



QUIET ISN'T ALWAYS PEACE



Writing in the Schools
Student Anthology
2020–2021

Red Hen Press

Quiet Isn't Always Peace



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Student Anthology 2020–2021



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Quiet Isn't Always Peace

A Writing in the Schools Student Anthology

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About Writing in the Schools

Writing in the Schools is an outreach program that actively facilitates the practice of creative writing. The program has employed published authors to cultivate an appreciation for poetry in Los Angeles and LA County classrooms since its inception in 2003.

Each classroom is assigned a published author who conducts writing workshops that educate students in literary terms, techniques, and critical reading skills. Workshops also provide the indispensable opportunity for young writers to read their work aloud before an audience of peers and friends. For many students, poetry serves as a new venue to display thoughts, emotions, or portions of their personality they may not be comfortable conveying in other settings. The poems featured in this book are the product of workshops conducted over the course of one year from grade levels four through twelve. They are a testament to the skill of participating authors, the compassion of teachers, and the creativity in every student.

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 make 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.

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Timea Sipos
Lorinda Toledo
Ricardo Means Ybarra

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Laura Chaparian-Robles
Mark Jacobs
Linda Keavy
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Quiet Isn't Always Peace



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HOST TEACHER

Mark Jacobs

WITS TEACHER

Matty Layne Glasgow

JEFFREY ALONSO

Refuge

Meadow

Cool breeze combing over your hair

Beautiful flowers teeming everywhere

A sunny blue sky over your head

Gaze into the distant roses magnificently red

Feel the warmth of the sun as it lands on your cheeks

Birds flying from tree to tree and others singing with their small beaks

BRIANA GOMEZ

Untitled

Where you lay at night
Is where you feel alright
Thoughts come in
thoughts come out
No one around but
You to judge

ANDREA GONZALEZ

Untitled

The rain was clattering on my roof above
Tranquility, Serenity, and full of love
I slept the night with calming thoughts
“Plitter, Platter” cried the rain
“Swoosh” and “Whoosh” echoed the wind
But in the comfort of my bed
I awoke to greet the day
Morning skin against the sheets
Pancake smell filled the air
I got up from bed to help
And then begins the Morning Prayer

ALEXIS HERNANDEZ

My refuge is the comfort of my home.

There's no feeling

There's no feeling when the world around you crumbles down
You want the comfort but don't want to be loud
No one could hear you so you turn around
You remind yourself to stay strong but don't know how

There's no feeling when you realize you're in a cycle of dullness
You're certain that you don't want to be stuck in that motion
You hope Rosemaries, Virgin Maries serve as your Locomotive
To pull the train of thought that your piece of mind is important

There's no feeling when you end up at shore
The sun beams at your core
As it's setting over the horizon more and more
The wind hits your face and you're left with no remorse

There's no feeling making it to the top of a hill
There's grass, trees, a view, everything is still
Calmness and clarity strikes like lightning
There's no other feeling like it

ALEXIS LUIS

Refuge

Waiting for peace

Safety

Normality

And Life

Away from virus

He fled

He was a refugee

ANDREA GONZALEZ

Ars Poetica

Silent and awkward
The world never knew what she had to offer
She had so many dreams, one was to become an author
Grew up learning things and all without a father
She sat at the back of the class, no one ever bothered
Ambitious little thing, her mother told her daughter
Some-day you'll find a man who'll love you for your dreams
not only because he sees that you're the "latest", "hottest" "thing".

ALEXIS HERNANDEZ

Untitled

What do words mean to you?

In my silence I hear more than you do

After all, I'm all up for interpretation

So what do little words change my perception to you?

No, I'm not one to talk freely, there's more meaning behind it

I don't think of myself with an ego, I just find greater value in silence

You be who you are, it's your life after all

Sitting at a table with my head down, I rather not speak if you don't mind it

JEFFERY ALONSO

Self Portrait

Sleek and thin
Though bigger than you'd think
Black and white
With a vibrant blue light
Runnin' a hunnid' twenty frames per second
Sending all my tangos to heaven
Everywhere I look I see ray tracing
You see a PS5 logo I know you straight hatin'
Fifth generation
Holds the power of a small nation.

ALEXIS HERNANDEZ

Doberman as Self Portrait

Stand up attentively, even if your ears don't, listen for the order to be given
You are a protector, a shield within flesh and bones
Groomed since birth, your purposes seem restrained

like that chain around your collar
Restrained to protect and serve, not like a police officer, but as a companion

You are taken in by your first owner, he is your priority
A lifetime of lessons mingle on your mind as you pass
Cracked sidewalks, yellow grass, and tagged corner stores

You reach a new home and await the order
Sharp teeth on display for any trespassers

Your collar is unleashed
A hug is received

BIANCA VIDAL

Mexican Flag as Self-Portrait

Green, White, and Red -- everything about me is unique just like these colors

From being independent, shown through this amazing green

This white representing our beliefs (catholic) and purity

The red speaking for the unity I have with those I believe deserve being by my
side

That's not all . . .

