

Laura & Lana: California Fairies of Flora & Fauna

By Nathan Tanega

- 8th grade -

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School

Star Pedron, Teacher

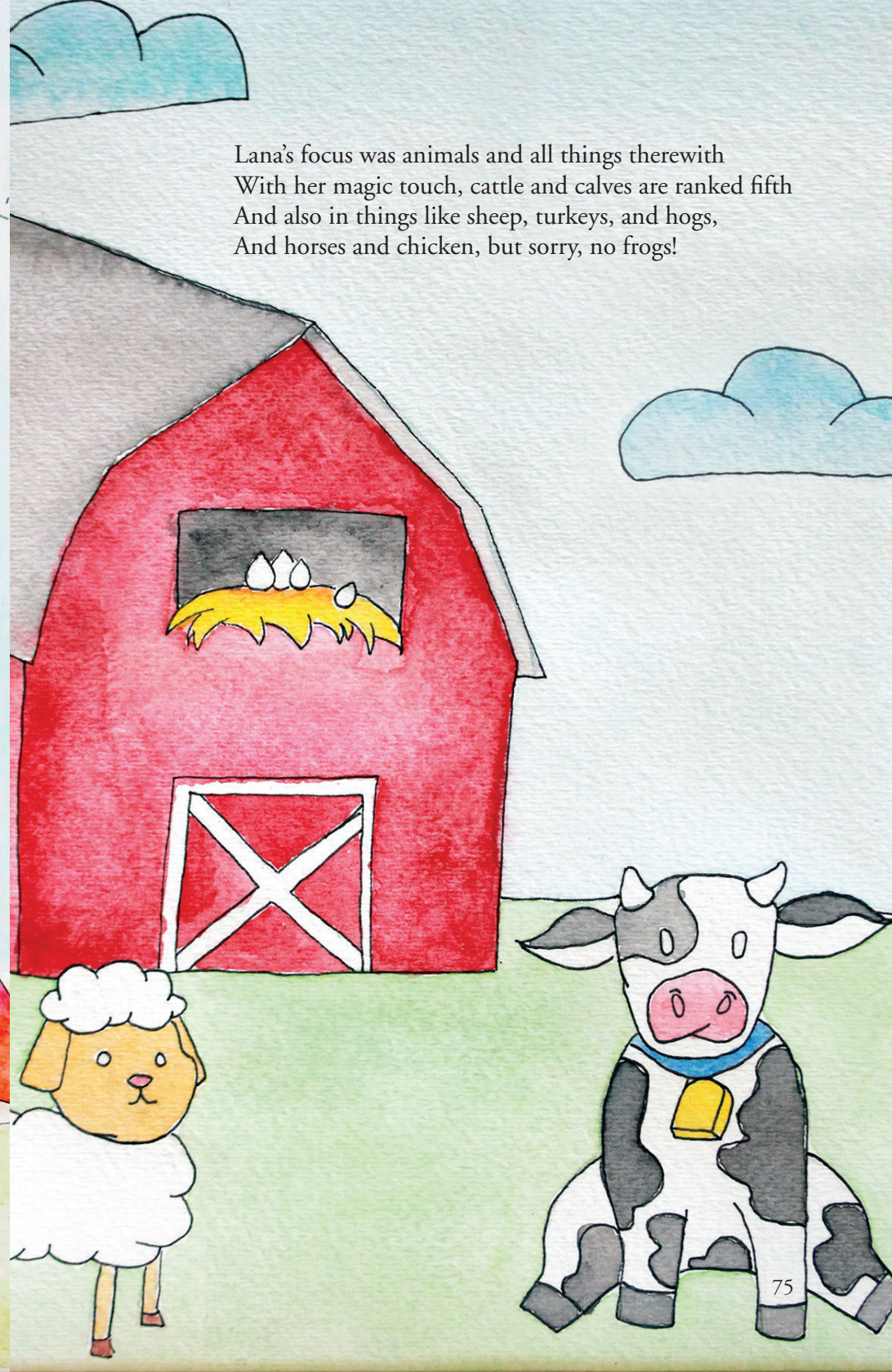
Stanislaus County

Illustrated by Sheldon High School



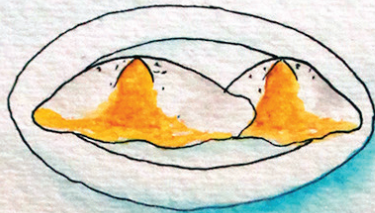


There once were two fairies named Laura and Lana
 Their hope was to help our state's flora and fauna
 Nurturing plants and helping animals: their power
 California their kingdom, their home in Bellflower.

