Playground Rules
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Rules

Writing in the Schools
Student Anthology 2017 – 2018

Edited by
Robyn Popp
Taline Rumaya

Red Hen Press | Pasadena, CA
ABOUT WRITING IN THE SCHOOLS

Created in 2003, Writing in the Schools is an outreach program which actively facilitates the practice of creative writing and cultivates an appreciation for poetry in Greater Los Angeles and Pasadena classrooms. Writing in the Schools gives students access not only to modern and contemporary poetry, but also to the workshop poets themselves.

Each workshop engages students in a dialogue about writing, literary technique, critical reading analysis, and the performance of reading work out loud. For many, writing serves as a new means of expressing opinions, humor, feelings of loss or gratitude, and aspects of their personality that may otherwise be difficult to convey. The poems featured in this book are the product of workshops conducted over one school year at a variety of grade levels. They are the result of the hard work of the participating authors, teachers, and students, and the book itself speaks to the positive effects of literature within our classrooms.

Red Hen Press would like to thank the participating teachers and administrators who volunteered their classrooms and their time to the program. Their dedication and enthusiasm made Writing in the Schools possible. We also appreciate our poetry instructors for their boundless creativity and passion, and the organizations and individuals that generously support the program through their grants and contributions. Most of all, we applaud the students for embracing poetry, opening their minds to new ideas, and allowing us to share their words with the world.
Participating Poets

Brittany Ackerman
Douglas Manuel
Catherine Theis
Ricardo Means Ybarra

Participating Teachers

Dalila Alcantar
Laura Chaparian-Robles
Grata Chung
Staci Coller
Rory Dolan
Marc Ketchem
Jennifer Page
Nikki Petrou
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CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

WITS Instructor: Douglas Manuel
Teachers: Rory Dolan and Jennifer Page
UNTITLED
Antonio Aguilar

My brown face fades
hiding within the smoking coal
I didn't know until it was too late.
I gave in, not purposefully
I thought I was stone. Now I realize I'm nothing but flesh.
I look at myself, like a weak slug with no home.
I look away.
I run down the signs
I drive past the lights,
as I fade into the darkness
fully unexpected, lost
my soul gave in
nothing makes a difference now.
UNTITLED
Lesly Aguilar

My brown face fades
Hiding inside smokey coal
I didn't know it until it was too late.
Damit I fell
I get up and face my fears
I drive passed by the lights as I fade into the
darkness
Fully unexpected, lost
Your name making a difference in me
No shame, Be brave
Fight through the pain
At the end of the tunnel there is light
Show the world your spark
Don't be scared to fight
Soon things will be clear like water.
PASSING THROUGH THE MIRROR
Emily Aleman

I see within myself
solitude like an empty box
but still being able to hear the bells ringing
down beneath the grave as the people walk
on ground are called the living, now it’s
time to walk to the white bright light in order to get to
heaven, with the sound of laughter and full of relaxation
until you realize it’s full of discrimination
UNTITLED
Brayan Alonzo

Your death fell – empty like a hug.
Out in the middle - now night
The Robber stayed – anonymous –
But dragged you tightly.

But later he stayed out of the ghetto trees –
But later he caught the man –
But one pause you
Stood still like a root

But don’t you frown, in the darkness
Close the sky shadow –
Isn’t as a field
Denied its pain around –

Or never at Day – Your horrible Night unfinished
We harm your slave’s toes –
’Tis worst than the Bat’s
Empty Rock – to need to be taken

To friend of my – ain’t friendly friend –
All motion less the second void –
On all you jump a Black fist-
Or a hurt thumb.
ADULTHOOD
Cristian Martinez Alvarado

The entrance of a door
how convenient is that of a floor
the entrance is lock
that a key is in a box,
what is life of independency
to what of one's tendency
for no one is ready
for who can be steady
the world outside.

The entrance feels awesome
but inside is fragile
people tend to be docile,
but the sentitles are ready
for one's door is penetrated,
their life will be changed
once change, it will not be the same.

Life is like a box of chocolate,
no one can determine one's destination,
but an eye of a fox is intimidated,
when adulthood strikes,
be ready for your life.

For your soul shall enter,
your choices will matter.
TRUE GOLD
Enrique Antonio

Value, shine, and beauty is praised by society, but some objects already possess that such as Gold.

It’s hard to please everyone so you have to be bold, grasp your features because they are Gold.

Never halt your life, Never stay on hold
Never let anything stop you, achieve Gold.

Stay true to yourself, Don’t be a polluter like coal
Listen to the wise, always stay Gold.

But it is true Enrique that the world can be cruel
So utilize your tools, ignore all the fools, and hit ‘em with Gold.
SUNLIGHT
Jailene Aquino

Walking on the beach while listening to music in the sunlight.

Running in the wind and seeing others in the sunlight.

Seeing your favorite people in a concert outside in the sunlight.

Driving on the freeway while putting loud music in the sunlight.

Jailene listening to Niall, Louis, Liam, Harry, in the sunlight.
UNTITLED
Cristofer Arguello

My brown face lights up
but it hides inside smokey coal
I said I wouldn't cry
dammit: there's more and more tears
I'm not stone, or anything special; just a human
My corrupted face looks back at me
Telling me that nothing is perfect
I see all the lights, as the void consumes me
I could hear everyone scream, and then it fell silent
Everything was dark, and I am now alone
I tried to make a difference but I can't
on my own. The world isn't the
best place, but I'll still call it my home.
Hungry person,
Thinking and walking alone
the bright light shined up on the person,
and notice, It was time to follow the path
In the dark lonely streets,
Her spirit gone, gone like the mind
He realized shew as in a death dream
having freedom in dreams
but quality over quantity
he and her,
but at the end both the same.
UNTITLED
Katherine Ascencio

My brown face fades
hiding inside smoky coal
I didn't know until it was too late
dammit: tearless
I drive past the lights,
as I fade into the darkness
fully unexpected, lost
a name making a difference in Lead
for the lives that were taken
and brought to the dead
UNTITLED
Anthony Ayala

My brown face fades
hiding inside hostile borders
I knew the dangers haven't changed
dammit: broken families
I'm young. I'm educated
Their "Make America Great Again" hats target our brown faces
like the swastika did the Jews, ignorance out in the day,
no longer whispered behind closed doors.
UNTITLED
Byrant Ayala

My life fades away
hiding inside faded clouds
I didn't know until it was too late
Dammit: don't weep
I'm crying, I'm giving up
The clouds raise me up
I escaped from the storm
As I raise to the sky,
Unknowing to the unknown sky.
My life still fighting, still putting
up a fight. Still making a difference,
within my clouded community.
UNTITLED
Juan Carlos

My brown face fades
hiding inside smoky coal
I didn't know until it was too late.
Iron down the signs
I drive past the lights
as I fade into the
darkness fully unexpected
Lost my name protesting
in ink a name making a
difference in lead
UNTITLED
Jaqueline Carrillo

My brown face stays.  
but still I hide in the abyss  
I didn't know it was my life—still  
I'm alive, but what is left from me is not inside.

I linger around, and see the only lights my  
life will ever see—as darkness consumes me  
Another fully expected loss—  
What is to be what identifies me,  
is what makes a difference in led

As I try to stay it's like the street  
pushes me away—As if it was n to m  
place to be—but whose place is it really?
SNEAKS IN LA
Robert Cartagena

Somebody, go & ask Quias to start
what's going down in LA

shoes are not life
but they're all over LA

Shoes stay fly all day
walking through LA

but only few get to see
all the shoes that are in LA

Dads have Grails
but they're way better in LA

Says he don't care
but hype can kill a man in LA

Take me back on my track
to spend racks in LA

Cameras rolling about shoes
on the boulevard of LA

Where shoes run through my DNA
when I'm in LA.

Who will have the greatest kicks
and be the best in LA.

Robert has the kicks
and if you need facts come to LA.
UNTITLED
Raul Contreras

My brown face fades
hiding inside smoky coal
I didn't know until it was too late.
dammit! only tears.
I drive past the lights, as
I fade into the darkness.
fully unexpected, lost
a name making a difference in lead.
UNTITLED
Oswaldo Martin Del Campo

My brown face fades hiding inside smokey coal I didn’t know until it was too late.
I run down the signs I drive past the lights, as I fade, into the Darkness
Half expecting to find fully unexpected, lost
I drive past the lights, as I fade my name protesting into the Darkness a name making a difference in lead like a lion for hunger
I strive towards the finish line where I hope to meet many there as I process.
UNTITLED
Elizabeth Diaz

My brown face fades
Hiding inside smoky coal
I didn't know until it was too late.
I am not a gray steel wall. I am a human being with emotions.
Their frightened filled eyes look at me.
I jump into the pit of hopeless souls that fill me
into the darkness
Their screams were unexpected
Their voices burned my skin.
A PROBLEM
Araceli Garcia

It is the choice of do and don’t, questioning the right and wrong, simple it’s a problem.

Effects one effects all there is no escaping This reality of a problem.

People say it’s something you face on your own, or face as a whole, it’s a problem.

Changing emotions while changing faces just to see the problem.

