

My name is Xander Clinkingbeard, and I am in sixth grade at Lemay Academy in Tucson, Arizona. I admire the dark skies, and I like how you are fighting to keep them that way. I wrote a poem about keeping the dark skies dark, and I thought you would like to see it.

**Saving the Desert's Dark Skies
By Xander Clinkingbeard**

The sun goes down, giving way
To the blackness of a midnight sky.
A single star, and then another –
As the world turns, they multiply.

Legends made of stars
Andromeda, Leo, Pegasus.
“The sight of the stars makes me dream.”*
Man studies the celestial abyss.

Kitt Peak, Steward Observatory,
Use the dry desert nights.
That show off the opaque sky
Displaying the luminous nights.

Tucson, Phoenix, Casa Grande,
Eating the pitch black dark.
Brilliant, radiant monsters,
Civilization leaving its mark.

Nocturnal creatures are thrown off,
Circadian rhythms disrupted.
Drastic environmental change,
Nature being corrupted.

Can we save our desert darkness?
Will we save our darkened skies?
Red and yellow lights don't glare,
Hooded lights are very wise.

The desert dwellers have to find
An intelligent solution.
The world will follow what we do
And bring an end to light pollution.

*Quote by Vincent Van Gogh.