You judge who the flag represents, but don't take the time to get to know it, just
as they do with me

It's not all based on what you hear and what you see

Seek more of us and it will take a toll on your mind

All I can say that at the end it is all love and hate

I am proud

I am me

JEFFERY ALONSO

Repetition

Twinkle Twinkle

Look up to the night sky

Look up to the twinkling star lights

Twinkle twinkle

The big yellow sun burns so bright

A vast plain of nothing but galaxies

Twinkle twinkle

Is this reality or a grain in an endless amount of fantasies

Look up once more to the beauty that can make anyone cry

Twinkle twinkle

BRIANA GOMEZ

I believe in you.

Alarm rings at 7:00 am
Every morning making it hard to get up
Going under the covers,
Knowing that won't stop the alarm.
Slamming the clock
Stopping the alarm
I believe in you.

Rooms a mess
Hair looks like a nest
Wanted to go back to bed
But would rather get out of their head
Walking through piles of clothes
Which you pay no attention to those
I believe in you.

Hanging on by a thread
Losing hope for better days
Yes, things will get better
I believe in *you*.

ANDREA GONZALEZ

Untitled

14 years in the USA

I'm here illegally, its where I stay

In another country my family resides

I really hope my grandpa and grandma dont die

Being undocumented sucks, I miss them so much

14 years in the USA

My grandpa has an operation today

I'm praying to the lord that he will keep him out of harm's way

Because if I can't ever see them again, I will forever feel betrayed

14 years in the USA

I wish God would slow down with all these deaths

Grandpa please, stay strong, don't take your last breath

But if you feel that you just can't go on, I hope we meet again in Heaven

Someday.

ALEXIS HERNANDEZ

Untitled

Your Eyes, oh how they water down like raindrops in a storm
Your Eyes, oh how they witness the psychological factors play out on every
 human you meet
Your Eyes, oh how they act as the binoculars of your world
Your Eyes, oh how their lids protect you from the tormented environment
 you're surrounded in
How they harness your soul from witnessing something that changes you for
 better or worse

Your Eyes are the only things I see when the word meaningless holds up to it's
 reputational name
Your Eyes are the only things I see when the word happiness never held so
 much value and existing transformed into appreciation

Your Gaze sent me into an internal pool of thoughts where I am floating center
 like your Pupil in your Iris
Your Gaze beamed reconciliation to the fullest extent where Black and White
 turned into a diversity of Color

Your Eyes Are What I See
Your Eyes Are What Saved Me

ALEXIS HERNANDEZ

This Song

It took me places I've never been to
I play for you, for me too
Sadness and Happiness melted into the chords
That bleed out every form of thoughts bottled up

It's not sung in societal language, but in my own
Where I understand every lyric, verse, and reference
Where violence and home never felt so present
Where memories acknowledge every note

You hear sounds and see pages
Abstraction hits your face
I don't blame you I'm not a fan of cliches
But if you develop chance with time
You'll see more between the lines
Of the strings that I are worth more than your shoes
I play this song for me and for you

ALEXIS LUIS

Untitled

What makes people power

Is it money

Is it status

Or is it power

These are the elements that people want

For this world

All I want peace and not chaotic

If only us humans can work together to have peace

If that happens

It will be a true desire of power

ALEXIS HERNANDEZ

Doberman Con Cicatrices (Original Version)

Mi mente institucionalizada está presente en todo momento, modificada para
protegerme de mi entorno y, sin embargo, no estoy preparado de muchas
maneras

Los obstáculos que irrumpen sin ser invitados siempre parecen atarme a una
cerca con una cadena

Sin embargo, cuando escucho y veo tu pasado, tu discografía, me fascina cómo lo
inesperado te transformó en las pinturas altamente valoradas que has creado,
y lo que es más importante, en una persona

Estos supuestos obstáculos quedan en mi pelaje, estas son mis cicatrices

Sus autorretratos son espejos de su estado mental, su lucha en desarrollo se
convirtió en un ajuste de la vida en el que aún encontrabas paz dentro de
sus pinturas. Donde su pincel se convirtió en dientes afilados, solía liberarse
de la cadena del lienzo en blanco para liberarse de la cerca atada. Usted
encontró su casa en su arte, y donde estoy tratando de correr por la mía.

ALEXIS HERNANDEZ

Doberman With Scars (English Version)

My institutionalized mind is present at all times, modified to protect me from my
surroundings, and yet I am unprepared in many ways
Obstacles breaking in uninvited always seem to tie me to a fence with a chain
However, when I hear and see your past, your discography, I am fascinated by
how the unexpected transformed you into the highly valued paintings that
you have created, and more importantly, into a person.

These supposed obstacles remain in my fur, these are my scars

Your self-portraits are mirrors of your state of mind, your unfolding struggle
turned into a life setting in which you still found peace within his paintings.
Where your paint brush turned into sharp teeth you used to break free from
the chain of the blank canvas, to break free from the tied fence. You found
your home in your art, and where I'm trying to run for mine.

Eliot Arts Magnet Academy

HOST TEACHER

Laura Chaparian-Robles

WITS TEACHER

Ricardo Means Ybarra

MANUEL ARANA

Together

Friendship is the glue that holds people together
Friendships are what keep a man from going mad
To think of someone as your friend means they are special to you.
It means, they are there for you
Friendship is enjoying activities without end
Whether it be awkward or just for fun
As long as you are in it together, nothing can stop it
Like an apple to ones eye
Once it's in motion, you can't deny

MAYA BAILEY

Maleficent- Young And Beautiful

The sweet girl was growing fast
Her parents afraid, knowing where it's going.
Never piecing together the words
Little Aurora was cursed.
The dreadful day was coming fast
As her parents' words were stuck in the past

Aurora wandering, yearning for the spindle
The only light being her poorly lit candle.
She pricked her finger
The blood yet to linger
Regret filled the air

Even though Maleficent didn't intend to care
The true love's kiss didn't work
Making her prince feel hurt
With finally goodbye
Maleficent had a pleasant surprise
They yet to notice the beautiful girl awake.
True love's kiss is all it takes.

