. Over the years our world has turned into the nightmare caused by pollution. Pollution is the presence in or into the environment of a substance or thing that has harmful effects. Pollution has a lot of effects on our lives. One major effect is in the air that we breathe. Air pollution is mainly caused by automobiles giving off exhaust fumes, factories, burning of fossil fuels and radiation spills. But what is great, is that we can help cut the amount of pollution in the air by in the way we transport. One solution is to simply walk or ride a bike, another is to consider carpooling with friends.You can have fun while cutting down air pollution. Also during the summer try to fuel up during cooler hours, so you can reduce the chance of evaporation. There are many more ways to cut the amount of pollution in the air, but a few changes can do a lot. Lets try to reverse the nightmare by just simply being more aware of air pollution.

Jana Serrano • 6th Grade
Prince of Peace School, Lake Villa

**Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?**

March 2016

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April 2016

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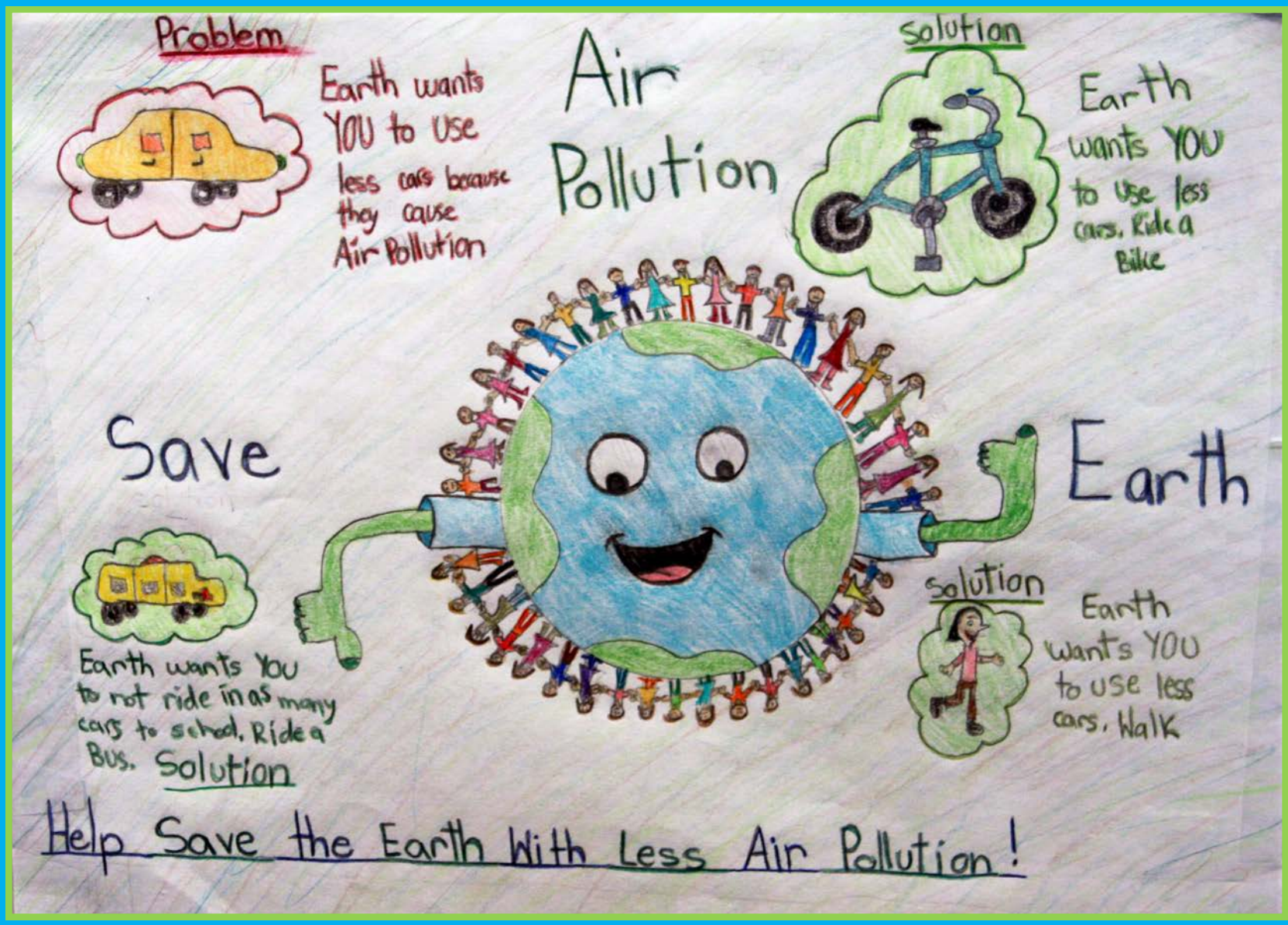
24	*25*	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29* Arbor Day	*30*



Nicole Annella • 5th Grade
St. Cletus School, La Grange

Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?

