

**Goal:** Students will write a poem inspired by Western themes.

**Prior Knowledge:** Poetry

**Observation:** Students will view Joe Beeler's painting "Thank You Lord" and statue "Thanks for the Rain."

**Discussion:** Why is the cowboy thankful? What indicators in the painting show water has been scarce?

What themes do you think are common in Western art and poetry?



Target: Language Arts

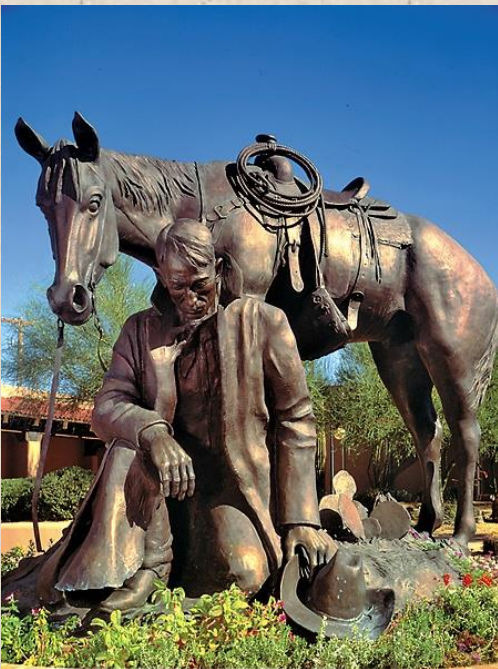
**Supplies:** Paper, pencil

**Activity:** Cowboy Poetry

**Process:** After observing the painting and statue, students should brainstorm a list of Western themes and concepts. Read Carole Jarvis's Poem, "Thanks for the Rain" for inspiration. The students will then write an original cowboy poem.

**Time:** 1 hour

**Modifications:** Provide images of Western concepts and vocabulary lists of Western terms with descriptions available for individual student use.



## Standards

### English Language Arts

**Grade 6 Writing: Research to Build and Present Knowledge**, 9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research, a. Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literature (e.g. “Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems: historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics”). **(6.W.9)**

**Grade 6 Writing: Range of Writing**, 10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences **(6.W.10)**

### Social Studies

**Stand 1: American History, PO 7.** Analyze cause and effect relationships between and among individuals and/or historical events.

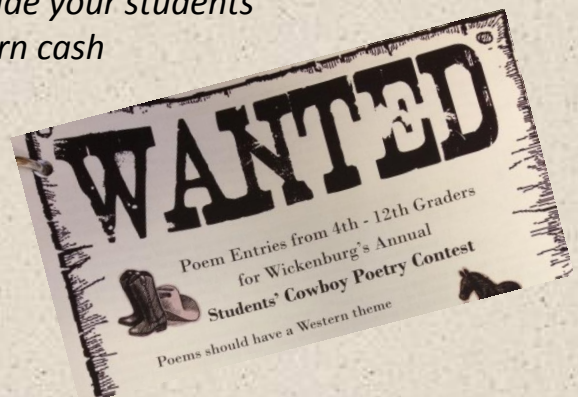
**Stand 1: American History, PO 8.** Describe how archaeological research adds to our understanding of the past.

### Art

**Visual Art: Responding, Anchor Standard #7 Perceive and analyze artistic work**, b. Analyze ways that visual characteristics and cultural associations are suggested by images influence ideas, emotions, and actions

Arizona Department of Education: K-12 Academic Standards <http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>

*Are you a teacher in the Wickenburg community or work at one of its feeder schools? If so, contact the Education Director at DCWM to include your students in our annual Cowboy Poetry Contest. Winners can earn cash prizes and read their poems to a local audience in our CCLC building. Guidelines are available in early September and entries are due by the end of October. The contest is open to public, charter, private and home school students in the Wickenburg area and feeder districts.*





Joe Beeler, CA (1931-2016)

