

Inspired by passages from Patricia MacLachlan's [Sarah, Plain and Tall](#) and the [Let Me Show You Nature Lesson](#) found at the WritingFix website, these fourth graders wrote the following descriptions about natural objects. As they wrote and revised the finished pieces you see here, they worked especially hard on their **word choice** and **sentence fluency** skills.

Read each description with a friend. Talk about where you see each writer showing strength with word choice and sentence fluency.

A Giant Puddle

by Brynne, 4th grade writer

As I stand before the royal blue ocean, the sand feels powdery beneath my bare feet. The shells are all different colors: periwinkle, lavender, goldenrod, forest green, and vanilla. All of them beautiful. Some are smooth; some are broken, cracked, and sharp. Waves come crashing to shore, sweeping the shells into its current. As this happens, seagulls screech and wail. They dive down towards the water, and as a roaring wave comes up, they swoop into the sky once again. The ocean is a lovely and beautiful place.



The Forgotten Waterfall

by Calvin, 4th grade writer

Through hundreds of decaying saplings lies a magnificent waterfall. A waterfall that has not seen life for one-hundred years. It looked down at the world stretching out before its aged eyes. The waterfall feels imprisoned in the center of the deserted rocky mountains. Its after-spray feels like leopards claws. Besides the waterfall, the only sound within one hundred kilometers is the snapping of dead branches. It holds memories of children swinging on ropes. The remains of rock-skipping days lay sunken to the bottom. The waterfall, forgotten or not, is thirsty for more.



The Ocean

by Maggie, 4th grade writer

The ocean, with its tumbling waves, goes on forever. It holds secrets that we could never imagine. Seeing many a love and many a loathe, it is wise but old. Many boats have traveled upon it. The ocean is a home to many creatures, both big and small, as many stars as there are in the universe, from the blue whale to the pink shrimp. It changes colors depending on its mood. For instance, when the mood is sad, the ocean turns a deep gray, but when the mood is happy the ocean turns sky blue. Yes, the ocean is a wonderful place.



The Secret Meadow

by Carly, 4th grade writer

My secret meadow is a place where only I go. I tumble down the great rolling hills and roll to a stop next to the clear, cool, bubbling stream. Among the iridescent wildflowers I lay. Beside the creek, I place my finger into the clear cool water and fish out a smooth-as-silk pebble. I toss the pebble and it lands in a patch of green grass. Past the stream, I twirl across the lush green fields and fall to a stop next to a huge leafy maple tree. This is my home.