JOSIAH BOWMAN

Untitled

I am your friend your ally
you speak through me
I am your movement your dream,
I am your voice
I am more than just an object
I may be small but I have power

ALESSANDRA CASSIANO

“The Hill We Climb” *Inspired Poem*

“We close the divide because we know,
to put our future first,
we must first put our differences aside”
The world has become cold and dark
While we strive to be seen in the glorious light
As we learn to trust in the system that beautifully unifies
“We will not march back to what was
but move to what shall be”
For we have withstood a far worse tragedy
One that has bruised and burned us badly
But with the help of the people
We will surely overcome and prevail
For we are trying to build a system,
one with purpose
One that accepts all,
and one that will become perfect

ISAAC CASTILLO

Untitled

We live in a society
where Life is tuff,
I go to work every day
Working hard for my pay
I go home and check my mail
I look innit and it's time to pay
I wake up the next day,
And get a biscuit from my tray
I go to work and do it all again
Life is tuff
If a city of size
In a little restaurant where few people come to dine
I am all alone, with no one else to spend time
Still going to college with a degree that I'm working hard to find

MAYA DAY

One Touch

My screen is enticing
One-touch is all it takes
I see your smiles every day
And your sadness melt away
One-click is all it takes
To make everything disappear
The world will spin by, you're never in the clear
Except when you're with me,
You see the magic I create
When my screen lights up
And you can finally relate
So with each selfie, you take,
And each friend that you make
There is no task too big,
Nor risk too great

CHLOE DUPUIS

Persona Poem

I sit in a park
with the sun glaring at me
Families have picnics under me
kids play around me
Its very peaceful
the wind blows around my branches
While hearing the giggles of children
and their families
the night falls its very lonely

sometimes owls cozy up on me
when the sun rises
its back to children smiling
and dogs barking

DANIKA DUPUIS

(no subject)

I shine during the night
Lighting up the sky
Stars surround me
The sky turns bright
You can look at me without hurting an eye
The world sits quietly
The crickets chirp
As you lay on your side
The world is filled with dull light entirely
Until it's time to go back and hide

SOPHIA FIGUEROA

Mystery Guest

Fresh out of the oven,
burning hot,
the warm chocolate scent,
is easy to spot,
while you wait for it to cool down,
the excitement spreads around,
just as quickly as that flavorful smell,
this is going to be so good,
I can already tell,
and when it's finally time to eat,
everyone gathers around,
and enjoys their delicious treat.

NAIYA GRAHAM

Untitled

I'm what you need for fun,
or for school.
I tell many different stories
everyday.

My stories can go from
sad to happy or
to you sobbing
in your pillow before
you go to sleep.

I help you escape
to different realities
as soon as you open
my pages. New
characters await. And
new adventures start
to unfold.

Each crease in each page
show how much you lay
your eyes on my pages.
The heart of me stays with
you throughout each of
my saying.

The ones
that make you sit on
the edge of your seat.
The ones that make you
fall in love with my characters.
And finally, the ones that make
you wish you were there
fighting off monsters
with your favorite character.
From each page turned, a new
reality awaits.

SALMA HOLGUIN

MoonLight

As I rise it is my time to shine
I am the light you see up in the starry sky
For some people I am a nice reminder
That No matter what phase I am in
I'm still a whole
Half of me is usually always hidden
But we must go through phase of emptiness
To feel full again
I am the floating ball you see up in the dark sky
As you look out your window wondering

EWAN LAMOND

It's too Hot in Here!

It's too dang hot!
The Earth is too warm,
I can't stand on the ground without my feet getting burned,
I have to stay inside just to stay cool.
The winter feels like summer
And the summer feels like hell.
I'm being told If I'm by the ocean
there's a risk of being swallowed by water.
I'm told that if I live in the City
That pollution will kill me.

We could have prevented this, and yet we were too stupid to do anything, now
people have to scramble to fix everything, with almost no chance of winning.
Great, now I have to devote my life to fixing someone else's mistake, time to end
the heat, or move to a colder place.

RUBY MAGDALENO

Online Classes

The line I chose: We've learned that quiet isn't always peace

The classroom is quiet,
a little too quiet.
Maybe everyone is busy,
Or maybe they are sleeping.
Only one person has their camera on,
so maybe the others are in a separate room

Peace is what all teachers want.
They only ask students to pay attention to them,
to do their work,
to better their scores,
and to learn something new.

Teachers are now finding out . . .
that none of the students have been
paying attention to them,
doing their work,
getting better scores,
or learning something new.
So now we know,
quiet isn't always peace.