April 2016

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May 2016

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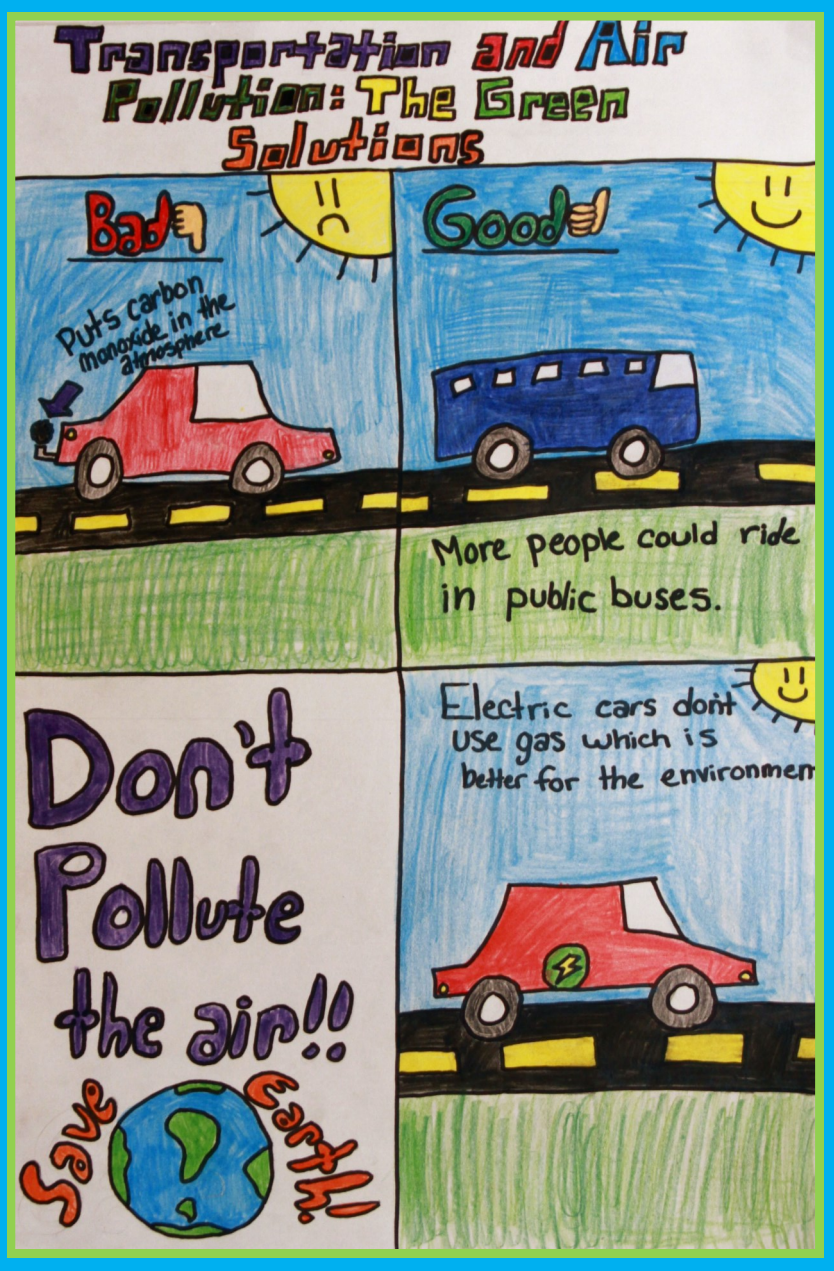

Aubrey Harezlak • 6th Grade
Maple Elementary School, Loves Park

Transportation and Air Pollution... What Are the Green Solutions?

