

WINTER IN THE DESERT



Written by Joseph Benesh
Illustrated by Sandra Zally

A **CLEAN AIR MAKE MORE** Coloring Book

Presented by



PHOENIX CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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CENTER
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ARTS

make something

At Phoenix Center for the Arts our motto is to “make something.” We are proud to partner with ADEQ and Maricopa Air Quality Department to encourage you to make more clean air!

This comic book was designed at the Phoenix Center for the Arts by a couple of our artists. If you would like to find out more about how to draw, dance, or play music, or you know someone who does, please visit our website or call us!

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To make life better we can all cooperate to make air & art!

WINTER

IN THE DESERT

A CleanAirMakeMore Coloring Book



Written by Joseph Benesh & Illustrated by Sandra Zally

PRESENTED BY

Maricopa County Air Quality Department @ www.CleanAirMakeMore.com

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Phoenix Center for the Arts



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Attention charities, schools, and special interest groups: Special editions of this book may be made available at group rates for fundraising, educational purposes, or other special functions.

Winter in the Desert

The air is cool and the sun is bright. Many creatures and humans become more active in the cooler months.



CLEAN AIR WISDOM: WHAT IS AIR?

You cannot see air. But air is always there. Air is not solid like a rock, or wet like a raindrop. Air is a gas. Your body needs the gas to breathe. If you can smell something bad in the air, or see the air, or taste the air, then something may be wrong with the air.

Every living thing on earth needs clean air to breathe.

<http://www.azenvirokids.gov/html/>

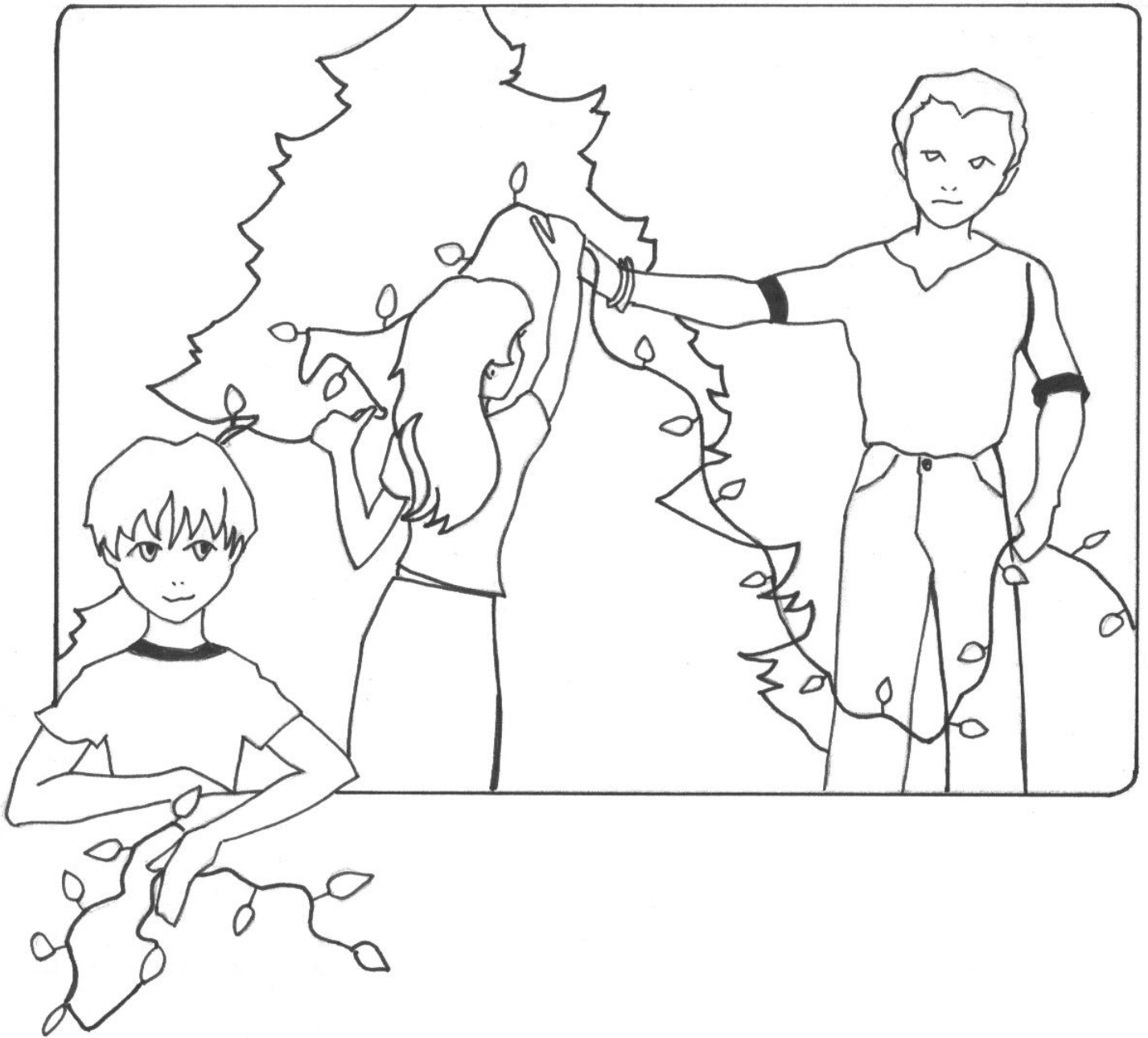
In its Saguaro, this Pygmy Owl Family is decorating for the holidays.