Chance and Hope, hand in hand, Araceli, it’s speaking, and it’s saying problem.
UNTITLED
Erika Garcia

My brown face fades
hiding inside smokey coal
I didn't know until it was too late
dammit: teary eyes
I drive past the lights, as I fade into the darkness
Fully unexpected, lost
A name making a difference in lead
Lives lost, people shout
Send your prayers, say Amen
UNTITLED
Jaime Garcia

your death fell –
empty like a robbers
hands – you stayed out in
the night, anonymous as
he dragged you tightly.

but before he slept
out of abandoned houses –

but don't you frown, few
brutal darknesses of
the skies shadows –
she's hurt denying pain like
hard working men in flat
fields.

or never before day –
your awful beginning –
we harm our slaves arms –
getting more blue a black
panther sits empty on
rocks – hunting its only prey-

- my mother oh so lovely –
she sits still for the
fourth restless night – on
whom I stand upon a black eye –
and an empty heart.
though he then I – may
not live I end
showers – than I – I
have the sorrow to
let live –
UNTITLED
Fabiola Gonzalez

It’s a piece of cake, let’s see
the fakes be shakes since we
are wide awake, forsake these
mistakes our voice being boisterous
A dance with the devil will go on forever
look at yourself always doing drugs and out in the streets looking for the next target to mug.
You never find happiness and peace with yourself.
Death is creeping up, you won't last forever.
You're looking for answers and wait for God to reply but the only one who answers is the devil himself.

Death
Death conquers the world
For your soul will not be held for it is gone in the abyss.
I feel the music of death ringing in my ears. That'll last for years.
It is creeping up and your soul will know wassup.
UNTITLED
Brian Gudinez

Making my dreams come
True is a goal,

going through Rough moments is
a way to get to your goal,

soccer, you have to get through
the Enemy to score a gol,

having some motivation is a
way to accomplish my goal,

so there is no maybe, but
Brian is going to reach his goal.
UNTITLED
Lezly Hernandez

As my brown face fades
hiding behind a smile
I knew I shouldn't, but I need to
I stand
I'm human I'm free
But it's foggy when I dream
like a snake, blamed for the venom
chasing life—I seek
a home—in an endless road
where harassment follows me everywhere I go
I search for our stories
my name never found
I see the tears in their eyes
but when we swallow our pride
they put us to the side
chanting, “Go back to where you came from”
As my brown face fades
UNTITLED
Yosselin Juarez

My brown face fades
trying to hide inside these solid walls
I didn't know until it was too late
Dammit: No tears come out
I'm broken but alive
I drive past the lights
Not trying to acknowledge
the broken promises
A name I'm trying to forget
The phrase where it all started
I recall it all but I don't wanna fall
I still love you but I know you don't
It's okay I'll be fine.
RACE
Raul Lopez

Take care of your life. Stay close to your area, like you glued. Race.

Watch hoe they see us from above, like heavenly beings. But they are scared to be in our race.

The old ones hurt, the new ones suffer. We can't change from night to day for our race.

Blood spilled, flowing to the drain. Caution tape around the block, the people say race.

The oceans fall from the eyes of mothers. Raul, stay close, stay cautious. Defined by race.
MY LOST SOUL
Valery Macedo

My reflection in the mirror
Bruises of the violence I’ve lived
Tears that I’ve been holding
Blood being spilled
Children being laid out
The sound of laughter in the distance
That I no longer hear
Birds chirping for the loss
Of their guardian angel.
UNTITLED
Jorge Macias

My brown face fades
hiding inside smoky coal
I didn't know until it was too late.
I drive past the lights,
as I fade into the darkness
Half expecting to find fully unexpected,
lost my name protesting in ink
a name making a difference in lead
UNTITLED
James Mariano

My brown face fades away
hiding inside smoky coal
I didn't know until it was too late
dang it: Tears fell
I ran over the signs
As I fade into the darkness
fully unexpected; lost
A name making a difference in lead
A stop in life
UNTITLED
Katherine Martinez

Your death fell – empty like a hug –
out in the middle – now night
the robber stayed – anonymous –
but dragged you tightly

yet later you stayed out the chaotic

But don’t you frown,
off the mountains shadow
They aren’t open fields
Denied pain all around

Yet never at dawn – Their brutal darkness unfinished
they harm our prisoners lives
The night comes, silent all around, everyone is sleep.

There's some still up at night cause they can't sleep.

Those are the ones who in the day, they caught sleep.

A little slow to follow cause they got no sleep.

Oblivious to the world around them, they don't know, sleep.

The one who makes no progress in life be sleep.

But Jacob just make sure, you ain't never caught sleep.
HOOD
Eduardo Mendoza

Someone has to get us out.
We don't feel safe in the hood.

The way you look can get you shot,
The cholos don't play in the hood.

Photo shoots always going on,
1-8-7's all up on the hood.

They're always out getting licks,
we can't stop them, it's their hood.

Eduardo you're the only one in control,
try your hardest. Please get out the hood.
GOING CRAZY
Javier Morales

A spirit coming out the grave and it started to look at the human next to a stone cross. Which it just a fancy in his/her head. The person looked around to find the spirit but he/she lost hope. The person started to go back into society, after he/she felt that he/she was going crazy. He/she started to go back home to watch the championship. The next day the person thought about the spirit that he/she saw at the grave. The person started to think why was it staring at the sky. The person went back to sleep and on the person mind he/she doesn't believe what he/she saw at the grave.
JUST BALL
Ramon Moreno

You don't always win. When you lose
you got to continue, Just Play Ball

Keep your head up and don't look back
Just give it your all while playing Ball

Some people will knock you down
Just focus on your target, which is the Ball

Ignore the haters and step on the court
Show them your will to Ball

You will always win with yourself
Ramon, put your heart into the way you Ball
My brown face fades
hiding inside smokey coal.
I didn't know until it was
too late. Dammit. Tears. I drive past
the lights, as I fade into the
darkness, not expected to see
A name making a difference in the lead
It shows up bright but the light
fades back in. Not knowing if
I'd show again so I stay there
in distress.
UNTITLED
Guadalupe Orduna

My brown face fades
Hiding inside the dark night
I didn't know until it was too late
dammit   sweat
I'm strong from my bones, I'm weak from my brain
The clouded sky confuses and eyes me
like rabbit and snake; I run far from my prey
My skin mistaken for my personality
Running from the dark like a coyote
The dirt crunches
The pain consumed from my body
American Dream “here I come”
Heat drags me down, the cold frights my bones
My prey makes me stand stronger
Picking my feet to hit that line
I'm not going back
I'm heading forward
Because I want the “American Dream”
UNTITLED
Jocelyn Palacios

Why do I have to
hide my brown face
that when it's surrounded
by white it fades?
I tell myself that
I shouldn’t.

Half expecting to
find fully unexpected,
lost I drive past the
lights, as I faded
my name protesting
into the darkness a
name making a difference
UNTITLED
Jeff Perez

My brown face fades
hiding in smoky coal
I didn't know until it was too late

I run down the signs
I drive past the lights,
as I fade into darkness

Fully unexpected, lost
a name making a difference
SUNSET
Yanett Ramirez

The lighting of lights in
the side of the mountain sunset,

Reflecting in the window
in the blues of the sunset,

Not knowing whether
what side is the sunset,

Driving to the beach
to see the sunset,

Yanett walking in the
beach under the sunset.
UNTITLED
Steven Resendiz

We go to the swap meet
and shop for anything, Brown Pride

We call everyone primo and
tio. I have a huge family, Brown Pride

We eat tamales for Christmas and
tacos every other day, Brown Pride

We fit 7 people in a 2 seater
car and never get caught, Brown Pride

We make carne aside every time
a pay per view is out, Brown Pride
ANGEL
Cristal Rodriguez

The girl felt loneliness, she felt like that at her father's funeral, everyone felt sadness at his viewing, after his death she was into pieces. Now her father was an angel in the sky. Now the girl wants to achieve her goals so her father can be proud of her. She hopes he is resting in peace.
UNTITLED
Gaby Rodriguez

My brown face fades
hiding inside smoky coal
I didn't know until it was too late
Dammit: no more tears
I run down the signs
I drive past the lights
As I fade into the darkness
fully unexpected, lost
A name making a difference in lead
UNTITLED
Kristal Rodriguez

The mirror is reflecting
a reflection,
A reflection of a
passionate person about
freedom.
A world with opportunities.
A world with happy souls.
A world with kindness.
A world we all wish
to have.
That is who the mirror
is reflecting.
A passionate person.
UNTITLED
Kevin Rojas

Who is that on the other end of the phone
I didn't hear nothing when I said my hello

I'm alone lost in the mist
I don't know where to go, hello.

This is a ghost town, I think I saw a shadow
is anyone there? I'm lost, hello.

I hear something. I think it's a car.
I see someone standing there he says hello.

Kevin you're not lost, you don't pay attention to those around you
close your eyes and open them you'll see Grim saying hello.
UNTITLED
Tania Romero

My brown face fades
Hiding inside smoky coal
I didn't know until it was too late
dammit: No more tears.
I'm young.
I drive past the lights,
as I fade into the darkness
Fully unexpected, lost.
A name making a difference in lead.
A world full of hate,
I'm not trying to spread the same.
I want it better,
but nothing seems to change.
ALWAYS FALLING INTO MADNESS
Arisbeth Rosales

Everything here is broken & can be mistaken.
But all the true things we see is madness.