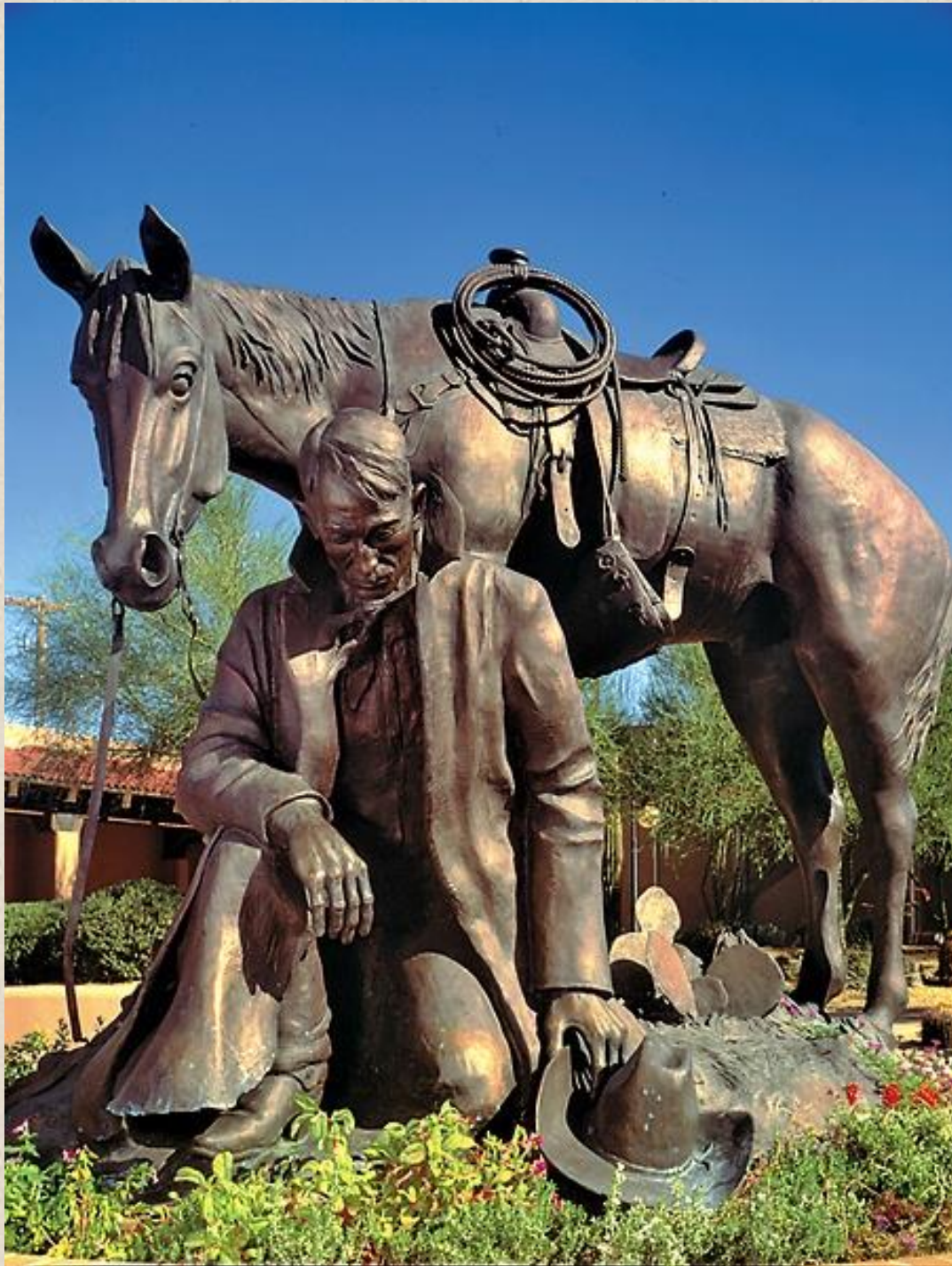
***Thank You, Lord***, ca. 1988

Oil on canvas, 33 ½ x 39 ½ inches framed  
88.233.1, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Aiken Fisher

Inspired by works such as Schreyvogel's ***Last Drop***, Joe Beeler's works have come to symbolize the Desert Caballeros Western Museum. Beeler first essayed the theme in a 1966 oil painting titled ***Thanks for the Rain***, the same name he used to title his monumental bronze sculpture found in front of the Cultural Crossroads Learning Center Building on the museum complex. He returned to this theme again in ***Thank You, Lord***. It shows a critical moment in range life, when the dry, barren land is at last visited by a life sustaining rain, and the cattleman, slicker on and hat off, kneels by his horse and thanks the powers that be while the first drops fall. The theme also expresses Beeler's reverence for the cowboy artist tradition that he proudly represented.