CLEAN AIR WISDOM: CONSIDER NATURE

Pygmy Owls start to nest in cacti or trees in December. Although fire is a threat to their habitat, they cannot move their owlets during the days when air gets bad in our valley.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Pygmy_Owl

At home, Lupita's family is also preparing for holiday celebrations.
It is a time when family and friends come together.



CLEAN AIR WISDOM: WORK TOGETHER

Maricopa County is the third largest county in the United States.
There are more than 3,880,224 people who live in Maricopa County.
We must all learn to work together to keep our environment healthy and clean.
<http://www.maricopa.gov/>

At the saguaro, Owlita is excited to string the lights around the cactus, but something is wrong! Surrounded by smoke, she can hardly see. She has to stop to catch her breath. "What is that smell?" she calls.

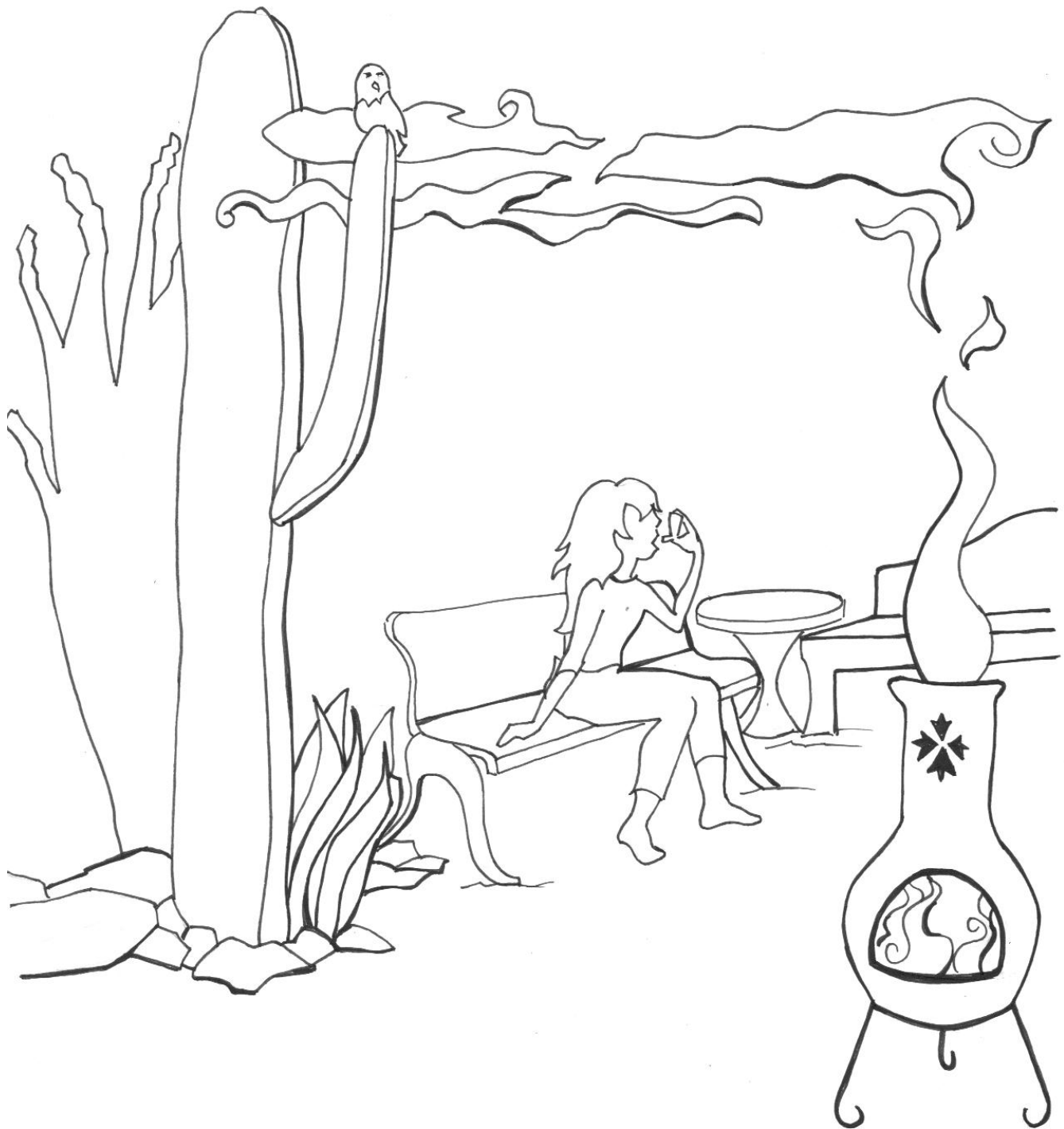


CLEAN AIR WISDOM: INVERSION

In the winter the air quality gets worse because of inversion. During an inversion winds are very light, which prevents pollution from being diluted or blowing away. As a result, air pollution builds up and many people and animals find it much harder to breathe.

<http://www.maricopa.gov/aq/divisions/monitoring/inversion.aspx>

Just then Owlita hears someone coughing. Her friend Lupita is sitting in the back yard. She is starting to wheeze and must use her inhaler.



CLEAN AIR WISDOM: BROWN CLOUD DANGER

Valley hospitals see a noticeable increase of patients with respiratory issues due to smoke from fireplaces. Most patients are children and the elderly, but even the healthiest adults can be affected.

<http://maricopa.gov/publichealth>

**“Mother, why do people make so much smoke? Don’t they know the dangers?”
Owla wondered if the people knew how easy it was to keep the air clean.
“I do not think they share our wisdom,” she said.**



CLEAN AIR WISDOM: WHY IS SMOKE SO BAD?

Smoke is a mixture of gases and fine particles produced when wood and other organic matter burn. Small particles in smoke can go deep into the lungs and many of those particles can stay in there.

<http://www.maricopa.gov/qa/divisions/compliance/dust/fireplaces/docs/pdf/HealthImpactsAndWoodburning.pdf>

Owlita glided down and whispered something into her friend's ear.
Lupita took out her cell phone. "Let's search the web together."



CLEAN AIR WISDOM: OWL WIDE WEB