JAX MERRIAM

A Dark Abyss

Under the sheets
It's three A.M.
Staying up 'cause I'm worried
Staying up so I won't splinter because of the strain
Crying an ocean of pain
Doom Scrolling to find the worst of it
Primetime consumed with copious amounts of concocted stories of
horror
Wishing it would melt away into the colossal cosmic void
The world, the universe seeming though it will never be one union
I feel as though I'm falling into a dark abyss
Feelings of panic and pain wash over me-

And yet here I am
Under the sheets at 3 a.m.
And . . . I'm alive
Though I don't feel it
And though I can't explain
I know, I know deep down
That at least for now
Everything is going to be alright

ESTHER NA

Untitled

a creature flying high above
with shelters up high
wings moving fast
and soars in the sky
traveling to where they would like
with a beautiful tune and song
they sing with their beautiful voices
as well as lovely feathers that make up wings
and lay eggs up on a nest that they made
you see them until they start to fade away

KATHERINE NA

Persona Poem

A world mostly full of salt water
With the sun hitting it most of the day
Yet it stays cool to the touch
Like when people first step into the pool
And the waves that amaze people day and night
Waves that just never seem to calm down
One moment they will be calm
and the next moment they are as reckless as a fishing boat out during a storm
An ocean full of fish that vary in color and size
There are fish as blue as the sky
And as small as a paperclip
During the end of the day no one can take their eyes off it
A relaxing sunset that no one will forget
With the relaxing sound of waves in the background

PETER NA

Persona Poem

Above most nature lies a tree
With leaves roaming free in the wind
Leaves as green as the grass
And as orange as the sun
Branches long enough to give homes
And cooling shade under the sun
And fruits falling on exposed roots
With roots supporting the trunk of the tree
And the trunk that supports the branches with the leaves
And the leaves that watch the light and the dark

AILEEN NOLASCO

Life

The wind blows through the trees
Through the garden and leaves
I touch the ground and out pops a sapling.
The waves rush from the sea
Millions of creatures hidden throughout the beach
I walk through the Earth and look at what I've made
Different species of everything and the sweet smell of a bakery.
Even if the world isn't doing well
I know that there are precious moments that are worth it
I know what's to come when I make my mark
But they are overwhelming and hard
Some unexpected events that weren't supposed to be upcoming
As I hand over my masterpieces to death
I watch as they take their last breath
I know that they were mine
But there is always a time
Where I have to let them go
But even so I look forward to when the cycle begins all over again
Because as always
That's the meaning of life.

DIEGO ORTIZ

Stuffed Animals

I'm a stuffed animal
I come in many forms
I may be a bear, a cat or an owl
I provide you comfort when you are torn
And I can help you get through many storms
I am also displayed at places of fun
You must play a game and win so this can be done
I wait patiently for the claw to come down
With hopes it's my turn to be the one who's adown
Now that I won this stuffed animal he can now be crowned

ADRIAN OSEGUERA

Jackie Robinson—Persona Poem

If you don't try
you'll never know.
Along the way,
you'll be verbally abused.
Remember to always stay calm.
Always, show courage and grace.
In the end your leadership will shine,
and you will succeed!
Never give up for the last swing
could win you the game!

CHRIS PATINO

Untitled

peas in a pod
my friends and i
inseparable from the start
as close to each other
as the clouds to the sky

SAMANTHA SELE

The Girl with Blond Hair

A girl with blond hair nowhere to flee
A girl with blond hair locked up left to be
The magic she had to heal and make young
All came along with a drop from the sun

The girl with the blond hair trapped at the top
Of a tower that seems to yield no stop
Here comes her mother shouting about
Girl with blond hair do not go out

Mother has left to where about
What should i do i don't want to pout
Go out Go out
The pall on the left

No way mother said no there for i shall not go
Oh but those twinkly things in the sky
My birthday thats
What a lovely surprise

Oh mother i know what i want to do
Go see to those big big stars to
What do you mean you're still just too young
Never go out never not once

Now i have to go be safe and now
Never go out never not now
Goodbye i love you with a kiss on the head
See you in a week now go ahead

Later that day a mysterious man climb up to the tower
Then a big boom he was out for an hour
I know mother will see
I trapped this man now maybe i can see

He later awakened to quite a fright
And made an agreement to help that night
They went and they walked got in a boat

They saw the big light or lanterns as they spoke
She met her true family and all went well
Lived happily ever after from here on out

RUBI SHERMAN

Untitled

Tiana lives in new orleans
opening a restaurant is all she dreams
just like her dad told her they would
But he didn't live to the day they could

She meets a frog who once was a prince
Until the shadow man cursed him and he never was since
He convinces her to break the voodoo magic
She kisses him on the lips and what happens next is tragic
She too becomes a frog because of the curse
For a remedy they must go on a search
They enter the bayou and encounter a croc
Who tells them the way they must walk
He leads them to the witch in her hut
She gives them the reverse
But they must find themselves first
Money and fame wasn't the best
It is happiness that is better than the rest
Happily ever after they will be
Frogs or not they are free

TESSA SKIDMORE

Friendship Poem

The sound of rain splashing the sidewalk
Faint car alarms and footsteps from passersby
The familiar scent of the city
Businesses and apartments scattered along the street

Murky puddles reflecting streetlights and neon signs
Laughter and the comforting smell of cooking oil
Sharing a basket of french fries
As we walk down the street

HELENA TELLEZ

Untitled

I am dark and gloomy.
Though, sometimes I am not.
I am bright and happy.
Though, sometimes, I am not.
I am everywhere and I am no where.
Noticed one day and the next . . . not.
I make people happy.
Some days I make them sad.
Everyday I am new.
Everyday I am different, but the same.

