

Colby Hender
Second place, fourth grade
Tracy Strysky, teacher

Hello, fellow friends! First, let me introduce myself. My name is Colby Hender and I live in Franklin Township, NJ. I love where I live because it is beautiful. There are rivers, streams, mountains, rolling hills, and many opportunities to see gorgeous sunrises, sunsets, rainbows, and even hot air balloons. Because of the abundance of beauty I am surrounded by on a daily basis, I decided to pick up the art of painting. I have been studying painting for the past ten years and am now extremely proficient at it. Some of my work can be seen hanging in various art exhibits around New Jersey. My favorite things to paint are landscapes, horse farms, cow farms, and old rustic barns.

I am going to paint you a picture of what is the most beautiful scene in Franklin Township, using a canvas made up of words. To prepare yourself for this beautiful painting, sit back, relax, and close your eyes. Picture yourself driving down a long, winding country road, lined with mature oak trees, bright yellow forsythia, daffodils, and flowering dogwood trees. As you continue to venture down Sidney Road, you will drive up and down several hills before coming to a field that is home to many cows. These cows spend their days grazing and sleeping. When you look down onto the field below, your breath will be taken away by the beauty of all that you can see: the fresh green grass, rolling hills that appear to go on for miles, and of course, big and strong black cows.

This scene is completely mesmerizing. It is easy to spend lots of time just looking down at the field of cows and taking in all there is to see. The cows enjoy walking up to the fence as if they are saying, "Hello," and staring at you as you drive by. When you finish passing the field of all the cows, they go back to whatever they were doing, like eating the grass from the field. If you decide to visit this spectacular sight during the day, you will get to admire the crystal blue sky, the cotton-like clouds, and the warm sunshine and its beautiful rays gleaming down upon the field and cows.

Taking advantage of this scenery at nighttime provides a whole different element of beauty. The hot, orange, fiery sun going down for the evening creates a masterpiece of its own. Pink, orange, and blue colors stretch across the sky painting a picture that is more beautiful than anything that I could paint myself. It is at this time that the cows start to lay down and begin to call it a night after a long, peaceful day grazing and wandering through their pastures. The cows' black silhouettes against the darkening sky create a sense of calmness that can bring peace to anyone passing by.

I hope you were able to create a vivid picture in your mind of this most stunning location in Franklin Township, NJ.