May 2016

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June 2016

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19 Father's Day	*20* Summer Solstice	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*
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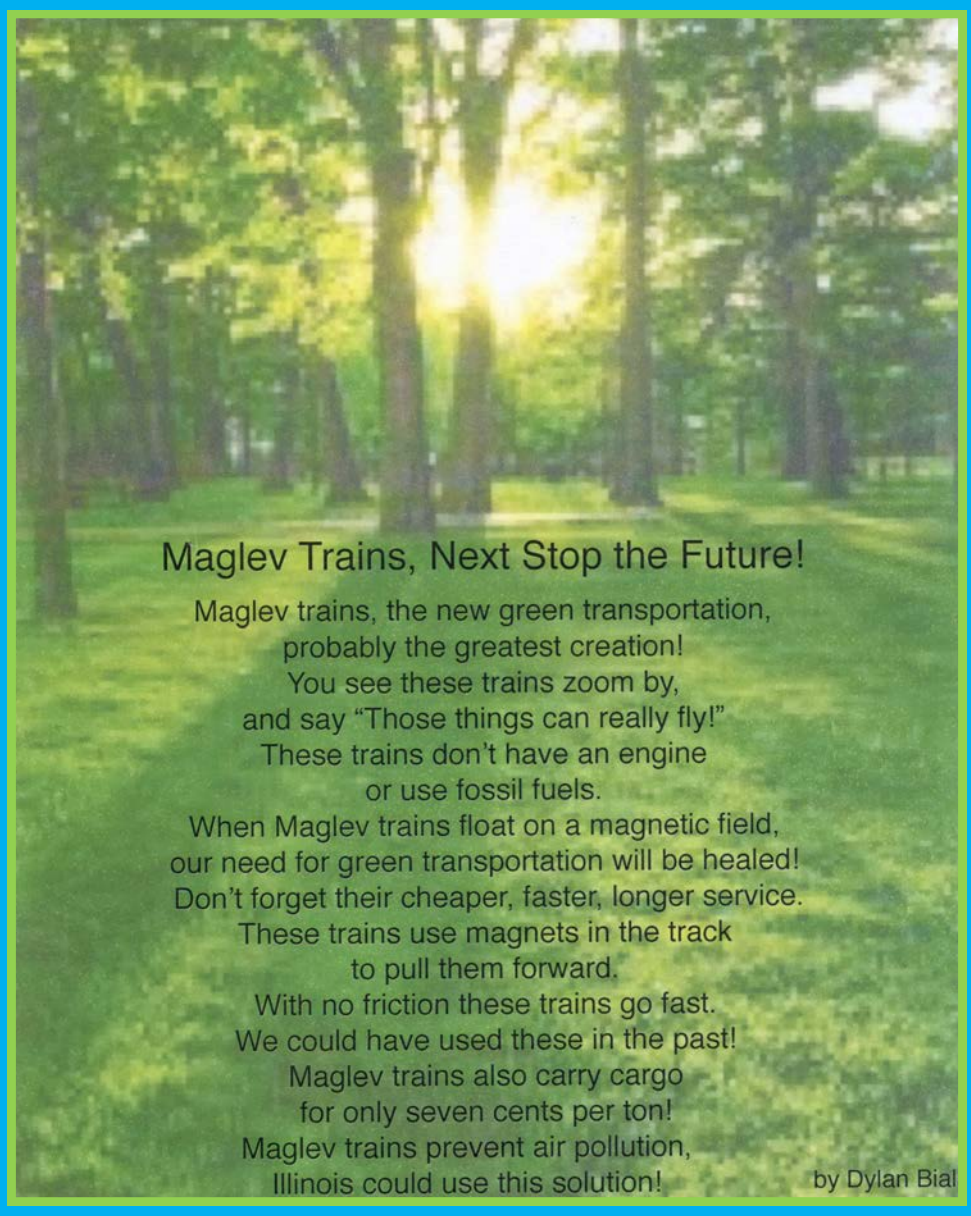

Dylan Biala • 5th Grade
Prospect Elementary School, Clarendon Hills

**Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?**

June 2016

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July 2016

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17	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*
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Sophie Zerrouki • 5th Grade
Countryside School, Champaign

Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?

July 2016

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August 2016

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Hunter Mackay • 5th Grade
Roycemore School, Evanston

Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?

August 2016

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September 2016

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18	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22* Autumnal Equinox	*23*	*24*
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Transportation Pollution Solutions

Transportation is necessary to humanity,
Though it may be the worst source of dichotomy,
Good on one side and horrid on the other,
No one notices and pays a bother.

First the problems and the ignorant population,
Then the solutions with great concentration,
Though, oh readers, you may feel,
That this big problem, is not real.

Pollution breaks our world in need,
All will go, dust, grime, and greed,
And then everyone will know,
That this is the beginning of the show.

Our ozone layer will break,
Oil spills will take over our lakes,
The earth will be trashed and filled,
Impossible for humans to rebuild.

Cars, trucks, trains, and more,
Will demolish the Earth's floor,
While the planes and boats,
Take over the air and coasts.

Now let's fix this major matter,
By allowing the idea of pollution to shatter,
We can walk or use electric cars,
And show protection of the environmental laws.

Electric cars like the Nissan Leaf,
Helps the world rethink its grief,
While other means like carpooling,
And a few other rules are marveling.

