

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

by Loretta English

Did you see the full moon eclipsed by the shadow of the earth on the Sunday night after Thanksgiving? Surrendering to Middle of the Night insomnia, I put on a coat and went out into the cold night to see what I could see. My youngest child was born 12 years ago on another total eclipse of the full moon, only then we were in the middle of a heat wave.

I stood in my front yard and looked up at the night sky through the bare branches of the pecan. The shadow of the earth was sailing slowly past the moon like the darkest of clouds and the moon was surrounded by a white aura and a red orange ring.

The world is a strange and wondrous place, mysterious to all of us, and especially as seen through the eyes of children.

Following are quotes of fifth and sixth graders that we find so original, so scientifically and spiritually beguiling in their world view, that we had to pass them along to you.

* You can listen to thunder after lightening and tell how close you came to getting hit. If you don't hear it you got hit, so never mind.

* Talc is found in rocks and on babies.

* The law of gravity says no fair jumping up without coming back down.

* When they broke open molecules, they found they were only stuffed with atoms. But when they broke open atoms, they found them stuffed with explosions.

* Clouds are high flying fogs.

* There are twice as many H's as O's.

* I am not sure how clouds get formed. But the clouds know how to do it, and that is the important thing.

* Clouds just keep circling

the earth around and around. And around. There is not much else to do.

* Water vapor gets together in a cloud. When it is big enough to be called a drop, it does.

* When there is fog, you might as well not mind looking at it.

* Humidity is the experience of looking for air and finding water.

* We keep track of the humidity in the air so we won't drown when we breathe.

* In making rain water, it takes everything from H to O.

* When rain water strikes forest fires, it heckstingwishes them. Luckily it affects we of the humans unlike that.

* Rain is often spoken of as soft water, oppositely known as hail.

* Rain is saved up in cloud banks.

* In some rocks you can find the fossil footprints of fishes.

* A blizzard is when it snows sideways.

* A hurricane is a breeze of a bigly size.

* A thunderstorm is like a shower, only moreso.

* Isotherms and isobars are even more important than their names sound.

* It is so hot in some parts of the world that the people there have to live other places.

* The wind is like the air, only pushier.

* Until it is decided whether tornadoes are typhoons or hurricanes, we must continue to call them tornadoes.

* When people run around and around in circles we say they are crazy. When planets do it we say they are orbiting.

* Rainbows are just to look at, not to really understand.

* Most books now say our sun is a star. But it still knows how to turn back into a sun in the daytime.

* A vibration is a motion that cannot make up its mind which way it wants to go.

* There are 26 vitamins in all, but some of the letters are yet to be discovered. Finding them all means living forever.

* There is a tremendous weight pushing down on the center of the Earth because of so much population stomping around up there these days.

* Lime is a green-tasting rock.

* Many dead animals of the past changed to fossils while others preferred to be oil.

* Genetics explain why you look like your father and if you don't why you should.

* Vacuums are nothings. We only mention them to let them know they're there.

* Some oxygen molecules help fires burn while others help make water, so sometimes it's brother against brother.

* We say the cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of things people forget to put the top on.