There are many ways to find out about air quality and how you can help.
Sign up to receive email alerts or text messages when a No Burn Day is issued,
or follow www.CleanAirMakeMore.com on Facebook. Educate yourself and spread the word!
<http://azdeq.gov/ceh/air.html>

“Is the chiminea keeping you warm enough Lupita?” her father asks.
“It is a No Burn Day dad. I can get my sweater instead,” said Lupita.
“What is a No Burn Day?” he asked.



CLEAN AIR WISDOM: NO BURN DAYS

When pollution levels are on the rise and weather conditions create dry, stagnant air, a No Burn Day is called. This includes a ban on wood burning activity.

Most No Burn Days occur in the winter, during the holiday season.

<http://www.maricopa.gov/qa/divisions/compliance/dust/docs/pdf/WoodburnFlyer.pdf>

Lupita shows her dad the website she found with Owlita.



CLEAN AIR WISDOM: GET INVOLVED

There are lots of resources for children and families. Find out what you can do. Arm yourself with the latest air quality forecast by phone, internet or email.

<http://azdeq.gov/ceh/tools.html>

The neighbor Dee came over to join them. “How do you know so much Lupita?” she asked. “I read about it on CleanAirMakeMore.com,” Lupita replied, “It says we should not burn wood on No Burn Days. The smoke makes it hard for some people to breathe.”



CLEAN AIR WISDOM: MAKE MORE AIR

Once you are aware of the forecast and the simple steps to take, it is easy to avoid adding more pollution to our air. Avoid burning wood in fireplaces, chimineas and fire pits on a No Burn Day. (It is okay to have a fire if it is not a No Burn Day.)

Also, try not to create extra pollutants by using leaf blowers or driving on dirt roads.

<http://cleanairmakemore.com/>

Lupita went on, “You can sign up online to get text message alerts when a No Burn Day is issued. I just got a tweet from CleanAirMakeMore through Twitter. So, you might say... a little bird told me!”



CLEAN AIR WISDOM: “LIKE” AND “SHARE” THE AIR

Like air? Make the commitment and share this with your friends.

<http://cleanairmakemore.com/make-the-commitment/>

**When our air is clean, everyone is a winner:
Families, neighborhoods, habitats ...**



CLEAN AIR WISDOM: EVERYONE IS A WINNER

By taking small, simple steps every day, we can all make a difference.
<http://www.azdeq.gov/function/education/index.html>

... Even our feathered friends!

