First came the intense heat,
A throbbing heat,
A pulsating heat
Which sucked the breath away.
Then the flames,
Higher and higher,
Swallowing all in their path—
Devouring all.
Then, as though the wrath of God had been released—
The rains came.
Pounding rain.
Driving rain
And with it,
Like low, deep groans of agony,
Like frantic growls of desperation,
The rolling thunder,
Exploding cries of sorrow.
And the rain slackened
The mushroom clouds of doom began to part.
Through the opening in the great dark,
The ceiling of depression,
Pushed apart by a breath of wind—
Light—
A new beginning for life.

* Freshman Writing.