Brian W. Dippie, ***Crossroads: The Desert Caballeros Western Museum at Fifty***, 100 (2010)

DESERT CABALLEROS  
**WESTERN MUSEUM**  
EXPERIENCE THE OLD WEST, THE NEW WEST & THE NEXT WEST



Joe Beeler, CA (1931-2006)

***Thanks for the Rain***, 1988

Bronze, 13 feet

Bronzsmith Fine Art Foundry, 3/5

88.234.1, Anonymous gift

DESERT CABALLEROS  
**WESTERN MUSEUM**  
EXPERIENCE THE OLD WEST, THE NEW WEST & THE NEXT WEST

# Thanks for the Rain

I turned my eyes toward cloudless skies so often, Lord,  
Just searchin' for some sign, or scent of rain.  
Sometimes thinkin' that I heard the sound of thunder,  
Far away, across a distant plain.

I watched the dirt stock tanks turn into mudholes.  
Saw grasses dry and wither in the sun.  
Stirred a trail of dust behind my pony,  
And dreamed each night, the summer rains had come.

Then this mornin' when I woke, I felt a change,  
And lookin' toward the west, clouds filled the sky.  
Soon the lightnin' and the boom of thunder,  
Combined with rain to form a lullaby.

And no one knows no better than a cowboy,  
What moisture means to life in this terrain.  
And though I know You always planned to send it,  
I had to tell you Lord,  
Thanks for the Rain.

Carole Jarvis, 1988

## DCWM Museum Visit Activities



Tour the Cowboy Artists of America paintings including, *Thank You, Lord* by Joe Beeler. Read the poem “Thanks for the Rain” by Carole Jarvis. Take your picture by the sculpture, *Thanks for the Rain* in front of the Cultural Crossroads Learning Center and upload your best image.

Follow us



<http://www.facebook.com/desertcaballeroswesternmuseum>

<http://www.twitter.com/westernmuseum>

**Additional Resources**

<a href="http://cowboyartistsofamerica.com/members/deceased/joe_beeler">http://cowboyartistsofamerica.com/members/deceased/joe_beeler</a>	Cowboy Artists of America
<a href="http://westernmuseum.org/">http://westernmuseum.org/</a>	Desert Caballeros Western Museum
<a href="http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/">http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/</a>	Western Regional Climate Center
<a href="http://westernhistory.org/">http://westernhistory.org/</a>	Western History Association
<a href="http://azcowboypoets.org/">http://azcowboypoets.org/</a>	Arizona Cowboy Poets
<a href="https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&amp;p=cowboy+is+his+name+youtube#id=1&amp;vid=5e99c5b0006a8a9543409bd850efba97&amp;action=view">https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&amp;p=cowboy+is+his+name+youtube#id=1&amp;vid=5e99c5b0006a8a9543409bd850efba97&amp;action=view</a>	8 Seconds "Cowboy Is His Name" clip

From the movie "8 Seconds", Cody reads a poem entitled "Cowboy is His Name." That poem is a shortened version of the poem "Legacy of a Rodeo Man" by Baxter Black.

### Cowboy Is His Name

There's a hundred years of history and a hundred before that  
All gathered in the thinkin' goin' on beneath this hat.

The cold flame burns within him 'til his skin's as cold as ice  
And the dues he paid to get here are worth every sacrifice.

All the miles spend sleepy drivin'  
All the money down the drain,  
All the 'if I's' and 'nearly's,'  
All the bandages and pain,  
All the female tears left dryin',  
All the fever and the fight  
Are just a small down payment on the ride he makes tonight.

It's guts and love and glory, one mortal's chance at fame.  
His legacy is rodeo and cowboy is his name.

Baxter Black