Walking down the dark broken streets
Thinking it’s a nightmare full of shadows & madness.

Trying to make everything better & bright
But then again it goes down into madness.

Becoming happy for others with a mask on
Showing a different emotion is truly madness.

Thinking how hard it can be to be happy.
Sadness is the thing we see in the end of all this madness.

Making others happy yet you are suffering.
Many people may be happy but falling into madness

Yelling out for a cry of help. But we all know it won’t work
Making yourself unnoticeable. Then we fall into madness.

Going again walking down the broken roads
Thinking we could go back again to madness.

Wanting to go back to the gold old days
But knowing in the end we think of madness.

But you got to think again Arisbeth.
You can’t go back but continue into madness.
UNTITLED
Stephanie Salinas

The white faces stay,
out in the open without a worry.
I didn't know until I listened,
Dammit: waterworks.
I'm informed. I'm flesh.
Their eyes are clouded,
it's like they're blind,
as if there is nothing to be seen.
I turned the other
way, not wanting to see no
more violence, yet again
I see another innocent person
being harassed for nothing
other than his color.
The cop as if he has
done nothing wrong.
Targeting people that just
want to have a normal
day. If only they would have
the same hearts and target
their attackers.
UNTITLED
Daisy Sanchez

Water that transform into a flower that was going to a slower pace of growing. Where a retaw would be a rehab that got me thinking why was I there. There wasn’t a detail of you giving me white roses that would get my attention, but I left floating like a boss and transforming into a flower again.
UNTITLED
Haley Saucedo

My brown face fades
Hiding inside smoky coal
I didn't know until it was too late
I'm expanding. I am clean.
The reflection within my eyes
like an eagle to a lion, the homepage is dinner
slumped against morning, I appear your way—
The grey atoms on the ground let me flow.
I drive past the lights, as I fade
into the darkness.
DREAMS
Fernando Solis

Do people meet their dreams?
Some do and strive to their goals.

Making that progress
accomplishing my goals.

Never backing out
always going towards goals,

grinding nonstop
to meet my goals,

Always pushing hard
there you will see Fernando accomplishing his goals.
FINALLY

Yaremy Solis

Perhaps you were weak, only the weak cheat. I was chaos to your thoughts and you were poison to my heart but that wasn’t love.

You’ve made the best of your time now. This time I know I can call it love.

You said sorry, I don’t like when you do that. You still did it now that’s love.

I didn’t think I’d be able to feel this again for you. Something in you screamed out love.

I now thank you for everything that has happened and for what’s to come. Yaremy, stop! It’s too late I think I’m in love.
UNTITLED
Angel Tomas

My brown face fades
hiding among those evil faces.
I didn't know until it was too late.
Dammit, those poor creatures . . .

Those homo sapiens continue testing
without a heart.
I drive through the street lights, as I begin
to lose hope.

Never expecting to find, I was blind,
Those poor orphans scared, dead, lonely, helpless on the streets.
I browse through the internet, seeing a face
I look up to making a change.

Thinking to myself, “Maybe I can be like that,”
I start to change the little things about myself.
I can create change. I can help save them.
From the littlest ones to the bigger ones,
cats, dogs, bunnies, chimps, even the amphibians to the invertebrates.

I would never let this happen to my cats, so why should I let this happen to others?
If someone as heartless as me can change, why can't they?
UNTITLED
Idiel Torres

My brown face fades
hiding inside the night.
I didn't know until it was too late.
Why is there tears running down my face?
I am a human just like
those who are in the wall, poor them.
I drive past the lights, as I fade
into the darkness
fully unexpected, lost.
A name rioting as yon fire echoes
into the night.
I feel the name Freddie gray;
It takes me to the surface of wall.
I cry and fall. I wake up
into the new day.
UNTITLED
Ashley Villasano

My brown face fades
hiding inside smoky coal
I didn't know it until it was too late.
Why is there tears running down my face?

I run down the signs
I drive past the light,
as I fade into the darkness

Half expecting to find fully unexpected,
lost my name protesting in ink
a name making a difference in lead.
My brown face fades
hiding inside smoky coal
I didn't know until it was too late

I'm grown. I'm unique.
Their clouded assumption eyes me
like an outcast, guilty as night.
CHEREMOYA AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WITS Instructor: Catherine Theis
Teachers: Staci Coller and Nikki Petrou
UNTITLED
Diego Aceves-Gracia

Me and my mom went to WSS and saw the Soccer shoes and gloves. I felt all of the Goalie gloves. The Gloves that I liked were smooth and shiny like the stars in the sky.
ONE ROSE
Maria Achinte Molano

One rose fell from the sky my mom picked it up she put it in her hair and she looked beautiful.
GOING TO THE ZOO
Davit Aghababyan

One time my family and I went to the zoo. We saw nice and beautiful animals. The animals looked sweet like candy when they were sleeping. The zoo was green and filled with trees and cages. But, I noticed a weird smell. I wondered where it came from and then I saw a monkey eating rotten fish.
CAMPFIRE SENSES
Victoria Barrios

Oh ye campfire why so bright in the darkness?

Why look so unharmful but hurtful?

Why by yourself taste so burnt but with marshmallow goodness so tasty?

Why on the bottom of chicken smells so good?

Why a tiny spark can turn into a flame and a flame turns into a disaster?
THE CALL
Emory Butler

Hearing the call for helping my mom bake.

Mushing the squishy thick dough.

Smelling the aroma of her pear tart.

I hear the timer ring as if it were an alarm clock.

Then digging my mouth into a sweet tart.
ACROSTIC POEM
Aundrea Cardona

Amazing at handball
Uta igreat
Never give up
Driving on the road
Rolls around
Emojis are amazing
Antarctica
ACROSTIC POEM
Danilo Conti

Detective
Amazing
Nintendo
Ipad & iPhone
Linebreak
Oh-yeah
OUR FAVORITE THING AND SMELL
Giuseppe Conti

Michael, Freddie, and me like to play basketball and soccer in the park and we smelled rice and we also smelled pizza and we had gold so we could buy rice and pizza and it tasted delicious.
ALL ABOUT PERSONALITY
Angelica May Dakduk

An artistic way to describe your art

not without kindness and thought.

Going with your heart and floating off.

Incredible with style and happiness

Lying with guilt and pain

In a magical way reading is great.

Causing mistakes explaining in such a great way

ability I want to wish with a wand.
ACROSTIC POEM
Adrian De Alba

Amazing like me
Do a good job
Ripndip is fast
I think Dad is a great person
Ant is happy
Never give up
ACROSTIC POEM
Daniel Diaz

D is for determined to do good work
A is for abundant with love
N is for being nice to people
I is for idea in my head
E is for energetic brain power
L is for loving my family
GARDEN
Van Eno Rogers

Garden, oh dear garden in spring you bloom.

Your lovely aromas make my heart go boom. In winter oh why do you go away?

Your delicious foods always make my day.

Garden oh garden, your flowers shimmer in the sun.

Garden oh garden, you can make life so fun.
COOKING IN THE KITCHEN
Haidee Escobar Escobedo

I am at home
in the kitchen
tasting chicken while
cooking the chicken.

Smelling the sense of
rice getting cooked while
my little sister is
touching the

spoons to put on the
table. When she’s done
she turns on T.V. It
is very loud I heard it

all from the kitchen.
I told her to turn
it down. I saw the
light in the living

room go on and
off.

touch of spoons
taste of chicken
smell of rice
Hear the T.V.
See the light go on
LYING DOWN IN THE STARS
Maya Galvez-Gomez

Shooting stars in the night. Having Fun in the night. Lying under the stars makes me happy every time.
THE Glossy SEASHELL
Camille Go

The seashell was glossy when the sun hit the beautiful seashell on the very sandy shore while the deep blue sea hit the glamorous seashell. As soon as the seashell hit the water and hit the sun the seashell went in the sea peacefully.
MA
Erika Guzman

Smelling garlic, salt, and pepper
buttering the pan peeling cucumbers
cutting cucumbers my mom
teaches me how to cook

and bake. She mostly
cooks and bakes food I look
up to her I help her! I am
Not embarrassed to have shrimp smell

hands or cuts in my hands
I am interested in helping her
My favorite person in the whole
entire world is my MA!
ACROSTIC POEM
Analilia Hernandez

Amazing dreamer
Never stops dreaming
And loves art
Loves her family and
Is very creative
Loving and caring
Is funny
And a great friend to many people
GOING TO THE POOL AND OCEAN
Sasha Jacobs

One time we went to the pool.
I jumped into the pool with shirt on.
The pool was so cold I jumped out.
The ocean was nearby. I smelled stinky fish! Even though the ocean smelled like stinky fish,
I jumped in anyway.
ONE DAY MY DAD AND I WENT TO THE MOVIES. WE ATE POPCORN, DRANK SODA, AND WE WATCHED TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES. AFTER WE SAW THAT MOVIE, THESE PEOPLE IN THE THEATER ASKED, “DO YOU WANT TO PLAY A GAME AND WIN A PRIZE?” I SAID, “YES.” THEY GAVE ME A FRISBEE SO I COULD THROW IT AND HIT THE CUPS AND I WON! AFTER MY DAD TOOK US TO BURGER KING AND WE ATE, WE BOTH SAID, “WE'RE FULL.” WE WENT HOME. I WENT TO SLEEP. AFTER A GOOD MEAL, I LAID DOWN AND FELT A SOFT PILLOW ON MY HEAD AND A WONDERFUL SOFT COVER ON ME.
My mom is sweet as candy.
My mom smells like a bunch of flowers. She expresses her feelings just how I express mine. We go to many places like sugar places.
KUKU
Rafael Melikian

Kuku is cute.
Sometimes she's mean.
She might be nice.

