

The Youth Nature Story Contest Winner is...
Anna Brown - Marianne Dunford
Age 12

"Huff, huff" I panted as I made my way around the corner. I looked up at the thick leaves that shaded the rocky path. The wind pushed the smell of flowers and fresh cut grass passed my face. I felt the wind hug me as it swirled around before disappearing further into the trees. The birds sang as they flew through the thickly wooded trees.

The dirt and rock path seemed to wind on forever as I slowly made my way up the hill. I looked up to see the path disappearing into the darkening sky. "Rain." I said as I continued up the path. The air was thick and sticky with humidity. The wind picked up again this time bringing the smell of rain.

I quickened my pace as I rounded the corner. My footsteps trailed behind me. I stopped as everything around me went quiet. The wind blew my hair into my sweat covered face. I held my breath as I looked into the distance. I became silent along with everything around me. The birds went quiet and the wind stopped.

Less than 3 feet away from me stood a deer. My heart skipped a beat as it looked at me. "Hi... little guy." I stuttered as it looked into my eyes. We stood in silence looking at each other for what seemed to be hours. Cool water trickled down my back as I started to realize my surroundings again.

The rain began to fall and the wind splattered water into my eyes. "Can you let me pass? I need to go home now." I said as I slowly and quietly walked towards the deer. It watched me as I walked closer to it before it ran into the woods. I watched it disappear into the trees. "Wow." I said as I covered my face from the rain.

It started to pour as I ran up the hill. The dirt began to collect in the run off on the sides of the path. "That deer was so beautiful." I thought to myself as the image of the deer ran around in my memories. I came to the end of the path soaked in cool rain. The air was still warm. I glanced back at the path. The rain splashed in the puddles as I ran into my house.

"Mom you're never gonna believe what happened!"