AIMEE YAP

Seeing Clearly

A tired sea of beauty
A dancing fire in the dark
Calm, collective
Sometimes sending daggers
It's just like a mirror
Just like a camera
Similar to a window
Blinds that open and close
A lamp turning on
And you're the plug that it needs
We sometimes get lost in others
Like a child in a store
And other times go unnoticeable

GABRIEL BLIZZARD

Mystery Poem—Alexander Hamilton

The hurricane swept my life away.
Each tree dragged with force.
The clouds leave the sky in grey.
We scurried to a nearby safeplace for the evacuation they enforced
My writing kept me in a safeplace.
An escape from the horrors at bay.
But ever since my mom went away.
All I feel is her warm embrace.
My second chance was in New York city.
Where my life truly began.
Where general Washington took great pity.
He knew he was in for a challenge at first glance.
We won the war against the enemy.
Our colonies were finally free.
Where i can finally pursue my destiny,
With my kids, my wife, and me.

GRANT BLIZZARD

Humpty Dumpty

As Humpty Dumpty was walking around the kingdom
He said “hello” to his neighbors making people smile
As his legs got tired for a while
He saw a bench but didn’t see the sign on it
The sign said “loose bench do not sit”
As Humpty leaned back on it he fell
almost cracking himself in half
but when he fell off the other people laughed
a day has past and Humpty cries for help
He yelped and yelped but then it felt sad
The knights come and try to put him together
but it was no use Humpty was left there alone
And when he fell it splatted like an ice cream cone
days and days past as the birds glide
As he fell asleep he waited Until he died
(end of poem)

AYDEN BURNES

The tail of Naruto Uzumaki

Narato was a lone child with a beast, his father saved the villager so they could
show

Naruto some decency at least. His world will change with a challenge as hard as
rock,

so he will work hard to save the world before it comes to a stop.

MADRID CORALES

Women

It's not easy

It's not easy being a women

Being objectified

The saying "boys will be boys" is now just the new normal

I can't wear a tanktop

I can't wear shorts shorter than my fingertips

Why can't us women just be what we want to be

And do what we want to do

HAILEY CRAMER

"The lost we carry"

As I climb up falling down having too much to carry on me
As I slowly and shallowly sink
Holding in the pain and sadness
Giving a fake smile and laughter
As the emotions build up as I burst of too much to carry
The pain has finally pushed out and fell as all those memories start coming back
as it
stops.

EDUARDO GARCIA

Fairy Tail poem

Many times upon a time,
A little boy bought a drone,
Many times upon a time,
Then the little boy bought a phone
Many times upon a time,
The little boy was gone.

LEILA JOHNSON

My Fairy Tale Poem

She stands surely on the edge of her rock,
Her long dark locks flowing through slow wind
She's not afraid of the danger around her,
Nor will she turn away from it as well

She's defeated monsters and creatures of every kind,
With her fighting hands and stubborn mind
She claims she does not need no one,
For she can handle her own life alone

She does not dress in a fancy dress or regal gown,
She chooses what she wishes to wear
She does not speak or sing in a heavenly, starstruck voice,
She chooses to use her own bold words of steel

Her cold forests with whispering trees are where she calls home,
Like the animals that dance and run she is also free to roam
She'll run alongside large wolves in the shadowy thickets,
And sleep close to the small bear family while listening to the songs of the
crickets

Inside she won't let anyone take hold of her,
Outside is where she loves to be
Even if she has no comb, no love story, or friends like her,
She was the woman that could watch over her dear animal beings

JAZIYAIH JOHNSON

Desire

I'm prepared in various ways
Sometimes sweet
Sometimes salty
I can be good or bad,
Soft or dense
I can be any color
Some use me to become healthy,
Others use me to be unhealthy
When considered junk, I tend to be avoided
I'm known to be the most wanted desire

WANNAPAS KOOMJOHO
Tom and Jerry Poem

Tom is a cat
And is big enough to hold a bat
Jerry is a mouse
It lives in a hole house

Tom & Jerry are good friends
No matter how many time they fight
They won't be apart
They have a good relationship

VICTORIA KRECHETOV

“The Hill We Climb” *Inspired poem*

Big, blue and beautiful is what our Earth is.
It may seem beautiful
But what if it were to be more beautiful?
All humans would join together . . .
happily. There would be no judgement . . .
not about your beliefs, skin, or sexuality.
We would all sing and dance, together . . .
like the union we were wanted to forge . . .
with a purpose

JAZLYN LESSARD

My body my choice

It is my choice what to wear

It is my choice how to act

It is my choice what I do

This is my body

The cries and screams I hear

Coming from protesters anger me

They do not choose

I do

CAMILA LOPEZ

Untitled

Droplets fall onto my palm
Once again it came back after 6 months
Of nothing but dust.

An emptiness that has laid next to me,
An unrequited feeling lies upon me
Rain has come just to leave,
Another wound, I just came to please.

Dancing to the rain,
An empty feeling it is.
As loneliness has come with my trust
I am turning into rust.