Try a few rules, like preventing idle time,
What is this act, it's surely not a crime,
Idle time means to keep your car on,
When you stop on a signal light and yawn.

So focused we are on our solutions,
But there are more ways of contribution,
Run errands together, not separately,
You'll never look in the pantry desperately.

Or maybe using the public,
Instead of each individual private,
Like using buses or trains,
Instead of cars and other remains.

If the weather is nice,
You don't have to pay the price,
You can walk or ride your bike,
Or have fun on a family hike.

Instead of meeting far away,
Try this better way,
Telecommute if possible,
Staying at home is much more hospitable.

We need to change the way we think,
In the time period of an eye blink,
Before it is too late for time,
And the world does its ending chime.

Transportation and Air Pollution
What are the Green Solutions?
by Caroline Hart

Pollution is negatively affecting our land,
Lend a saving, helping hand!
Need to get from here to there?
Choose a method that doesn't pollute the air.
Take your bike out for a ride instead,
And a few pounds you might shed.
There's always the option of walking rather than taking the car,
but that's only if it's not too far.
Public transportation is a good way too!
There are bus stops and train stops all around for you!
Carpooling with your friends every day,
to lessen the air pollution is a great way.
Going green should be your concentration,
it will help the future generation!
Overall, as you have seen,
When you travel, it's best to travel green!

Caroline Hart • 5th Grade
St. Cletus School, La Grange

Ali Patel • 5th Grade
Daarul Uloom Islamic School, Peoria

Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?

September 2016

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October 2016

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30	*31* Halloween					

Andy Brown • 5th Grade
Countryside School, Champaign

Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?

October 2016

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November 2016

December 2016

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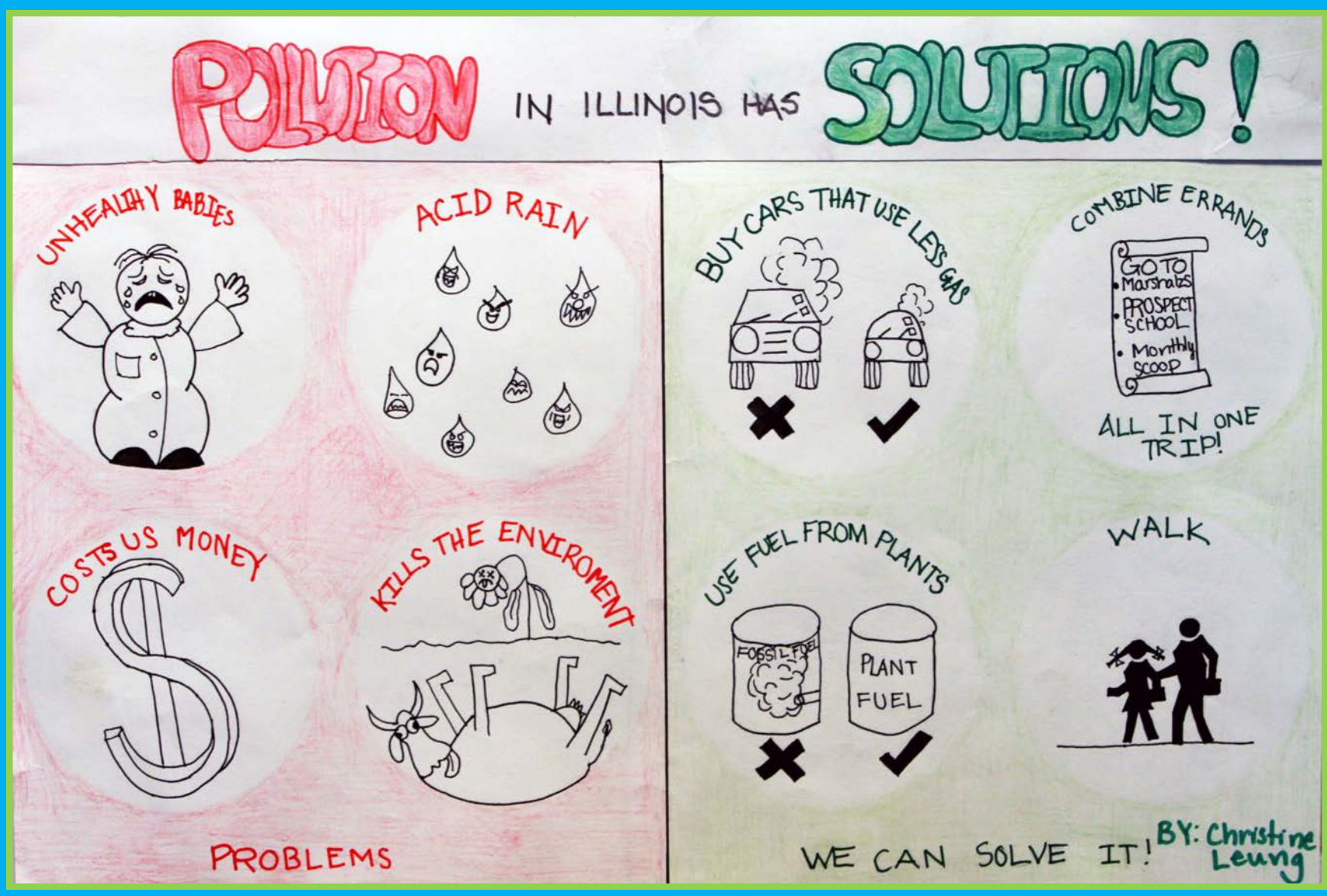

