

Miriam Wood
Pinellas
1st Place Senior

Animals with Medical Problems

There once was a duck named Rasputin
Who had a big problem with tootin'
The bread that was tossed
It came with a cost
(He was severely allergic to gluten)

His friend was a rabbit named Scamp
Who once was a cross country champ
Though he was athletic
He was quite diabetic
And each time that he ran he would cramp

Their boss was a frog named Moses
Who was cursed with a grim prognosis
They gagged and they choked
Each time that he croaked
For his meetings came with halitosis

Robert Bollinger
Duval
1st Place Senior

Panther's Plight

Mocking Bird in a River Birch tree,
Sing the blackbird's song to me.
Wings sailing like a kite,
through the sky so blue and bright.

Spanish moss overhead like smoke,
on the limbs of a mighty Live Oak.
Acorns feed the little gray squirrel,
Caterpillars, butterflies, a whole new world.

Manatees, minnows swim silent, so free.
Alligators surface for all wildlife to see.
Coat of armor glistens in the light,
Metallic dragonflies, masters in flight.

Turtles on logs,
Tadpoles to frogs,
Distant thunder warning of rain,
Daily on the Florida terrain.

Day turns to night,
panther on the prowl.
Watched like a hawk,
by a Great Horned Owl.

Raccoon wakes to scavenge for food,
soon he's met by an armadillo too.
Panther lunges, ready to strike,
Armadillo rolls into a ball so tight.

Raccoon scurries away, won't come out.
Panther disappears on his own route.
Palmettos keep them safe, panther won't eat.
Tomorrow's a new day for Florida nature to greet.

Anastasia Godfrey
Pinellas County
3rd Place Senior

For all the things a tree has seen

For all the things a tree has seen
Birds perching on its creaking branches
Its sense of all your trouble is keen,
As soon as your worried face advances.
You'll take a seat beneath the shaded sprawl
As you secretly wish to be whisked away
Some leaves will gently begin their fall
Reminding you of a new spring day
And soon enough you'll realize
That relief isn't coming from just one tree
It rains from a forest old and wise,
A rustling, steady, thick green sea.
So when you're angry and worn, in a state of enclosure;
Go take a hike through the forest and regain your composure.

Michael Costello
Pinellas
Honorable Mention Senior

My Creek

The creek runs through the town
Oh the treasures that can be found
The beauty you see day or night
Either way it's a spectacular sight
Making its way to the majestic fall
Water plummets 15 stories tall
Always flowing in my backyard
In the winter it feels like ice shards.
The rapids always roaring quick
So the banks are always slick
Little rocks smaller than my head
To giant slabs larger than my bed
Full of enormous fallen trees
Water gushes above my knees
Picnic tables being swept away
Filling the air with ice cold spray
Then once again the water slows
That's the way the creek flows
All of this is why I miss
The place which provided me so much bliss