Dont worry I will soak myself,
With vinegar and lime
For once again I will shine
As bright as the stars in the gloomy night.

The feeling of fight or flight is too strong
The smell of rain I had longed for.
Rain had come just to prove me wrong.
But I have yet to stand tall.

If I were rain, and rain were me
Would they pay me any heed?
Or would they leave me to my devices
And let me leave?

The rain only came for something of mine
Maybe a precious stone of my time
Here the rain comes
Here the rain leaves
Let me give them all they need.

MARLON NUNN

Untitled

I live in the woods I have big antlers
If you go head on with me you will get hurt
I am a protector of my kids
I eat grass
It makes me pass gas
But it keep me fuel
I am brown
Event September to November I breed
What am I

JOSSELINE ORTEGA

A Prince Without Its Princess

Before I met my source of happiness
I was a street rat
I laughed in the face of danger
Then I met her and her name is Jasmine
But then things went wrong
Life without her isn't the same
it feels like I am dying
she's my tree who gives me oxygen
She bring me a source of happiness
She is an artist whose
heart is the best masterpiece.

JANOAH ORITZ

Farewell

Loneliness , pain , remorse and sorrow I feel .
There's a weight on my shoulders and chest that I know not of .
Was it because of you ?
You kept adding the weights until I'd eventually shatter .
A shattered glass cannot return to its original state of matter
But it was all because of your hate .
There is me affected but you not .
I thought that you would take my hand in support .
As you only made me feel more depression of some sort .
I built up courage to finally let your hand go
“ Please don't leave me ” you begged me so
But this is a farewell forever to you that only I know .

ALEXIS PIERRE

Untitled

Missing school

missing students

missing teachers

I wonder if they miss me too

ALEJANDRO PULIDO

Untitled

The Sea, it is a beautiful thing it can have little mass, maybe Tons of mass.
It takes no shape it does not have no original form it is only too a few plants,
it takes up 96% of earth and it is inside all of us,
we don't we won't run out of water
only 10% or less is discovered
it is a mystery yet so beautiful and water can be anything take any amount of
space
There are no limits it is beautiful

JOSE RIVERA

Untitled

If you always try your best
Than you'll never have to wonder
Of the things you could have done
If you'd spawned all ur heat

And if your best
Was not as good
As you hoped it would be
You still could say
"I gave today"
All that i had left in me

VICTORIA ROBLES

Untitled

My mom
Made me, me
With smiles and sunshine
She holds my heart
Loves life and laughter
And walks without weight
My mom is my faithful friend
Who gives happy hugs
And kisses, kisses, kisses
My mom is a wise women
She is my marvelously, magnificent mother

CHRISTOPHER RUIZ
Friendship Poem

Our friendship is a blooming flower
never ending and always growing
having the time of our lives
we are lions that run wild and free
our lives are a long story
our friendship is a journey
full of excitement and adventure

MARTIN SANTOS

Trees

I would never see a poem
As lovely as a tree

A tree which it stands
on a hill in a beautiful morning day

A tree that looks at the sun all day
That makes in shine all day

A tree that makes a nice home
For a Robin to make their nest

Sometimes the weather is not good
The cold snow or the wet rain

But the Beautiful tree stands
It stand strong and prettier that ever

SI YU SLANA TO

Friendships

My friend is like a four-leaf clover
its hard to find and lucky to discover
its important to treasure as gold
otherwise it falls like snow
the tree loosing every strain of hair
until its bold

but a ray of sunlight comes
its warms my heart
a new leaf comes to life
we get closer, stronger
and bolder than ever

SAVANNAH VALENZUELA-AGUIAR

Mystery Persona Poem

I've worked hard in my life.

I've been to school.

I got married.

I've raised my kids.

I experienced great adventures.

But it's time.

It's time to live in a beach house.

Watch the sunset with my lover.

Live the rest of my life peacefully.

It's time to reflect on the great memories I've created in my life.

DINAH VALLE TOVAR

Untitled

together we lie
over the smallest little thing
together forever just you and me
we will even live and die together
cuz that is how it's going to be
forever together just you and me

KANIYA WILLIAMS

My mother

I am my mom and an inspiring person.

A mother of 5, 4 girls and 1 boy.

I care for more than myself.

I give than to get.

I am a long lasting loving person.

I am a little sister of three

I have good times and bad times like everyone else.

I love math and doing it with my kids.

Jackson STEM Dual Language Magnet Academy

HOST TEACHER

Linda Keavy

WITS TEACHER

Lorinda Toledo

DAYVION RIDGELL

Nature Haiku

Surrounded by dirt
they are mostly at the park
you can climb oak trees

JAZMINE MARTINEZ

Nature Haiku

Animals splashing
in rain puddles having fun
and playing all day

ALYZAH ESTRADHAUSS

Nature Haiku

going on the boat
to the mini waterfall
its fun at the lake

BRISA NAVARRETE

Nature Haiku

Going to the beach
I see a lot of dolphins
Swimming in the waves

JENNEFER DOMINGUEZ PEREZ

Nature Haiku

My white umbrella
Raining outside it's no fun
It's twirling so fast

MELANIE OLIDE

Polar Bear

I love white polar baby polar because they can stay in the cold how long they want they don't have a limit.