She is small.
But sharp teeth.
She is fast but small.
UNTITLED
Ashot Mirijanyan

One day I was outside I heard a howl of a wolf

When I touched the pond I felt a scaly fish in the water

It smelled like there was So much fish in the water.
Me and my mom are in the kitchen baking a cake for my dad's Birthday. My mom is being nice to me when I thought she wouldn’t be. And letting me crack the egg, pour the milk, the oil, and butter. Finally I pour in the sprinkles. Then the smell really comes when we start mixing all the ingredients. Then we pour it into pan and put it in the oven. Finally it comes out of the oven and we get to celebrate my dad's birthday by eating the cake. And it tastes amazing.
THE YUMMY PIZZA
Diana Nkruryan

I was helping my mom in the kitchen. It smell like pizza garlic. I touched a pepperoni in the pizza. I was so excited to eat pizza because I love pizza so much. In the kitchen I loved how it smelled. It taste so good like fresh pizza baked I loved it so much. We all sat at the table and ate the yummy yummy pizza. We all have fun tried our new pizza that my mom baked I loved it was so much fun.
A TRIP TO THE MOUNTAINS
Ailish O’Connor

My daddy goes to the mountains
he gives us his camera bags and
he takes a lot of pictures. He gives
us a small camera bag and a big one
they feel rough and black. He takes
pictures of the landscape of
mountains.
A WALK IN SAN FRANCISCO
Julia O’Connor

Me and my sister in San Francisco walking down the hill in the town quiet and peaceful, our mom and dad behind us, as a cool breeze passed, we went back home down the steep hill.
ACROSTIC POEM
Franklin Palma

Friendly and smart
Really like soccer
Also, like playing with friends
Never play baseball
Kind and considerate
Learn from my mistakes
I am good at handball
Nice to others
ACROSTIC POEM
Byron Panchal

Boy who loves to play Fortnite
Young 10 year old boy
Ruler of Fortnite
Only eats pizza
No one likes PUBG (Player's Unknown Battle Grounds)
“GRANDMA!”
Ofelia Papazyan

Once there was a day we went a house,

not just any house grandma’s house. The glorious smell of salt, pepper,

and food on the stove Ahhhhh. The sound of “What would you like to eat” and laughter soothes all. A great day ohh Grandmother treating all guests as kind as a puppy.

Grandma made all a meal that everyone ate and ate till it was gone. Everyone thanking the kind woman for all her food and kindness. Ohh Grandma.
The Fabulous church is located on Hollywood Blvd. near to Cheremoya Ave. Elementary School.

Many people like to go to that church every Sunday. The church looks like a rainbow.

It’s colorful. The floor colored red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

That’s the reasons why they call it “The Fabulous Church”
THE MOVIES
Isabelle Sarah Peel

The smell of buttery popcorn filling the air, Nachos dip in melted cheese, The comfy seat and the cold icy drink. People sit in silence and the music and big, huge screen, We my sister waiting with me for the Biggest event, And people getting up to leave quietly.
PERFECT
Mariamne Puentes

Magnificent at things with songs of love

amazing at art and all of the above

roses are beautiful yet a delicate flower

interested in love like no other.

art is amazing for expression

may your heart guide you in difficult times.

night time is so beautiful like a diamond

expect only greatness and truth in

others.
PIRATE WAR
Michael Rene
	here lived there pirate
named Giuseppe White Beard,
Freddie Blond Beard, and Michael
Black Beard. I live on there
an island called King Kong Skull
Island. They were the best
Pirates. We saw another
ship. We they were shooting
bombs. We were sailing to
the boat. We throw hooks
then we swing on it. We
got on the pirate ship.
Their ship was reckless.
We were fighting. Then
they gave up and
sailed away. We won
the pirate war.
ACROSTIC POEM
Markus Rivera

Mom love me
Always ready to eat a cookie
Rockstar my 10th song I like
Kid that like to play on my D.S.
U.S.A. I’m born in
Science is the subject for me
A CHICKEN TRAVELING WITH A MONACLE
Jordan Rizo

Arriving from a farm in India
all the way to London and he
smells like smelly and moldy kinda
smell of popcorn and cheese #HAHA!
He also sees everything like eggs and
dancing chickens #WOW!
A TALE OF A FISH
Alex Shirinyan

When I was at the kitchen
at my house I heard a flop

I smelled a fishy smell
at the kitchen

I felt a scaley texture
THE POOPY PARROT
Freddie Theroux

One day, I saw a Parrot,
He wasn't Just any Parrot,
He was . . . Poopy Parrot!

Poopy Parrot never washed,
So he smelled of poop!
Whenever he walked down the Jungle
The animals died of poisoning

He felt sad that no one wanted
to play with him.

So one day he decided to fly all
the way to the LA river
And washed.
But the LA river was dirty so
he never smelled good again.
ONE EVENING
Aiden Vaughn Woelfel

One beautiful sunny evening I went on a jog with my papa through the mountains.

We got a perfect view of the sunset. The air felt moist and dry.

We were out there for at least two hours. My legs were aching, but I still had a good time. It was one of the best days ever.
ACROSTIC POEM
Austin Vaughn Woelfel

Ah you really have to take that awful house.
Unique but old I love old.
So weird eww I love it.
"Take the safe I need ALL THE MONEY!" said Austin.
"I see an island where we can make home."
"No I want that island," said the pirates.
ME AND MY MOM
Ellen Verdian

One day I saw my mom in the kitchen and tell her “what are you cooking mom?”

She says, “I am cooking soup.” I tell her, “Can I help you please?” My mom smiles and says “Of course you can help me!”

When I walked in there was a smell of all the ingredients mixed together.

Once we’re done my mom asked me to try the soup when I tried a little bit of the soup it was very hot but smelled very good.
ACROSTIC POEM
Krystopher Yarbrough

Kisses
Rocket
Yelling
Sup
Tugs
Opera
Parents
Her
Emojis
Roar

Yawns
Awesome
Rolex
Bombs
Rare
Oof
Ugly
Gives
Hi
CULVER PARK HIGH SCHOOL

WITS Instructor: Douglas Manuel
Teacher: Marc Ketchem
UNTITLED
William Brooks

My black face fades
hiding inside a shadow
I knew it
Sirens sounding flashing
Yellow tape
Another soul at the heaven gates
Like a raven in the shadow
Chasing the moving sun, our dream
This way we are not free
That way there’s a path in between the people
Again I follow the light.
UNTITLED
Eric Cruz

My face fades
hiding inside the dark closet
I knew it
Wow! No tears
I'm warm. I'm cold.
Barack Obama eyes on wife
like Raven of Shadow, the profile of night
slanted against the sun, I turn
that way. Stores don't let me go
I turn every where but I'm inside
in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
again, Barack looking into the light
to see a difference
There's no difference, names are still printed there.
SOUL
Ivan Cruz

Most important aspects of life, we are born $\frac{3}{4}$ of a man and without a soul. We are lost to who we are meant to be. To reach into your soul is to rid yourself of pride & integrity. It is to let that facade of being down because you cannot hide who you are and if you fake it till you make it you are no better than the ones you try so hard to convince.
UNTITLED
Ivan Cruz

My brown face fades
Hiding inside a black shadow
I knew it
I was angry
I am with you. I am alone
Our clouded memories rush me
Like a raven in the shadows
Chasing the moving sun, our dreams
This way—no fence can keep us still
I look down, the earth holds you still
The Normandie cemetery
Again—another bright mind banished
UNTITLED
Emily De Jeronimo

My dark face fades
Hiding inside black shadows
I knew it
dammit: eyes full of memories
I'm better. I'm better.
The memories reflect in my seen
like a raven in as a shadow
chasing the moving sun, I dream
that way, I let myself go
I turn the opposite way—I'm in
the memorial
all over, depends on the mood
makes a change.
I fall down.
UNTITLED
Victor J. Guzman

I've got a mind.
I am sensitive,
caught in a loop, repetitive.

I don't really care. I'm passive.

Oh, I've got a mind
but it is not active
and all my thoughts have been evicted.

"The grass is greener on the other side."
I feel so numb inside
but I don't mind,
just sit back and enjoy the ride.
WAR
Victor J. Guzman

A constant battle
where the children
are woke up
by a rattle.

War,
suffering that will last
until the end of time
because no one will ever
be satisfied.