Christine Leung • 5th Grade
Prospect Elementary School, Clarendon Hills

Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?

November 2016

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December 2016

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18	*19*	*20*	*21* Winter Solstice	*22*	*23*	*24*
25 Christmas Day	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*	*31*

Allison Stover • 6th Grade
Prince of Peace School, Lake Villa

Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?

December 2016

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January 2017

February 2017

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15	*16* Martin Luther King Day	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*
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Transportation And Air Pollution…
What Are Green Solutions

Cars release a really bad gas,
which can destroy our lungs very fast.
It makes us cough and get really sick,
This can become serious pretty quick.
It actually causes our climate to change,
By affecting the ozone - I know it sounds strange.
Sulfur dioxide is another problem you see,
It causes acid rain, destroying your favorite tree.
It also harms our soil, making things hard to grow,
It can be very harmful to animals, did you know?

What's the solution
To solve air pollution?
It's possible you see
Heres my recipe:
Go ride a bike
Take a hike
Drive in one car
Walk if its not far
Take the bus, train or "L"
Even though it may smell.
Use your imagination, it's fun,
You'll find a way to get the job done.

Transportation soils the air,
Show Mother Nature that you care!

There's lots of bad things that pollution will do,
Preventing this problem is up to me and you!

Alexandra Lapinski • 6th Grade
Washington School, Glenview

Sensing a Better Planet

Polluted air is black and thick.
It tastes like second hand cigarette smoke.
It sounds like vehicles driving and engines running.
It smells like gasoline and smoke chemicals.
It looks like factory smoke stacks and crowded interstates.
It makes me feel sad because our planet is dying.

Clean air is colorless and crystal clear.
It tastes like fresh river water.
It sounds like birds chirping and wind whistling through the leaves.
It smells like fields of cotton.
It looks like a family riding their bikes through Fox Ridge State Park.
It makes me feel happy because our planet has a chance to survive.

Maggie Smith • 5th Grade
Cumberland Elementary School, Toledo

Transportation and Air Pollution…
What Are the Green Solutions?

Transportation and Air Pollution… What Are the Green Solutions?
By: Nicole Sobski

Ellie and Paul were walking home from school one foggy day. Paul turned to his big sister and asked, "Why do all the posters at school say 'Go Green!'. Should I wear my green turtle neck tomorrow?"

"No, silly. 'Go Green' means to find different solutions to keep our environment safe. Like right now we are walking home instead of having mom come pick us up in her car! Biking, walking, carpooling, and using hybrid cars are also examples of green transportation or 'Going Green'. You know all those toys you have at home? Like your cars, trucks, airplanes, racecars, motorcycles, taxis, boats, and trains? All of these transportation methods in real life are really bad for the air we breathe, but we still use them. There is no benefit of using these for transportation when it comes to our Earth."

"But, I like my toy vehicles," replied Paul.

"And do you feel how hot it is outside today? It didn't used to be this warm during this time of year. That's because of global warming."

"What is that?" questioned Paul.

"Global warming is caused when people burn fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are nonrenewable sources such as coal, oil, and other natural gases. When burned, these fuels can produce a gas called carbon dioxide. This means that cars, ships, trains, planes, etc. are burning these fuels which release carbon dioxide into the air. Gases called greenhouse gases (methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, water vapor, etc.) trap carbon dioxide and it creates heat. If this continues, the Earth will have many more wildfires, severe weather, and many endangered animals. This is absolutely awful if you would ask me! We can't harm the Earth when there are easy solutions."

"You sound like a scientist. I'm too young to do anything. What can I do?"

"Actually, you can do something! Remember those long shopping trips that mom always would take? Well those are bad. It means that she is using her car much more. If you would tell mom to shorten her shopping trips, it would be great! It may be harder to do because we have a lot of necessities that come from different stores, but shortening that trip to 1-2 stores is awesome!" answered Ellie.

