

# “All Dried Out”



**Sara Witzel**

**Eleven-years-old  
Highlands Ranch, Colorado**

Eleven-year-old Sara Witzel is a non-television watcher, a rock-music goddess in the making, and a self-proclaimed peacemaker. As a fifth grader at Eldorado Elementary School, she looks forward to the days filled with reading or writing. Her favorite book is *Ginger Pye*, a story of the Pye family and their new puppy that is suddenly stolen. If her black retriever Malachi was ever stolen, she would be very sad. You see, Sara is a die-hard animal lover. From elephants to beta fish, she loves them all. She used to want to be a veterinarian, but that dream faded when she realized she would see animals in a lot of pain. Today, her heart is set on becoming a professional tennis player, but tomorrow it could be something entirely different. Sara is both scared and excited to grow up—scared to live by herself knowing there are bad guys on the streets, but excited because she will be able to own as many puppies as she wants. In her mind, there are no limitations when you’re an adult. Right now she finds comfort living in the same house with her older brother, Seth. In the eyes of Sara, her brother is the coolest person in the whole entire world and nothing could ever take his place—nothing except maybe a house full of puppies, kitties, and one token pet elephant.