War,
internal or external.
LA TRISTESSE DURERA TOUJOURS
Roman Hayden

The execution of the teen
long, violent, obscene
the absence of blood did not make
it any less violent. It was the long
drawn out silence. The heartbeat
in the boy’s chest turned a silent
hum. Next his body turned stiff and numb.
They say all happens for a reason. Now
they sing songs to a boy bleeding.
Power No. Took another hour and some for the tower to come crumbling down on cowards and crowds of people screaming power. Which was louder than the powder of flower that tins the air like a cloud on the ground. What power killed. The weak. Meek was a blinded tiger crushed by the force of power.
POEM
Eddie MacDonald

My black face fades
hiding inside black shadow
I knew it
Dammit no fear
I'm young, I'm scared
My shadow reflection eyes me
Like a raven of shadow. The profile of night.
Chasing the moving sun, our dream
I turn around the wind starts and I run
I look back I'm being followed
I'm inside a coffin.
Again, depending on the darkness
to make me breathe.
I go down 6 feet,
Half conscious, I'm awake.
1. I’m taking a friend on a trip to England. Mainly London for a Vacation and getaway from all the Americans. When we get there, we plan on stealing a car and setting up life there in England.

2. The only thing stopping us would be TSA because my buddy is wanted by the FBI. I am clean, but I cannot leave my buddy alone to get caught. He is wanted for Grand Theft Auto and Murder of the third degree.

3. My buddy knew a way to get to England. He knew a guy that has a plane. If we could get to him, we can take it to fly England and “fake out deaths.” Only problem is we’re in LA and he’s in Arizona. So we hope in a bus, then to a train station that takes us 10 miles from the plane. We started our walk that took 18 hours. We had to sleep so we stole a cradle from a store and set up camp. We woke up and continued our journey. We had to jump a cliff into a river and then got to the plane.

4. We met the guy, Ray, who is hooking us up with the unregistered plane. He asked us if he could join us on our journey. We said yes because we couldn’t fly a plane and he offered. We took off and flight for England. We made a few stops. One stop in Colorado to fill up on gas, eat, and another stop in Tennessee. We loaded up on gas for the across the sea trip.

5. We were on our way to Tennessee and the weather was rough. So we all started singing Bob Marley and a shadowy
figure showed up. Bob Marley was sitting in seat playing some drums and singing along.

6. We finally started going oversea on the plane. We were about 100 miles from the US and the engine started failing. The plane started losing altitude and out of nowhere a Pegasus appeared, picked up the plane and carries us back to the right altitude. We were saved again.

7. We were trying to fix our plane when out of nowhere a portal opened from the back of the plane and 88-year-old me stepped out and told me that I'm from the future and know what you need to do and whispers in my ear that I need to kill my buddy. When you land he's going to kill you and live on his own. I looked at myself. he had my same features but looked older. He then vanished.

8. So, we were 20 miles from England and I could see land. With my knowledge about my so-called friend I am prepared. So, I opened the door of the plane to get some fresh air and the wind was harsh. I looked outside my hair blowing crazy. My glasses fly off and I catch them. Out of nowhere the air makes my eyes go black and I wonder what happened and my eyelash went into my eye and I slipped but I caught myself. Roy catches my hand, and I ask him who's flying. My so-called buddy is diving the plane down, so I grab a parachute and jump out. The Plane goes down and explodes. I make it to England.
ELIOT ARTS MAGNET ACADEMY

WITS Instructor: Brittany Ackerman
Teacher: Laura Chaparian-Robles
MY LOVE FOREVER
Salah Abdul-Aziz

My love she has beautiful eyes,
cool hair, smart and a great personality
outgoing, modest. Just pure beautiful.
My crush smells like a wonderful
flower. She is an angel to me.
She’s sweet like perfume
outgoing like an animal’s pride
She stands out as if she was gold.
She is the sun of my day and
The moon of my night.
Red Wood Tree

The tree I
wish to see

The wonders
of that tree

The tree would
have the greenest
tree

the air
from that
tree

The birds
it would
nest.
Dear Future Me,
Listen to the crowd roaring.
It's an experience worth exploring.
Flashing lights, football fans,
this was never a part of your life's plans.
Just think, the King of Pop, Queen B.
They both were here making history.
When this experience is over, you'll be legendary.
Applause and cheers are what you will forever carry.
Super Bowl Sunday, I know you will be there one day.
You will be able to have a say in this experience
For this day, I have perseverance. This
promise I’ll carry. Like MJ, Beyoncé, I’ll be
legendary. Remember, someday.
MEMORIES
Bobby Atilano

It was little when it came,
It was in a box that was in a box,
I soon found out,
I would be filled with happiness,
all day, everyday,
It was white and in the shape of a rectangle,
Day after Day, I played on it.
Filling me with joy and happiness day after day.
When I played on it I learned to be patient.
I love my DSi
A DRINK
Jonathan Banuelos

Juice on the back is like
hot tea in the snow,
See it goes so good,
It’s a pair,
because it so, so good.
YOU AND ME
Kennedi Barker

You and me
Met when we were young
    You and me
had lots of fun
    You and me
Shared the same interests
    You and me
went to San Diego
    we got lost for one hour or so
You were older, tried to boss me around
we had our ups, we had our downs
    You and me
So young, so naïve
Remember that guy named Steve
    Then you had to depart
Just know you’ll always stay in my heart.
SCREAMS
Leilani Beltran

She screams at night,
Waiting for him to take her,
She's scared that she knows who's coming for her,
She's afraid of the truth,
It haunts her,
He slams open the door,
*scream*
And takes her in her sleep,
Just like that, they're gone into
The night,
So quiet as if nothing ever happened.
RAINDROPS
Maylina Benihya

I like it when it rains,
a sweet lullaby.
a pitter patter plop.
Gloomy dark and cold,
A storm of thick raindrops,
Afterwards, left for fun,
puddles, mini silver mirrors,
In the sky, a memory,
brings everybody cheer!
A DEADLY HEAT
Meara Block

I am so short lived
striking down, killing millions
in this vast area of space
I need this environment to take place
in this cold world I've made heat
my voice is sound
my voice is a warning
sometimes I'm small
striking none
sometimes I'm not alone
and I hit a certain place
I bounce off substances
and hurt more than I've hit
I make lasting damage
and kill all that I can
I am the lightning
the lightning of man
ROCK BOI
Grant Brooks

I am like a rock
not a shirt or a sock
you can stand on me when you feel short
And use me to build a mighty fort
Sometimes you throw me in a lake
But with me there a lot you can make
I’m on the earth and here to stay
for a rock it’s a lot to say.
MOUNT RUSHMORE
James Cantor

Mountains what a beautiful view
I like how the only thing I see is you
You show me faces and ugly views
But there is only one Mountain that looks like you.
THE BLUE FLOWER
Jaidyn Carroll

She is a bright blue flower,
who always seems to have super big power

Smarter than an owl,
and faster than a cheetah,

She is the one who people go to.
Makes things better

Wherever, whenever.
She is bold,

Just like gold,
because she is that flower

Just behold.
Dear Secret Love One,
How are you today?
Are you bored like a rock?
Or are you excited like firework?

Today is the day that
I decide to talk to you.
Right now, I feel like
I have butterflies in my stomach

I don’t know why
I’m feeling this feeling
I talk to you all the time
But now I don’t know why

Probably because I like you
Like when you get your favorite candy
I been having this feeling
Since the day I met you

I know it’s dumb to tell you now.
Like me telling you that the world is about to end.
But I can not keep this feeling inside me any longer.
I just hope.
You love me the same.
Careful by night
Lonely by day
After today
Right or wrong
Icy look
Ticking clocks
Zipping up
After dark
BUSHELS OF FUN
Emmeline Clougherty

To be at the Boardwalk,
bushels of fun,
we've had the thrill of our lives,
rollercoasters like tigers on the run.
A memory made last summer,
I clearly recall,
That cotton candy with family
beats it all.
Like the joy of a scare making me
worry.
I know I'm just on a ride like a
mouse in a hurry.
To be at the Boardwalk,
Bushels of fun
with my family we are one.
AUTUMN
Tessa Clougherty

Autumn, falling leaves
The trees dies in this season
To come back next spring
STAGE
Andreanna Crespo

The whole world is watching,
Stay calm don't freak out
Our costumes are pinned up,
please don't let me down

The lights shine bright,
silence fills the air
You tiptoe on out,
I follow right behind

The air's filled with noise,
Louder it sounds.
We begin and keep going,
No one can stop us now

Pike, pirouette, soutenu, chaines
then waltz off stage to twirl
some more.
unpin and slip out to put
on one more,
just to go back out and
grand jete some more

My point shoes are dead
and my sweaty feet ache,
the only survivors of this
long day.