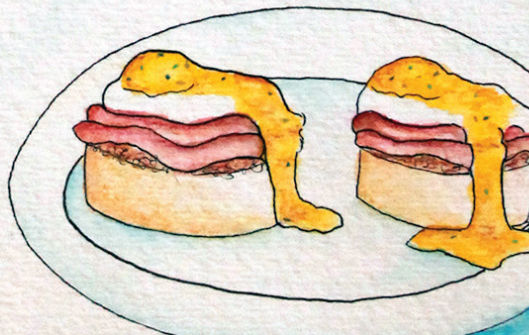
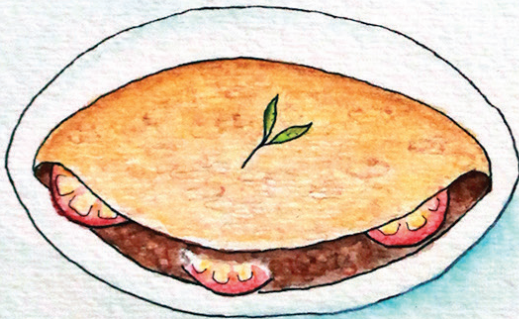


Lana's focus was animals and all things therewith
 With her magic touch, cattle and calves are ranked fifth
 And also in things like sheep, turkeys, and hogs,
 And horses and chicken, but sorry, no frogs!

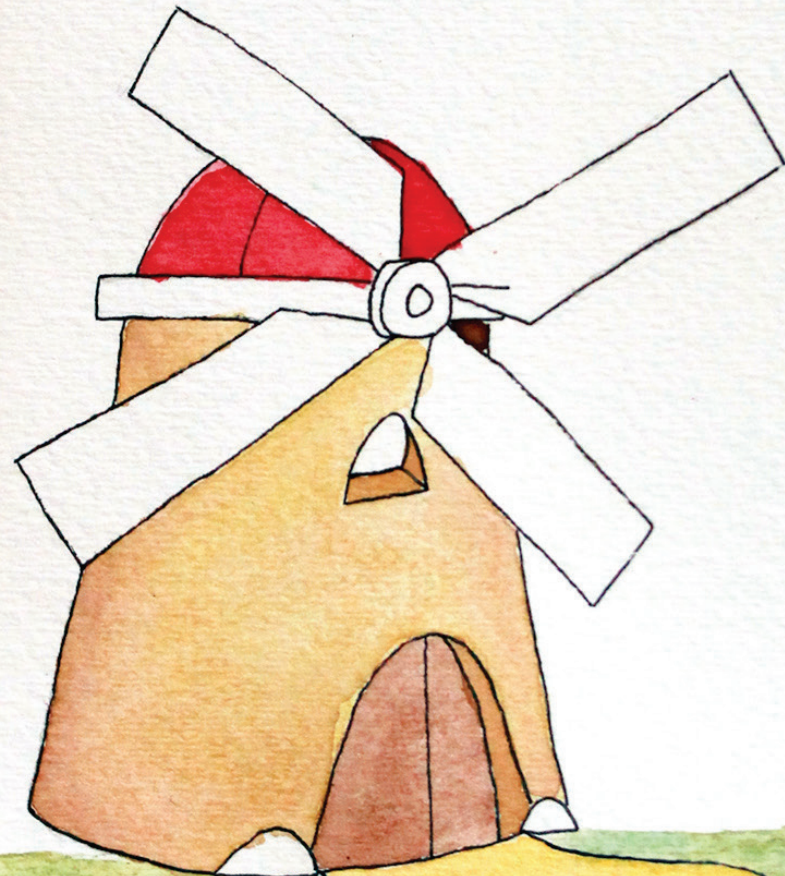
And then there's the egg and here's a quick guide
 You can eat it poached or hard boiled or scrambled or fried
 An omelet or eggs Benedict, there are so many ways
 I know I, personally, could eat them for days!
 And when you drink milk
 (and I think that you should)
 It is not only delicious, but it does a body good!

