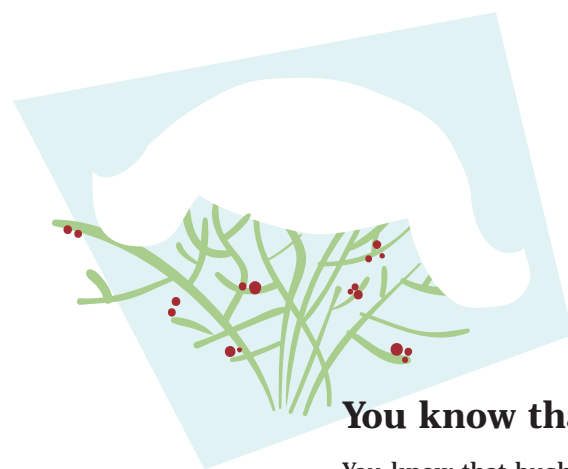


And the winners are ...



BACK IN OCTOBER, we invited "KidSpace" readers to send in poems for our seventh annual young people's poetry contest. We were delighted by the response! We received hundreds of poems from across the United States, as well as some from Canada, Japan, and Jordan. Many thanks to all!

Watch for next year's contest in October. And meanwhile, if you're a poet and would like to announce that fact to others, we have a limited supply of "I'm a poet" buttons (right) available until Dec. 31 or while they last. Send a stamped (49 cents), self-addressed envelope to: The Home Forum Poetry Button, One Norway Street, P02-20, Boston, MA 02115.



You know that bush

You know that bush
the bald bush with no leaves
at all?
But when the
snow falls,
it has a white wig
to wear.

Tsekai English
Grade 6
Cambridge, Mass.

Cross-country skiing

Click

Click

On go the skis
In goes the air
The frigid, tingling air
That makes me feel *alive*

I push off
I glide
Over sparkling snow
With the wings I have on my feet

Glide, glide
Glide so smooth
Fly faster and faster
And faster

Flow
Over the snow
Like a river
Like a dream

Smooth
A laughing dance of joy
Flying
I huff
I puff

I am the wind -
Alive

Kelsey Calhoun
Grade 7
Jericho, Vt.

Music

Music is happy, sad, and mysterious.
Music is a river, dancing through the stones.
Music is a loon,
Calling in the night.
Music can be anything.
Anything in sight.

Caitlin Barker
Grade 6
Seattle

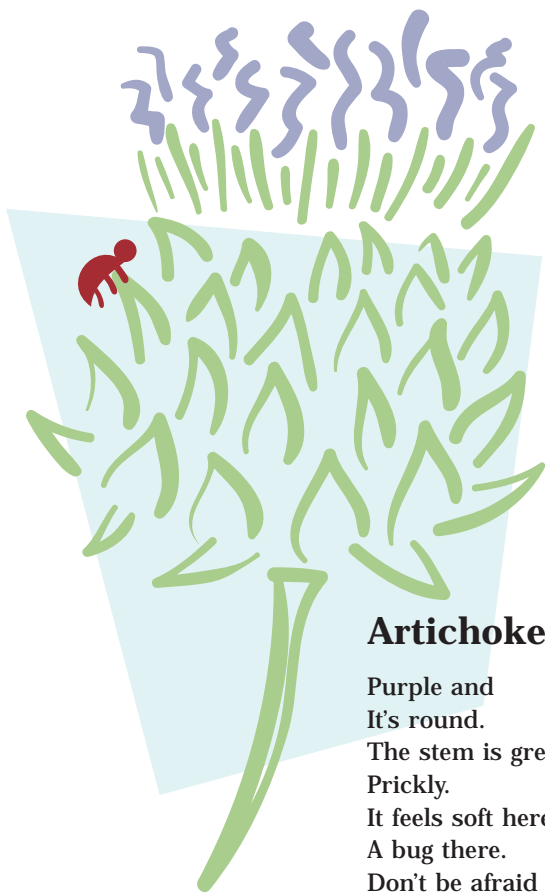
The guide to having older brothers

Don't be the last one to come to dinner.
They will occasionally cover up for you.
Careful when entering their room.
Don't steal anything from them.
Always have a comeback or don't say anything.
No matter what, they are right.
You will most likely get their old clothes.
Talking to them isn't easy.
Not all of their advice is a waste.
They don't like it when you talk to them in public.
Your self-esteem is influenced by them.
They always ride in the front.
They understand everything.
They help you with your homework.
They listen to your problems.
Transformers and Ninja Turtles are your new toys.
Sports are your life.
They always get the remote.
No matter how much you wish you weren't like them,
you are.
No matter how old you may be, you are always known
as "little."
They will always love you.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAREN SCHNEIDER

Leann Seymour
Grade 9
Green Bay, Wis.