The day is now over and
can finally go home,
to come back tomorrow
and do it again
ANE-CITY
Isabella Crespo

red light. green light
people here people there
cars and strangers
everywhere.
san fran, what a busy land
open and close.
the mall was crammed,
stores were jammed
going in with empty hands
and coming out with
a hundred grand.
STUFFED PLUSHIE
Nevada Cruz

I am a stuffed plushie
I can smell my past, and where
I've been.
I feel the touch of my fluff
I can see my huge eyes
I hear my owner, my friend
shuffling around the house
I see myself as a best friend
Others saw me as a toy to throw
Others saw me as a pillow
to sleep on, but,
Others forgot about me and
left.
I love who I am a will never
leave my friend.
If I were a mirror all people do is stare into me
What they don't know is I am staring back at them
I've seen all the pain they have been through just by looking into
their eyes
Not knowing I'm staring into their soul
I see the same thing over and over again
Girls doing their makeup
Guys hiding secrets
Everyone putting on fake faces
I'm just doing my job by reflecting their mistakes until they realize you were meant to be something more and not be your twin in the mirror that doesn't belong
MY NAME IS ALISON
Alison Duarte

Animal Lover
Likes to watch NETFLIX
Is 12 years old
Stupendous
Optimistic
Notorious

Drinks tea
Underrated
Awesome
Ridiculously funny
Terrific
Enjoys chocolate
BEAUTIFUL DAY
Julie Edwards

A summer day the sun is
dry the grass is yellow steps of
humans chirps of birds fill the
silent air quacks of duck wings of
butterflies leaves of trees green and
brown rain drops fall like a cloud
that’s crying honking cars & the smell
of wet plants after all the comes
bring color abstract rainbow that’s
a beautiful day.
He is the Carnival
right in the middle of hectic Trinidad.

So Loud, joyful and chaotic
he is the one million colors on
the costumes.

I waiting and I finally got
him and he just is j’ouvert, the
overnight party spilling onto the
most beautiful festival.

Smells like cheap cologne and sweet
mango sap.

tastes like bitter margarita scent.

Our hearts pounding like the music
right outside.

He is in touch with my private
island and finally we meet for
the first time, we are one.
ACROSTIC POEM
Michael Galindo

Making bacon
Insane
Corrupted
Hellish mindset
Anarchy reigns
Extremely energetic
Left for dead

Going death
At la estrea
Later
Insanely talking
Not here
Dead inside
Over this
MURDER
Emily Gonzalez

Monster under the bed, A suspect alone in her room pitch black, the monster awaits for her to step off the bed Seems as if the bed's shadow is black blood Guilt has made a monster a wine colored substance pours from her closet sirens in distance nowhere to run nowhere to hide, for her closet was occupied she calls the cops to admit her deed for the monster disappears yet leaving offspring of fear.
GREAT THINGS OF SUMMER
Faith Gray-Gardner

My favorite season is summer where it's warm, relaxing and bright.
And I'm able to wear dresses and everything feels just right.
Near 3:30
I like to lay on my bed with the phone in my hands and the sunlight on my head.
And all the other seasons I can't be free,
but right here, right now,
Is where I should be.
ACROSTIC POEM
Oswald Guerra

Overthinker
Shy
Weird
Aries
Lonely
Disruptive
Too Young
Bishop Harris

He was just a kid
Put in the foster program
He was too young for this
Too young to see the thing she did
corrupted
15 brothers
none his own
corrupted
completely secluded
because if he entered the real world
Outside of his dark room
Shared with four people
Outside of his dark seclusion, corner
the boy would be chewed up and spit on
like a flavorless piece of bubblegum
too young-Bubblegum!
He remembers his mother
She sang the “bubblegum” songs
she sang to him
she sang songs
Silent songs make no sound
How can her songs be silent
She sang to him
silently caressing
the wounds cut
to the bone
unseeable to the unsensitive eye
They were emotional wounds
He lost his mom and some of his bubblegum
too young to remember
He checked the files
MY LITTLE WORLD
Dillinger Herbert

My toy phone
Laughter in the air
My own little world
full of imagination
Six years old at the time
Sister, fourteen
My phone was taken
Sister starts laughing
anger strikes within me
violence is in my eyes
blood slowly leaks from my sister’s nose
Sister runs away
I got my toy phone back
not the nicest way
Then calling whoever I want
Back in my own little world
COLORED PENCILS
Marcus Hernandez

Colored pencils are the best.
They are a chance to fill something up,
Breathe life into it.
It’s really up to you to do
what you want to do.
Only you can say what.
Only you can say where.
Only you can say, “Hurry up!”
Even if you spend an hour making the perfect hair.
SEASONS ARE WONDERFUL
Guadalupe Hernandez Morales

Wonders
Of
Winter

Beauty
Of
Spring

All around
Me and you

I can see
It so pretty

I love
The seasons!
GONE IN A FLASH
Olivia Hodges

The Sun was beautiful,
The warm summer wind
blowing across my face.
My small feet hitting one
after another on the luscious
green grass.
Then sirens, clouds blew over,
sun disappearing.
My skin went cold, my heart
dropped as I ran in.
Mother nature’s anger swept
Across destroying everything
in its path.
The grass was no more,
The warm wind was no more.
Why, oh why did she do
this.
HEADACHE
Aluara Jackson

I could feel the rush
the excitement overwhelms
my head thumps with pain.
MY BEACH
Aiyana Jimenez

You are my beach crazy but calm
sneaky like the waves that
will pop out at any moment

If there was one thing I'd
wish for is for you to be
here today. Your head was like
the sand that was really smooth

Your eyes were like the
sunset a beautiful sight.
You are my beach sneaky
and smooth.

You were like the waves in
a crazy way, But you were
the sunset really calm

I wish you were here with
me today. You are my beach.

Crazy, calm, sneaky, calm,
Smooth.
THE TREE
Lucas Jordan

As the sun beams down
on me, I grow everyday

Oh how I wish I wasn’t
so alone in this grassland,
no sign of life besides
dead grass

And then I saw her as beautiful
as can be I had just seen
her and she was already
the apple of my eye

As the days flew by the
girl came back to climb
and play

There I sat, as the girl
grew old she needed
some shade

From the start I could
tell that we would be
friends till the end

You may not know what
I’m saying but you have
been the whole world
to me
HIM
Isabella Leyva

When I look at him
his eyes shine like stars.
When he hugs me
I feel like I’m in heaven.
His face is unique
and it will always be.
Him means a lot to me.
SUMMER CAMP
Stella Listro

All day in the sun
Playing with friends till it’s gone
In the pool then out playing sports
Without doubts My friends and I always have
A blast but then school is back teasing us
With little facts but you always look
Forward to having a blast in the
Summer with friends after that it feels
So good to lay in the sun with
Aubrey and Ambika and way more
They’re all fun next year I’ll go and
The year after that it’ll make me have
Fun till evil school is all back but
The best part of all is no homework
All day can’t wait to get in the shape
of summer for days.
THE PERFECT FRIEND
Mili Livingston Moreno

You are a wolf, loyal to your pack, no matter what.
A busy bee, hardworking and a team player, through and through.
You are kind—you’re sweeter than a cup of pure sugar.
When you smile, the joy you bring to the world is more priceless than the most precious jewel.
You are the sun—even when I don’t see you, I know you will always be there to bring brightness and warmth.
Your laugh is more delightful to hear than the most beautiful music.
You are a fantasy, almost too good to be true, yet a nonfiction story, always trustworthy and honest.
I am so lucky to have found you—it was a find ten times more lucky than any penny, any rabbit’s foot, more lucky than a whole bouquet of four-leaf clovers.
I open the fridge. I grabbed the mayonnaise. It was nice and white. I grabbed a spoon and a bowl. I knew it would taste really good. I put a big, juicy blob in the bowl. It smelled like mayonnaise. Yumm, I ate it like mayonnaise. It made a nice smacking sound.
CLASSROOM
Alexa Martinez

Books neatly placed on the shelves
Colorful posters plastered on the plain, boring walls
The rows of seats in straight organized lines
The teacher’s desk cramped with papers and knickknacks
The classroom smells of pencil shavings and scented markers
The board is a blank canvas, waiting to be filled with black expo marker
The classroom is quiet and still
Tomorrow morning it will be full of life
But for now, it patiently waits
DAY AT THE BEACH
Valeria Martinez

Running into the cold, blue water
Soaring through the strong wind
The rough sand in between our feet
Throwing water at each other
Having fun and laughing
Watching the sunset
And making memories together
MY CRAZY SISTER
Lani Mejia

You’re as crazy as a clown
but you’re nice and beautiful as a blooming flower
You’re sometimes annoying,
or bossy and very loud.
But your personality is like
as soft as a cloud.
And you always make me proud.
TWIN DRAGONS
Tobias Mitchell

Me and my brother
on a roller coaster
red and blue dragons
twisting and turning around each other
looping and flipping
gut wrenching fun
we could barely walk after
went on 6 more times
fun in Florida
back to California
sleep
A VIGOROUS BEING
Josiah Nakayama

Quenched from the morning dew I'm in delight
I arise as a rose in the sunlight
No one trusts my vibrant colors at night
Displayed for beauty to give care and love
To take away the tears your eyes are so fond of
In return you tear and trample me
rip me from my roots so damn carelessly
I wither in threatening fear
But you do not see me here
Cannot stand nor breathe or cry
No more dreams no feelings or rights
May I ask why
Why you left me here to die . . . DIE
Let me linger in your mind
So I have the chance to say goodbye.
Every day
Lunch and recess
we rush to the field
to our usual spot
where we play soccer
Boys vs Girls
eating snack
full of energy, shouting, panting, tripping and laughing
forgetting all about school
just in our own world
until the bell rings
telling us to go.
UNTITLED
Averie Newquist