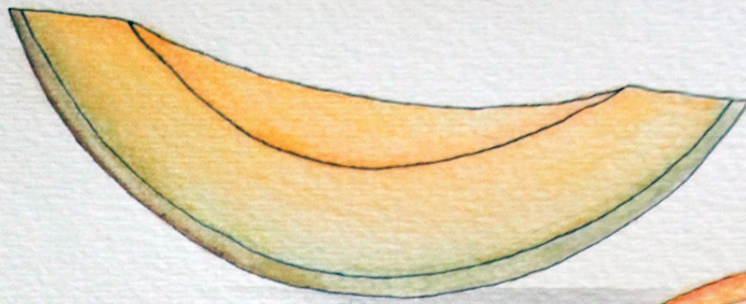


In addition to beef, we produce poultry and dairy,
 All this, and much more, is made with the help of our fairy.

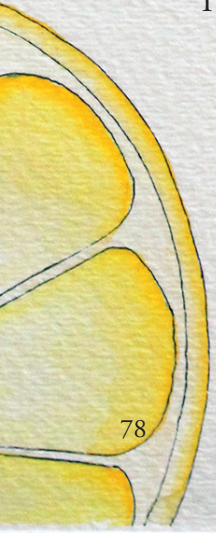


Laura, the other fairy, uses charms on our plants
 And that might make you think of a fern at first glance,
 But you would be wrong because this group is quite vast
 Grapes and melons are a part of this cast.
 Of course, there is corn and almonds and grains
 And soybeans and vegetables and other food for our brains





Oranges, strawberries, apricots, lettuce
Figs, prunes, pistachios, and even asparagus
From avocados to lemons to peaches galore
These are just some of the things, and there's more!

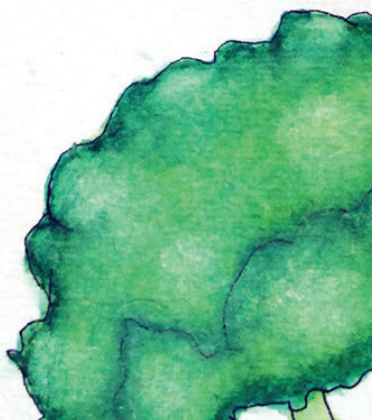


In addition, there are carrots, which are good for the eyes
And cotton, which turns into socks, tees, and ties





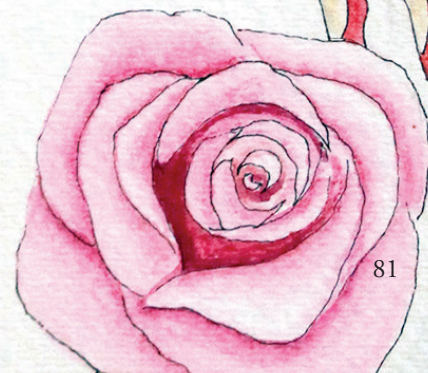
With grapes, of course, comes all varieties of wine
And garlic, which has always been a favorite of mine!
Plums and tomatoes and broccoli and beets
And would you believe this list is not even complete?

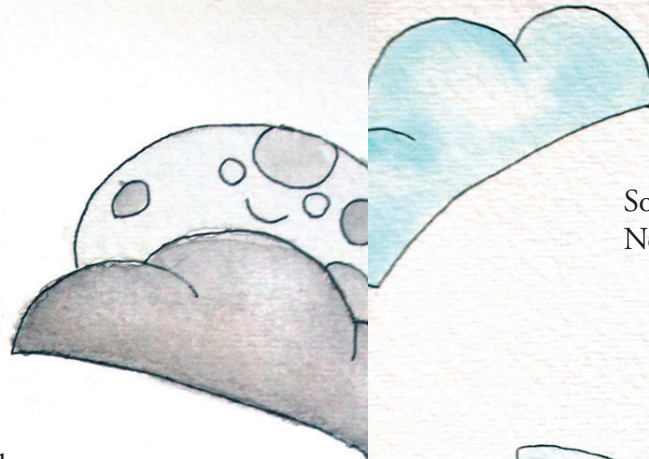
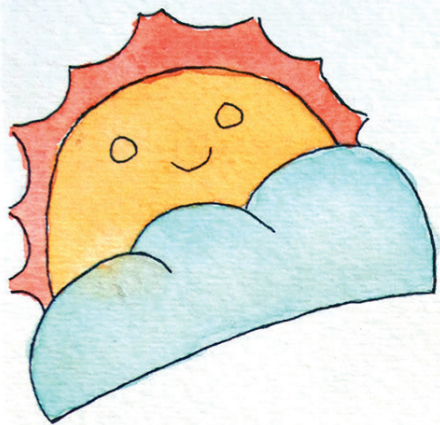


Floriculture is also a big focus to Flora
This includes plants and flowers (which I just adore-ahh)
From poinsettias to orchids to a rose and a lily
An azalea, but not Iggy, because that would be silly!