I would like it to teach me how they have no limit to stay on the ice.

it almost looks like a normal bear, but this bear could stay in the ice longer than u guys think.

polar bears sound like a bear just like a squeaky noise like their crying but in reality they communicate with the other polar bears.

they have a type of fur the bears have like a thin fur type but polar bears have very sensitive skin fur type very soft like a pillow.

GERARDO ARAQUE RAMIREZ

Oreo

I love Oreo because he cuddles with me. Oreo is my best friend.

ROSE BERKMAN
Animal Poem

- * cat
- * mouse
- * bird
- * squirrel
- * fish
- * bee
- * lizard

ALICIA FLORES

Giraffe

- * I'm a giraffe I am very tall and I could see all
- * My neck helps me reach high places and helps me eat leaves,
- * I live in east Africa with the rest of my friends and family.
- * My giraffe looks like a city light in the night
- * A giraffe is good at seeing things that are high,
- * My giraffe is good at being a leader
- * I am a good leader and a friend!

GISELL ARELLANO

My Albino Monkey

My Albino Monkey

My monkey is small

My monkey likes nuts

My monkey's heart is as big as my palm

My monkey likes to jump from tree to tree

My monkey acts like a toddler

My monkey is soft and furry and that's why I like it.

SARAY ARGUETTA

Bunny-Rabbit

*I love my animal when it jumps around.

*I love my animal when it eats carrots, hay.

*I love my animal when it runs around because it's super fast.

*I love my animal when it tries to escape my arm.

*I love my animal when it lays down/sleeps.

*My animal is a rabbit/bunny.

ZACHARY TYLER
Animal Poem

*i am a dog here me bark
* because it is cute
*go on walks
*in a house with food
*a big cat
*my dog is old and sleeps all day
*it loves me

FATIMA CAMPOS

Panda

*My animal is a panda

*I like my animal because it eats a lot

*My animal is cute and chubby

*My animal is strong

*My animal smells like nature

*My animal loves to eat a lot

*My animal is tall and is kind

VALENTINA SALGADO

Dove

*My animal is a dove

*I love my animal because they represent love

*My animal flies in the air

*My animal could be mistaken for a white sparrow

*My dove is a flier and flies through the sky

JESUS GONZALEZ

Monkey

The best thing I like about my monkey is how it swings on trees and also how it
pew there bananas. I
will say to my monkey to teach me how to climb a tree. how it sounds like a
monkey, they also smell
like grass. If I saw my animal from far away I would see it like a dog or cat. If I
imagine my monkey's
heart it will be the size of my hand
If I was a monkey. The monkey will know that I'm good at video games

MARILYN MORALES

Polar Bear

polar bears, polar bears
I love the cold weather.
I also like snow.
I live in the arctic I also like being on ice
and playing on ice.
my fur helps me to stay warm from the
cold. also my fur is really soft.
I love eating fish.

JOURNEE MCKNIGHT

Killer Whale

I am a Killer Whale

BUT

I am NOT a killer

I am NOT a whale

I am a dolphin

*My scientific name is orca

but u can call me shamu

*I hunt my prey the deep ocean

*It's such a battle

that people think my saddle

is my eye

but its not

it is just a spot

*i am smart,

i am creative,

i am soft

*I am a killer whale

DANICA RICO

Tigers

I like tigers:

1. I like tigers because they're soft
2. They're brave animals
3. They run fast
4. they stay in packs like a wolf
5. and there's always the alpha and the pack

ANDY VELA DOMINGUEZ

Grizzly Bear

My animal is a Grizzly Bear.
It's claws can grab fishes.
The black one is the tallest
and weighs the most.
The feet are really big
With hands the size of
a child's head.
Bears are not that mean.
They are nice if you
leave them alone.
But if you have food,
Watch out!

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HOST TEACHER

Shanon Smith

WITS TEACHER

Timea Sipos

MIA TABAREZ

Arctic Fox

Frost fingers trace lines,
Across winter-kissed grass where
Arctic foxes pass.

KAI-LEL CARPENTER

Black Mamba

The black Mamba hisses
A black mamba is a snake
The eat rats and mice

MOISES SALCEDO

Lila

Brown as Chocolate

Loud as a howling siren

Running through the grass

MAXIMUS MARTINEZ

Untitled

I like cheese and milk

Cheese is nutritious and milk

Milk is healthy for you

JUAQUIN GUZMAN

Untitled

I like candy and soda
Candy has lots of sugar
Candy is the best

KARSEN MALLORY

Home

I like this movie

It has a creature named Boov

Purple as a cake

KAYDEN SMITH

Untitled

Strong, saggy, fluffy

My animal's name: Colda

It has no claws, jumps

ANA HERNANDEZ GALLARDO

Untitled

Ocean is cold as ice
Soft wind, blue ocean like the
Sky. Calm, deep, dark space

AVA GARCIA

Untitled

They move slow as sloths
They have a snow ball tail.
Dark as the night sky.

MARLEY MUNOZ

The Beach

The beach is cool

The waves go by fast

With ships in the deep

KRISTEN VALENCIA

Untitled

The shark has sharp teeth
The gills feel like sandpaper
Sharks have good eyesight.

JUAN RAMIREZ

Untitled

My animal name

Is Slo Mo. It has

Claws and is fluffy

JODEN SIMMONS

Untitled

He arrives like the wind

A mighty force with super natural powers

He fights evil for justice

DAVID MARTINEZ

Untitled

It's furry plays and it talks

The husky is furry and playful and it talks

Like this aau!!!!