The grey, unwelcome clouds
that had once hid the sun
slowly dissipate
allowing me to play, allowing fun
But the storm left behind a promise,
a prize
revealing a rainbow before
my eyes
seeking adventure
(and a little bit of mischief)
I run to the 6 arching colors
I would get there if I
had to climb a mountain
or jump off a cliff
I had heard stories about the gold
It might be impossible,
But that is why legends are told
I wanted the treasure.
needed it more.
I would be rich
until the age of 94! Everyone would be my friend
Almost there and out of breath, only
to find,
I was on the wrong side
At the beginning,
not the end
EYE
George Olvera

I am a guy

Standing on the sky
next to my girl
with my eyes
standing with her
makes me want to die
with joy and she is
the apple of my eye
CAMPING
Savannah Ortiz

The smell of campfire fills the air, as the parents start dinner after a long day at the lake, we wander off, around the campsite, climbing trees and going down hills, as night falls we gather round the campfire, while eating dinner and roasting marshmallows laughter fills the air as we crack jokes, Making memories forever.
FUN & HUMAN KINDNESS
Jacob Otto

Fun doesn’t need a place
Or a certain time
Fun can be had anywhere
Good or bad situation
A relief from sorrow or anger
A mental help
Good spirit making
Positivity for everything
Brain can
Amazing in all shapes colors and sizes
Like a peaceful riot for all
To make us as a species better
A good celebration.
BEING A BIRD
David Partida

If I were a bird it would be fun
I would fly all over the world

Seeing cities and mountains
Over and under the clouds

The wind will feel really nice
I could just fly for the rest of my life

I would be a red and blue bird
My colors would stand out

If it was possible to go to outer space
Seeing all the planets and stars

Coming back to my nest
Being a bird would be my dream
UNTITLED
Ali Plyler

She was as wild as a blazing fire
Never slowing
Ever growing
Wreaking havoc and breaking things down
To be rebuilt
Stronger and resilient
She was a hurricane
A force to be reckoned with
Cunning and sharp
With a mind of steel.
I'M A PENNY
Hartwell Pollard

I'm a Penny
I'm thrown away
I'm treated like I'm worthless
no one cares I exist
I'm thrown behind couches
I'm left in gas stations
You need 100 of me to be
noticed
I'm a penny
FUN AND GAMES
Bryant Pranboonpluk

Kids laughing
Parents talking and watching
Playing arcade games
Winning prizes
Enjoying life
And having fun
SEQUOIAS
Casper Pylypchuk

Great trees around me
Wind howling through their branches
Absolute majesty
Many are curious of this friend,  
they protect me in a good way.  
So stubborn as a mule, yet so kind as a cloud.  
We are two peas in a pod, yet  
somehow different too . . .

Capricorn  
Capricorn is their name, She’s a girl as I recall  
Many become friends with her but I'm with her all along  
My Capricorn friend has planned everything ahead.  
Sade my Capricorn friend.
UNTITLED
D'Aura Rodgers

Morning sky as huge as the unknown galaxy

It rains before dusk, the Morning grass
Cold and wet
the flawless flowers bloom as soon as they die
the morning cycle of life in a plant
starts like the gas burning on the huge star of the sun
creative green as bright as the eye
can visually see as I said what I said
Plants grow as soon as they die
No more rain in the sky
the cycle shall soon say goodbye
the sun hot enough to fry your imagination

Morning sky as huge as the unknown galaxy
LOST
Hannah Ross

I look in your eyes
searching for a universe,
to find a stranger.
UNTITLED

Ivy Samuel

Little girl with
flowers in her hair
wearing a little white
dress
    flick flick
I hear the camera
flick
    smile smile
for a pic
with eyes
as blue as the
sky
    flick flick
I hear the camera
Flick
MY BFF KIELE
Chloe Sarault

She shines like gold
Is bright and bold
Lights up my world
She is funny and caring
Brave and exciting
Kind and caring
Her laugh is sweet like birds in the
night
She is my BFF
Forever and always
My BFF Kiele
Trees grow leaves all year long,
Winter spring summer fall.
They have no leaves in Winter,
They grow them in the spring,
Summer breezes kiss the leaves—
they grow old and fall off in the fall.

TREES
Hannah Skidmore
MOMMY
Adrienne Tapia

Ripped out of your arms
I never said goodbye
People came and left
But then . . .
an angel came to me
she was everything I needed
Her hugs kept me warm
She made me smile
Then under my breath I whisper
The word that has been distant . . .
just out of reach . . .
Mommy
THE MONTHS OF SUMMER
Alisa Velez

School's out.
We will be together
Enjoying the months of summer.
School's out.
Summer's finally here.
At our favorite spot we will be.
The smell of the salty air filling our nostrils
And the cool breeze in our hair.
For I have been waiting all year.
Truly, the most happiest memories
They are created in the months of summer.
It will all be fun.
Happy I am to see that you are right beside me.
It will be sad.
Angry I am to think that soon it will all end.
We were together through it all,
Living life to the fullest.
As you leave, you whisper:
“Next year, we will be together again soon. Making more memories,
in the months of summer.”
The last 24 hours,  
have been hell.  
My heart had been broken,  
beyond repair.  
Then you showed up,  
and later that night,  
My mother and I,  
still full of grief,  
from the day before,  
went to get you.  
As soon as I saw,  
your cute brown eyes,  
the weight was lifted,  
off of my shoulders.  
My anxiety was gone,  
for the briefest moment,  
we took you home,  
and on the way,  
I shed tears of joy  
and sorrow,  
for I had lost my best friend,  
but gained another.  
Ever since my depressing  
yesterday,  
I thought my life was over,  
slipping into darkness,  
but you brought back the light,  
and I am forever thankful,  
for you,  
my darling pug,  
Sushi.
CLOUD AND I
Tremaine Woodard

I am a fluffy, floaty cloud to be free in the sky, I explore the world everyday

He tries to fly just like me and be fluffy and floaty too

As I fly, float like a boat in the sky, The cloud asks why

The boy and the cloud have a good friendship one floats and one's stuck

I am stuck, away from my cloud, when I go to bed I look for him

but he is nowhere to be found, I go to bed and remember the day we had

I wake up and see my friend with a beautiful red and blue bird

The cloud, bird and I soar around the world, wondering what is in space

We decide to outer space to see the wonders of the planets.

Then we see shooting star then leave this wonderful place

I go to bed and remember the exciting day we had
BEST FRIEND
Micaela Zamora

1. You’re the sunshine that takes over the cloud over my head.
2. You’re the happy distraction that takes my stressed mind somewhere else.
3. You’re the comedic movie I can’t stop laughing at.
4. You’re the fire that makes me feel warm and comfortable.
5. I’d want to take a piece of duct tape or super glue just to be around you forever.
6. I’d want to give the world to you.
7. You’re the seed that fell right into my lap, that bloomed into this beautiful flower.
8. You’re the boulder that fell onto me, to make me realize life.
9. You’re the rainbow that came over my storm.
10. You’ve been with me at my lowest points so that’s why you’re not like my best friend you are my best friend.
PACOIMA CHARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WITS Instructor: Ricardo Means Ybarra
Teachers: Dalila Alcantar and Grata Chung
I am colorful,  
But sometimes I am not,  
Some kids are scared of me,  
But some kids are not,  

I go to kids parties,  
I make kids laugh,  

I also have a dark side,  
The dark side hunts for you!
WHAT AM I
Edgar Alvarez

I’m gray and white
I’m a big fish with sharp teeth
I have a big fin
I’m hungry for fish
I swim on water
and I have hungry friends that wait
for someone to go swimming on the water
Until they get eaten
What I’m I
A BRAVE ANIMAL
Brianna B.