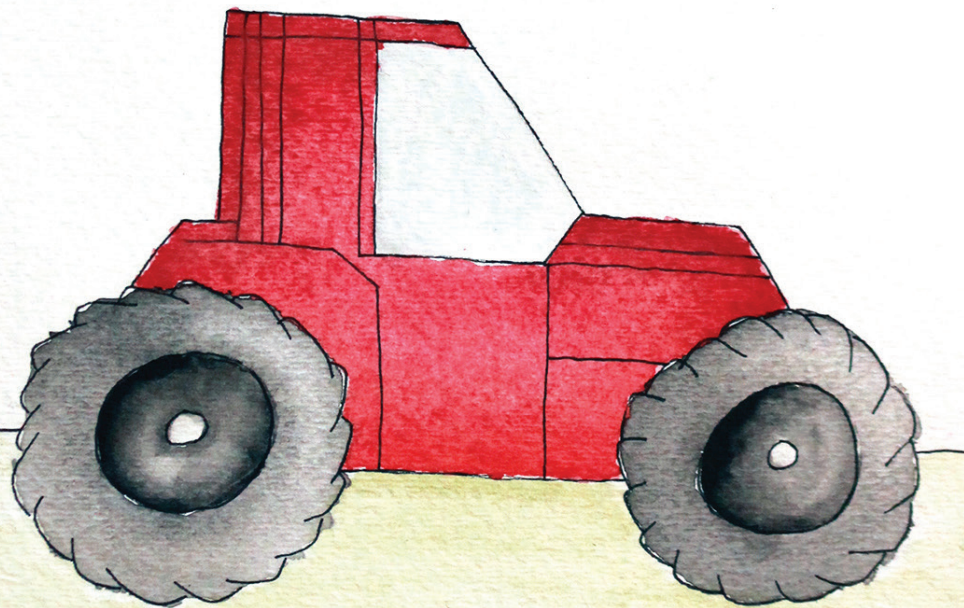
Ranunculus, sunflowers, and carnations and more
And dahlias and anemones add beauty to any décor
And with this crop, we are number one in the nation
And they are wonderful to give on any occasion!

Thanks to the fairies, our state's export value is in billions
And we are the top ag-producing state (so
shouldn't that be zillions?)





And while these fairies work hard and are charmers
It isn't elves or gnomes, but people, especially the farmers
That work hardest of all with their own magical wands
That would be tractors and planters that run dusk 'til dawn.



From grain augers and harrows to balers and more
Their powers seem enchanting like tales in a lore
But with all they produce, it really is no wonder
California ag is number one and that is no blunder!



So, alas, it is the hard work that rules the day
No one would argue that, wouldn't you say?



So let us say thanks to both Laura and Lana
With their support, we are tops in both flora and fauna!



About the Author:



Nathan Tanega, age 14

Nathan's poem, *Laura and Lana: California Fairies of Flora and Fauna*, was inspired by his mom. His mom uses the term 'Flora and Fauna' and so he thought it would be interesting to write a poem based on the phrase. He started by researching California agriculture and wrote down as many facts as he could about California agriculture—ranging from plants, flowers and animals. After that, Nathan started drafting the poem and finding words and facts that rhymed. His favorite part of writing the poem was putting the rhyming words together.

Throughout his writing process, Nathan learned so many fun details about California agriculture and hopes that readers will learn as many fun facts about agriculture as he did while writing. Nathan had no idea that California produced so many kinds of flowers and that California is the number one agricultural state in the nation. He is really looking forward to seeing his poem illustrated!

About the Illustrators:



Sophia Reynoso-Lopez and Akilah York

Sheldon High School | Kelsey Dillard, Art Teacher

Before illustrating the poem, *Laura and Lana: California Fairies of Flora and Fauna*, Akilah and Sophia did not know what to expect from the poem. Both students are Senior AP Art students at Sheldon High School. To illustrate the poem Akilah and Sophia first divided the story into sections. Then, they both did research to accurately illustrate the poem. After several sketches they began to watercolor the drawings. Both Sophia and Akilah learned that California is one of the main contributors and producers of many commodities. Sophia enjoyed drawing something out of her comfort zone, while Akilah loved the experience because she wants to illustrate children's books as a career. Overall, illustrating the book was a positive and challenging experience for Sophia and Akilah.