4th–6th grade

SIENA DUNN
5th grade, Palo Alto
Winner

ABIGAIL ALFORD
5th grade, Hollister
Honorable Mention

FITZPATRICK BROCKWAY
4th grade, San Francisco
Honorable Mention
HAD THE OCEAN BEEN MY FRIEND

Had the ocean been my friend,
I would have given it
All of my truths for safekeeping

All of my darkest secrets,
Nestled deep into the sand,
Surrounded by the soothing hum of the waves.
Waves enveloping my mistakes in life,
Like buried treasure,
Never forgotten

Tales I would have written,
Girls plucking seashells from beaches
Whose golden shores were
Like isles of dreamland
But whose fates were
Like lines drawn in sand

If the ocean had been my friend,
I’d have
Spent off all my loneliness
Strolling its vast shores,
I’d have walked with the wind
Had the ocean been my friend

—Siena Dunn
WONDERING WAVES

Watery waves wonder
Why their world is so wet.
As they wake to whistling winds,
Will they have a new pet?

A swordfish, a seal, a sea slug they have!
Why not a fox, a fawn or a friendly calf?

I guess they’ll never understand.
They can’t have animals who live on land.

—Abigail Alford
I AM A FISH IN THE BIG BLUE SEA

I go with the current,
The current goes with me.
I follow school into
The seaweed.
We feed off algae
Crab, plankton, and krill.
Shrimp for dessert.

Big animals and small ones,
We cower from sharks,
Hide in the dark.
I am a fish
In the
Big blue
Sea.

Never stop being hunted,
Hunted all day.
Swim, swim,
Swim away.

Now there are 10,
Now there are 8,
Now there are 7,
Now there are 5,
Now there are 3,
Now there is
Only me.
I am the last,
Speeding fast,
Zooming through the 100 yard dash.
Can you catch me?
Catch me if you can,
Catch me, catch me.

—Fitzpatrick Brockway