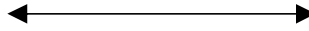


*****POETRY – 6TH GRADE*****



1st Place

Hunt

Dominic Ghafouri

Stone Valley Middle School, Alamo
Teacher: Renee Doran

The rattlesnake sits in wait
Its keen eyes scanning the rocky plateau
It lies low in the tall bronze grass
Waiting
And waiting
And waiting
A small field mouse scampers into view
Its dark eyes search the dusty ground
Hoping for just a few seeds to diminish its hunger
And a meager puddle to slake its thirst
Searching
And searching
And searching
The rattlesnake coils its serpentine body
Its needle-like teeth filled to the brim with a deadly venom
It takes a last look to see if the mouse is still there
Then it strikes
The doomed mouse looks up just to see the jaws hurtling towards it
The snake meets its mark
Its jaws close around the mouse and it retreats back into the brush
The majestic hawk circles above
It catches sight of the snake
The hunter now hunted
The hawk swoops down
And down
And down
The hawk hits its target
It flies away once more with the snake thrashing in its claws
The sun sets over the plateau
And all is quiet