"Really?! Wow! I never knew that! I hope they have my favorite bubblegum at other stores! Tell me what else I can do!"

"Okay. This may sound obvious but planting trees or other plants is fantastic! It helps clean and refresh the air from all of the gasoline or car exhaust from cars. This is because trees contain a large amount of oxygen. In fact, 30% of the oxygen on Earth is produced by trees."

"Wow! I never knew that! Our school should plant some more trees! We should definitely try that!"

"You're absolutely right, Paul! Now I want to tell you about something called Telecommunicating. Telecommunicating is something that mom actually does when we are at school. Basically, mom decides to work at home instead of at work! She cooks and then begins to do her work on the computer. This is fantastic because she isn't driving long distances every day to get to work."

"Whoa! I need to get a job like that when I'm older! Does Dad do anything green?"

"Actually, I taught him why he should not top off his gas tank. Topping off gas releases more air pollution into the air, and even though he thinks he's saving some money, he's actually losing money. All that gas isn't going into the car, it's actually really bad for the gas systems and the earth.

"WOW! There are SO many things we can do! We REALLY have to share this with our class and with mom and dad!" exclaimed Paul.

"You're right! There are many easy solutions that we can do today! So let's make a difference! Going green will not only help the world, it will help us."

Ellie and Paul both walked home, ready to make a difference…ready to change the world.

Nicole Sobski • 6th Grade
Washington School, Glenview

Transportation and Air Pollution…
What Are the Green Solutions?

Jennifer Lyle • 5th Grade
Ransom Grade School, Ransom

**Transportation and Air Pollution…
What Are the Green Solutions?**

Transportation and Air Pollution…What Are the Green Solutions?

The Future

As I sit by the window,

I wonder what tomorrow will look like

Will the clouds turn gray like lint in a dryer?

Will we hit global warming and go extinct?

Will I have to wear a mask to help me breathe every time I step outside like an astronaut?

Will smog cover the sky like a dirty blanket that a toddler drags around?

Will everyone ride in cars like robots?

Will there be any more bikes and people walking on the sidewalks like there are now?

But, are any of these things possible?

As I think back to my science class yesterday,

I realized that all of these scenarios are caused by pollution especially from cars

Then, I realize what tomorrow would look like if everyone transported the clean way, like on bikes

The blue sky, like a blue blanket fresh out of the washer

The green grass, like the fur on a groomed dog

The happy faces, like in cartoons

But, how are these scenarios possible?

Maybe if everyone biked and walked to places instead of driving these scenarios would be possible

Yes, that is what would make the world go around

We need to stop polluting the air

We need to ride bikes and walk more often

That was the solution

Let's help the Earth and bike and walk more!