Artichoke flower

Purple and
It's round.
The stem is green.
Prickly.
It feels soft here.
A bug there.
Don't be afraid
It just wants to live.
Don't be afraid
It's just a bug
Trying to make
A living.
The flower is
His home.

Enrique Drummond
Alicia Fife
Jocelyn Crawford
Preschool
Seattle

Apple picking

The apples are red, yellow, and gold
One for me, and one for you
Let's divide them all by two!
After that we see the trees
Enjoy the sights before they freeze!
The leaves are red, yellow, and gold
The trees are mossy, big and old
Hurry home, it's getting cold.

Emma Sapat
Grade 2
Falmouth, Maine



Learning to drive

My car stopped dead in the middle of the hill,
It refused to go, against my will,
I pushed the pedal in real deep,
And then I heard a very loud beep,
It suddenly started to slip back down,
And in my rear-view mirror I saw a big frown,
My car bumped the car behind,
Then I heard the five other cars grind,
My father's face had turned beet-red,
The car door slammed and I saw he had fled.
Maybe as a student I was real slow,
But my advice is to get a teacher you don't know.

Meeya Killian
Grade 8
Brookline, Mass.

TODAY'S ARTICLE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Bringing a spiritual perspective to daily life

A child for us all

"UNTO US A CHILD is born..." wrote the spiritual seer Isaiah. *Unto us? Today? For you and me?* The prophet's words reverberate with the impact of the moment – and indeed, even today this impact resonates in grateful hearts and peaceful minds. "Unto us a child is born."

What do children stand for? Beyond the obvious, the respect for the value and worth of childhood echoes a deepened understanding of manhood and womanhood and of the relationships that are forged among the family of man. Children define relationships and make individuals become a family. They identify metaphorically and physically the complex network of being.

When our son was about to be born, my husband and I were thrilled. We had prepared well for this event, and we were looking forward to getting to know an individual whom we already deeply loved. Our love was genuine and it included not just this little one; it integrated everybody.

This child would turn our parents into grandparents, my sister into an aunt, and our brothers into uncles. The child would, without doing anything but simply coming into being, redefine the relationships within the family. Children classify relationships and show by their very existence the wonderful web into which life is woven.

In a similar but much more significant way, the child Jesus, born into the family of humanity, showed by his very existence the wonderful web into which spiritual life is woven. This gracefully celebrated advent of a new era inaugurated an epoch of illumined human rights, respect for the individual, a higher understanding of God, the healing power of Love.

The key to understanding why this child was born unto us – unto you and me – is hidden within the virgin birth, revealing in a new way that God is a Father. Jesus didn't have a biological father; he had a spiritual father. And later, in a most touching and powerful sermon, he would teach everyone a simple prayer, starting with this line: "Our Father which art in heaven." *Our Father is Spirit*, and we belong with the Christ to one spiritual family. We are indeed brothers and sisters, part of the amazing richness of divine being.

When Jesus pronounced, "Our Father," he defined his own role within the spiritual history of humanity and made clear that his spiritual origin was not just his privilege or a special dispensation. It was and is a heritage granted to all of us.

So the family ties we have with the eternal Christ draw upon this heritage and run deeper than other ties. "Jesus of Nazareth taught and demonstrated man's oneness with the Father, and for this we owe him endless homage. His mission was both individual and collective," observed Monitor founder Mary Baker Eddy ("Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," pg. 18).

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." The joyous music that Georg Friedrich Händel wrote for this message in his "Messiah"

resonates in the hearts and minds of people throughout the world.

This child is for us – for you and me. This child relates his own being to all of us and proves the

sturdy spiritual bond between God and His children. The Christ, Jesus' spiritual selfhood, connects us with our Father. After Jesus' time on earth, life was never the same. The birth and life of Jesus reach beyond the stable in Bethlehem into our homes, unfolding their meaning in our lives today.

There is a tender secret in life, reaching beyond circumstance and happenstance into divine design and spiritual planning. It is revealed whenever someone is touched by the sweetness of good, whenever somebody realizes the unity and oneness of being in sincere love. So let the angels this Christmas whisper to you and me a diapason of peace and friendship, and let our relationships be realized as natural, given, and, yes, glorious.

Mary Baker Eddy wrote these poetic words a century ago, and they still sparkle in childlike sincerity: "The nineteenth-century prophets repeat, 'Unto us a son is given.' The shepherds shout, 'We behold the appearing of the star!' – and the pure in heart clap their hands..." ("Miscellaneous Writings, 1883-1896," pg. 168).

Let the angels
this Christmas whisper
to you and me a diapason
of peace and friendship.

Finding
certainty
in
uncertain
times



Pick up a copy of *Science and Health* at a bookstore or Christian Science Reading Room near you, visit www.spirituality.com, or call 1-800-933-9179.

Science and Health A Reference Book for Life