I hide from animals and from humans.
I am brave am not scared.
I belong in the wild but,
This scientist captured me am mad.
Now am trying to escape,
I bang on the fence so it can open.
I can't talk to humans
But I do talk to animals.
People are scared of me,
But I don't care because that is how my life is.
I miss my family,
I am trying to escape still,
So I can go back home.
I think I'm dying,
I need food
I have no food in my bowl.
Feed me please,
Feed me a lot
I am starving because
These people font feed me at all.
They only give me water.
MY LIFE WHEN I WAS 4
Cecilia Bojorquez

My life was fun when I was 4
I will always do fun things with my dad
I was born on May 28, 2007
My birthday is on May 28
It is funny because my grandpa's birthday is in May 29
One time when I was 4
My dad scared me
He was playing a game
  then a monster pop out
Of the computer
I was shocked
One day I sat back and there was a candle
It was bad because my dress was on fire
So my life was cool when I was 4
And plus I did not have that much homework
FRUIT
Jocelyn Canedo

I am really fresh
People mostly eat me in the summer
I am red and green
I am very juicy
I start with the letter W
Who am I
ADVICE FROM FOOTBALL

Bianca Castillo

I’m shaped oval
I can be thought to
I’m brown and white
I’m tackled to get
I’m held by
Somebody and they
Run I’m bouncy and tricky.
ADVICE FROM P22
Christopher Cervantes

In Hollywood
I'm cold
And hungry
I need to survive
I made it this far
I got something in my ear
And on my neck
And it hurts
I am far from home
I am famous from my show
To run to Hollywood that a first
I try to run
And hide
From the guys to find me
People take pictures at me
But ok
WHO AM I
By Gabriela Cervantes

I am a square.
I live in a pineapple
I have circles in my body.
I'm cheerful.
I never let
Someone bring me down.
I am yellow
and my friend is a star.
MY LIFE AS A KID
Alen Costilla

I am a boy
I am 10
Who was born in September 12, 2007
Who likes pizza
And video games
I like to sleep
And ride my bike
FRIENDSHIP
Nicole Cruz

Perfect day for an ice cream with my friends.
Sunny outside
and it's perfect for a vanilla ice cream
with a cherry on the top.
Three scoops and spoons for us.
Going home I hope we never stop our friendship.
UNICORN
Daisy Curiel

I am magical and I can fly.
I have beautiful hair with lots of colors.
I am white and very strong,
I also have super powers and go to waterfalls.
Some kids think I’m not real but maybe I am.
I’m some kids dream and some kids nightmare.
Some kids like me and some kids don’t
WHO AM I
Emely De Paz

I am only up at night
I fly in groups
I hate the light
I live in a cave
We're all have dark skin
I like to stay warm
I like to stay near all my friends
I like to cuddle
I will bite you if you shine a light at me
People think I'm cute
Others think I'm scary
DARKNESS
Anthony Diaz

I am with you so look around.
I am where ever you go.
I stay with you and sometimes leave.
I hide behind you most of the time.
If it’s dark you can’t see me.
I do copy your actions and I am dark.
You cannot do anything to me.
I am always watching you.
ADVICE FROM A CANDLE
Jason Diaz

When I am young
I am tall
When I am old
I am short
When they blow me out there is dry wax
When you turn me on
There is wax
You can buy me.
I could be black or white,
You need me around so you can see me.
Some of my friends wake you up,
And I tell you how long you have until work.
Some people get my numbers confused
ADVICE FOR KIDS FROM SOCCER BALL
Joel Garcia

I don't talk, I don't move,
But when you kick me, I roll
Don't pick me up
You will make a mano
So please kick me
It will not hurt me.
Today, my Grandma said
Why are you playing with a toy?
Then I said I am not playing with nothing
After that, my Grandma said what are you eating?
And I said chips
And she said to give it to me
Last, she had it and she ate my chips
Then I was so mad
But I did not care.
UNTITLED
Marco H.

One day I got chased
By a dog that my
Heart felt like it
Was going pop
Out but then I got
Ran over by a car
But I survived
I met an old cat and
He told me that what
Happened I said I got
Ran over and a dog
Chased me and he
Said I only have
7 lives and I wonder
What and it meant that
I use to have a 9 lives
My life is very busy
with monday, tuesday, wednesday, thursday, 
friday, and saturday 
and my mom has a lot to do than us 
but I am a troublemaker 
and my sister is always busy in her room 
because her room is always messy 
but all of us 
me, my sister, and my mom 
are a busy family 
and that's my life.
Ah, a penny’s life can be tragic. 
Not that quarter’s life is fun and full of magic 
But my kin the quarter gets respect, I’ve found 
At least folks will pick him up from the ground. 
Though we’re like cousins, but my life is sadder. 
I’ve got twenty-four reasons to say, “I matter.”
ADVICE FROM A PENNY
David Herrera

Don’t talk I am small.
I have a little to say.
Don’t drop me or lose me
I am worth a little
Not too much
I spend time
In bank and get passed around
Sorry, I can’t talk.
SMALL BUT DANGEROUS
Rafael Landa

I am green and I am little
But mean, I eat small things but
My food I don't bring, instead it
Comes to me, but wait if you
Touch me I'll give you something bright
That will give you a fight.
HEADPHONES
Armando Lazcano

Everyone uses me
They put music in me
And sometimes
The music they put is annoying
And sometimes I wish
I had another owner.
MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN
Ashley Morales

Have you ever wondered where miracles come from?
Have you ever wonder if you are a miracle?
Have you ever thought if you believe in miracles?
Just so you know we are all miracles
and miracles come from heaven.
THE SMELL OF FOOD
David Morales

I wake up and I smell my food
I run outside of the room
I finish my food
My friend said
Let’s go play outside
Let’s go to back home.
I'M BLACK
Joshua Oyarzabal

I'm black I have colorful
I eat at night
I will come out of the day
And you will never find me
ADVICE FROM CHEETAH
Celina P.

I am fast also hungry.
I am yellow or orange and have black spots
I could smell if you have a sandwich
I will chase you
I have pointy ears
You never want to be around me
If you get next to me
I will eat you
I might be nice to you
But if you twist my tail I will eat you.
MESSI
Elmer Quintanilla

I am good soccer
I play for Barcelona
I am fast
I also make a lot of goals
My position is forward
MY ADVICE
Andrea Estefany Reyes

Always be strong
Don't let anyone get you down
You're beautiful just the way you are
If you believe your dream will come true
No one can stop you from doing what you love
Don't let anyone tell you your dream won't come true
If someone tells you you're ugly who cares
Deep inside you should know you're beautiful
ADVICE FOR A HOT CHEETO
Crystal Rodriguez

I am red
You guys eat me everyday
Last week I got stepped on
And it really hurt.
Please don’t step on me
I’ve become a little small crumbs.
I am yellow and I have a metal body.
I have one powerful gun.
I came from a planet name Cybertron.
I have one leader that he is a prime.
A prime is a leader.
He is super strong, he has one gun and two swords.
I have two brothers, and they are tall.
We all have one power.
Our power is that when we see a car or a truck
we can transform into that car or truck.
My leader is a red and blue truck.
I am a small fast yellow Camaro.
My first brother is a war car
and my last brother is a red and black Lamborghini.
And we all fight bad guys.
ADVICE FROM YOUR TEACHER
Pablo Rodriguez

Advice from your teacher
Never give you can do anything
Always believe in yourself
Pay attention in class
When you read a book
Use number one for whisper
Sit down properly
So you won’t fall and hit your head.
ADVICE FROM A MICE
Samuel Rosas

Advice from a mice is all you need
I can help you get all the cheese and never be seen
I can tell you the food that is fake
When to come and when to go
How to hide all you need to survive
How to live a happy life
ADVICE FROM A WORM
Christopher Sandoval

I am a wiggly animal from the ground
You could see me when the dirt is wet
I am harmless like any other animal that’s harmless
I am gentle even when you make me mad
I am small and skinny
Which makes me hard to see
WHO AM I?
Eduardo Sicaja

I am light brown
I am fake
I always wear a hat
I have black birds on me
I look black at night
Today I scored a goal
To win the championship
And when I kicked it
I felt like if I was seeing my
Favorite soccer player
And meeting him
And I said to my head it
Was a miracle.
I live in a mountain that is called Matterhorn.
I chase you in the dark mountain.
I see you when you are on a bobsled.

I climb through the mountain just so I can catch you.
I am some sort of ice monster.
I am also the red eyed shadow in the mountain.

grrrrrrrrrrrrrr!!!
I may live in Disneyland but when I catch you
I will make sure the blood will spill.
There is this puma called P22, so he walk the 405 highway and he was a mountain lion that he get caught by pictures, so he is now in Hollywood at the park. There might be different pumas that can walking there. One puma called P33 got killed by a car. They will be doing celebration of P22. Now I sit and wonder what the heck is going to happen to P22. Question one, is he going to get caught? Number two, is he going to get killed? Number three, is he going to be famous? Now I think no one goes to that park, Can he maybe kill people and harm them?
Playground Rules
a student anthology

Created in 2003, Writing in the Schools is an outreach program that actively facilitates the practice of creative writing and cultivates an appreciation for poetry in Greater Los Angeles and Pasadena classrooms. Writing in the Schools gives students access not only to modern and contemporary poetry, but also to the workshop poets themselves.

The poems and short stories featured in this book are the product of one school year of workshops at a variety of grade levels. They are the result of the hard work of participating authors, teachers, and students, and the book hopefully speaks to the positive effects of literature within our classrooms.

Schools that have participated in Red Hen's Writing in the Schools program:

Ámino Ralph Bunche Charter High School
Belmont High School
Birmingham High School
Camino Nuevo Charter School
Cheremoya Avenue Elementary School
City Terrace Elementary School
Crenshaw High School
Culver City Middle School
Culver Park High School
Eliot Arts Magnet Academy
Hollywood High School
Locke High School
Marrs Magnet Middle School
Norris Middle School
North Hollywood High School
Pacoima Charter Elementary School
Van Nuys High School

The Dwight Stuart Youth Fund, the Ahmanson Foundation, the Allergan Foundation, the Audrey and Sydney Irmas Charitable Foundation, the Pasadena Arts and Culture Commission and the City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division, the Kinder Morgan Foundation, the Meta & George Rosenberg Foundation, and the Max Factor Family Foundation partially support Red Hen's Writing in the Schools Program.