Isabella Rosinia • 6th Grade
Old St. Mary's School, Chicago

**Transportation and Air Pollution…
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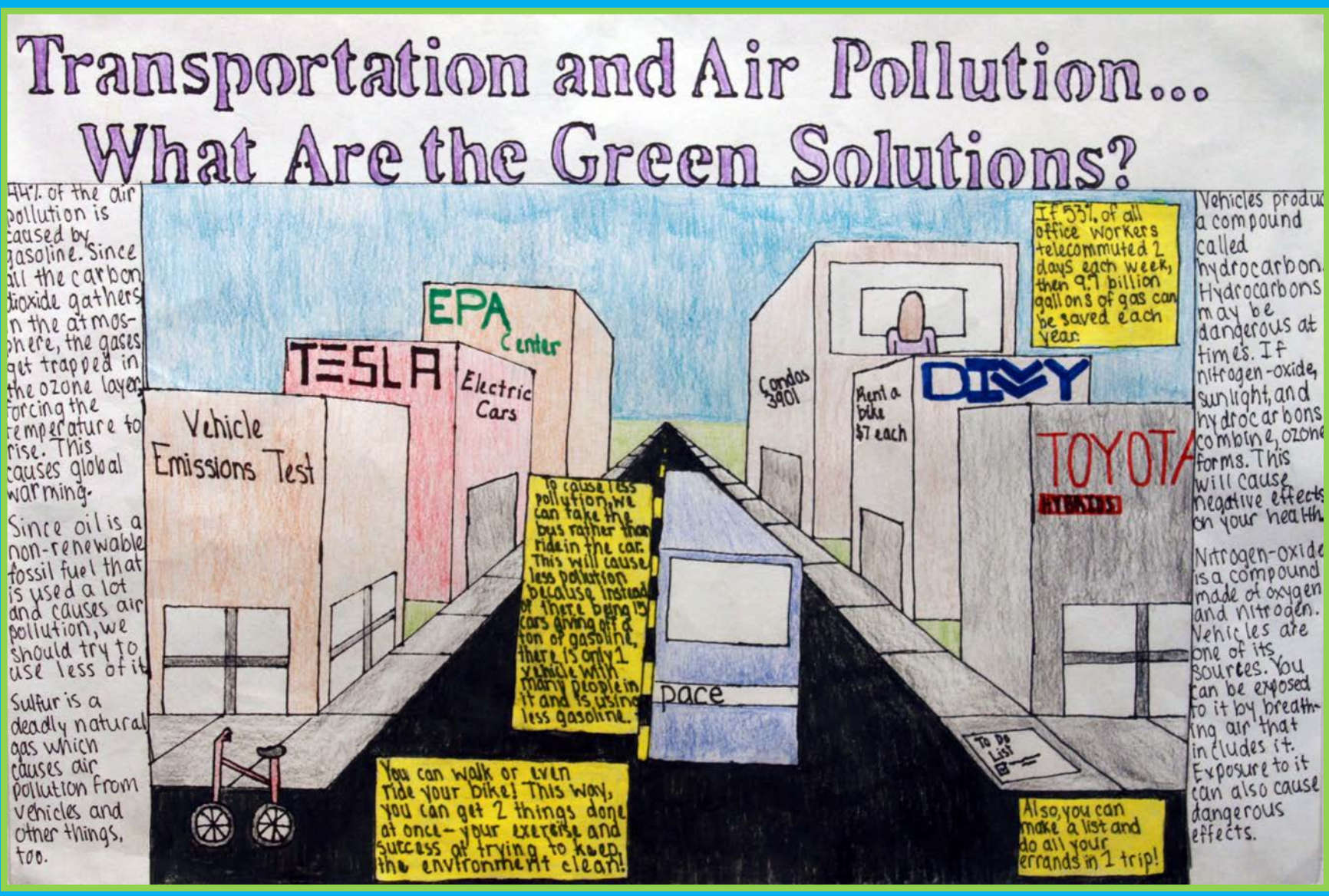

Prapti Patel • 6th Grade
Washington School, Glenview

Transportation and Air Pollution...
What Are the Green Solutions?

Two Environments, One Decision

I stood in a field
A thick dull cloud like souls being trapped in darkness hangs above me
I hear cars honking,
Motors starting,
And bulldozers digging
I see a lifeless sky with one lingering gray cloud
I see no people,
Only cars
No sun,
Only a dim, rusty haze
No warmth
Only a damp, sticky layer on my skin
I breathe in and cough
Breathe, cough
Breathe, cough
I run
I run to the nearest building
Breathe, cough
Breathe, cough
Breathe, cough
Silence

Stop
Ride a bike
Take a bus
Share a ride
Walk a block
Do all of this
And this is your reward:

I stood in a field
White majestic clouds like souls being freed for the first time float above me
I hear children laughing,
Bike bells,
And wind blowing
I see a spirited sky with many white clouds
I see no smoke,
Only sky
No cars,
Only bikes
No damp layers sticking to my skin
Only warmth
I breathe in and out
Breathe in, breathe out
Breathe in, breathe out
I run
I run freely in the field
Breathe in, breathe out
Breathe in, breathe out
Breathe in, breathe out
Laughter

Emily Hwang • 6th Grade
Old St. Mary's School, Chicago

Protecting Our Planet

by Caroline Keefe (5th Grade)

We all have a job from the day of our birth.
It's an important one: to take care of our Earth.

So if we want to leave future generations a world that's clean,
then we all need to try to live more green.

Our plants and our lungs deserve clean air.
Let's put a stop to global warming. It's only fair.

When we get in the car to go somewhere,
we are unknowingly hurting the air.

If everyone chose to ride the bus instead,
we wouldn't have air quality days that are code red.

By taking the subway to get somewhere,
we are showing our Earth that we really care.

By choosing a car that on electricity can run,
we preserve the air and help the Earth a ton.

To be a green super hero, we don't need super powers or a cape.
By walking instead, we help keep our Earth (and your bodies) in better shape.

Or when it comes time to purchasing a car,
choose a smaller one. It'll take you just as far.

So let's all make better choices when it comes to our planet.
Let's protect our Mother Earth and not take her for granted.