Jackson STEM Dual Language Magnet Academy

HOST TEACHER

Jocelyn Strickland

WITS TEACHER

Ryka Aoki

KEYMANII BROWN

Untitled

You were here happy, nice, kind but they did not like so now you're gone we cry
and cry hoping it's not true but Pandora opened the box so it's true you're
gone, never to be seen.

AIDEN PEREZ

Untitled

Disneyland is a place the fun comes to magic
and the magic comes to reality.
When you see people waiting to get in
it doesn't look like fun when you get in
it's a whole new world, a place where dreams come true.
When you get you smell the turkey legs,
popcorn from a mile away
then you walk away to find a ride that fits you
too small, you can ride on that doesn't go fast
Slow, inside, outside, water, fly.

ANONYMOUS

Brooklyn House

Give it your all
To have a ball
Time go by fast
So let yourself have blast

JOSHUA GONZALEZ

Untitled

When I close my eyes
I smell Apples, but not your normal apples.
They come from a Tree, a special tree.
I think of a Tiger, a tiger of courage.
It's Running, running through a rainforest.

What time is it
It's time to win
I close my eyes and see yellow for happiness.
I hear Trumpets of Victory.
What am I doing, I'm playing Fortnite, I'm winning and carrying the team to
Victory.

What is the season is it
Summer
I hear my friend Jesus telling me we're going to win.
Yesterday I was at home playing.
Today I'm outside enjoying the fresh breeze when I hear my name, but not in the
human world but my human mind, and hear Josh get on want to get one
another win . . .

ELIJAH DOMINGUEZ

Untitled

When I am at home,
My favorite thing to do is play roblox with my friends.
When I play roblox with my friends,
It makes me feel joyful even with this pandemic going on.
The pandemic makes me sad because I can't go to school
Or anywhere else
So once again playing roblox with my friends
Is what I look forward to and enjoy the most.

MATTHEW CAMPOS

Untitled

Roses are red

Violets are blue

We love the earth and the earth loves us too

The earth is blue so take care of it

And it will take care of us too

ELIJAH MOSS

Untitled

Peace in the world I want to see

Happy people is my fantasy

Love is nice and kind

Something that is on my mind

ALYSSA VENEGAS

Untitled

Softball, the only
place it's okay to steal ;)

ALEXZANDRA SPRATLING

Untitled

Blue white all your life
Red yellow one new fellow
Green Pink this is me
This is who I want to be
No, No I don't leave
No, No I don't flee
I really really want some tea
Try to stay nice your whole life
What would you do if it's fight or flight
We all play together
Now it will be forever
It will never end ever
We'll go home together

ISABEL MARTINEZ

Untitled

She was gone away forever,
She was always misunderstood,
She was an angel picked by heaven,
To come to earth and give a lesson,
How to love,
How to let go,
Like everyone knows it's a hard thing to do,
And she blew away all the pain,
Until her so called friend cut her life short,
And ending in shrife,
La Reina was gone,
But to all of us her spirit lives on forever.
That reina was Selena Quintenilla.
And I know that we will all be dreaming of her too.

Instructor Biographies

Ryka Aoki is a poet, composer, teacher, and novelist. Her latest novel, *Light from Uncommon Stars*, is forthcoming from Tor Books in Fall 2021. Ryka's work has appeared or been recognized in publications including *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Bustle*, *Autostraddle*, *PopSugar*, and *Buzzfeed*. Her latest poetry appeared at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, and she was honored by the California State Senate for "extraordinary commitment to the visibility and wellbeing of transgender people." She has an MFA in creative writing from Cornell University, and is currently a professor of English at Santa Monica College. www.rykaryka.com

Matty Layne Glasgow is the author of *deciduous qween* (Red Hen Press 2019), winner of the Benjamin Saltman Award. His poems have appeared in or are forthcoming from *Copper Nickel*, *Crazyhorse*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Ecotone*, *Gulf Coast*, *Houston Public Media*, the *Missouri Review*, *Poetry Daily*, and elsewhere. He is a Vice Presidential Fellow at the University of Utah where he serves as the Wasatch Writers in the Schools Coordinator and the Editor of *Quarterly West*.

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Lorinda Toledo's novel-in-progress was named first runner-up for the 2019 James Jones First Novel Fellowship, and an honorable mention in *CRAFT's* First Chapters Contest. Her short fiction has been published in the *Mississippi Review*, *The Normal School*, and elsewhere. She earned a doctorate in literature from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, where her work was supported by multiple awards including the Barrick Graduate Fellowship and a Black Mountain Institute PhD Fellowship. Her MFA is from Antioch University Los Angeles. She is an acquisitions editor for Jaded Ibis Press, teaches writing at AULA, and is a freelance writing coach and editor. lorindatoledo.com

Ricardo Means Ybarra is a sixth generation Californio, husband, father, Writing in the Schools teacher, and former poet laureate of Malibu. An admirer of ants but not termites, Ricardo has published two novels, a book series for children, two volumes of poetry, and a collection of community poems and art—*Radical Beauty: Malibu after the Fire*. Ricardo has taught with Writing in the Schools for ten years.

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