Caroline Keefe • 5th Grade
Immaculate Conception School, Columbia

Transportation and Air Pollution...
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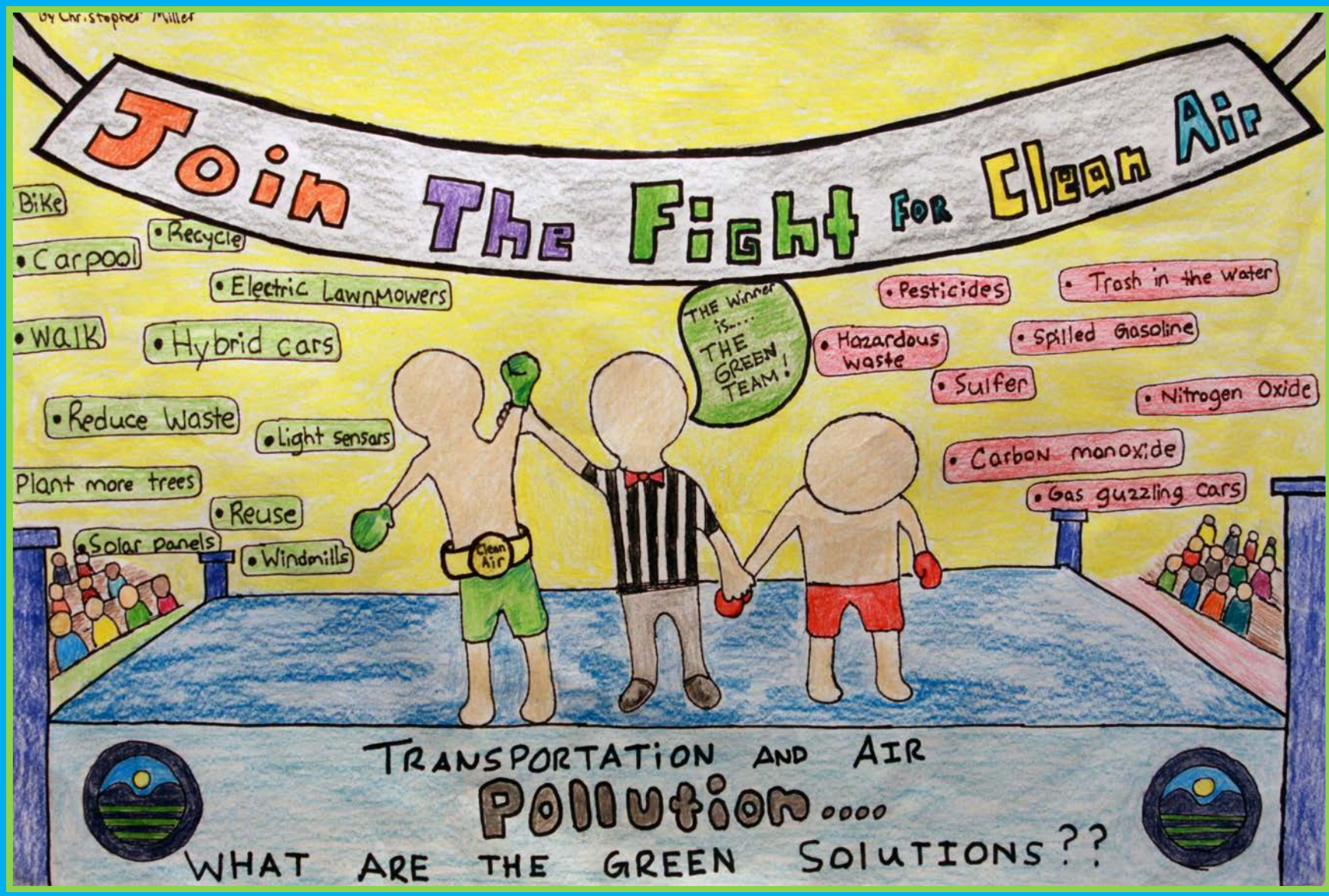

Christopher Miller • 6th Grade
Washington School, Glenview

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This calendar is the product of the 28th annual Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The drawings and essays in the calendar are identified with each student's name, school, city and grade. These entries were selected from the many 2015 entries received from fifth and sixth grade students throughout Illinois.

Thank you! to the special judges this year:

GINA BEAN, Administrative Coordinator, Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation District

HARRY HENDRICKSON, Executive Director, Illinois Science Teachers Association

BETH SHEA, Education Chairperson, Illinois State Museum

BOB SILL, Assistant Director of Art, Illinois State Museum

KELLY THOMPSON, Executive Director, Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation District

ANGELA TIN, VP Environmental Health, American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest

TRACY ZEMAN & BOOK CLUB, Site Coordinator, Illinois Audubon Society

Special thanks to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency for use of their facilities

For more information about the annual art and essay contest, please contact: Kristi Morris, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 1021 North Grand Avenue East MC #17, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276 • (217) 558-7198 • kristi.morris@illinois.gov
Website: http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/education/contest/index

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