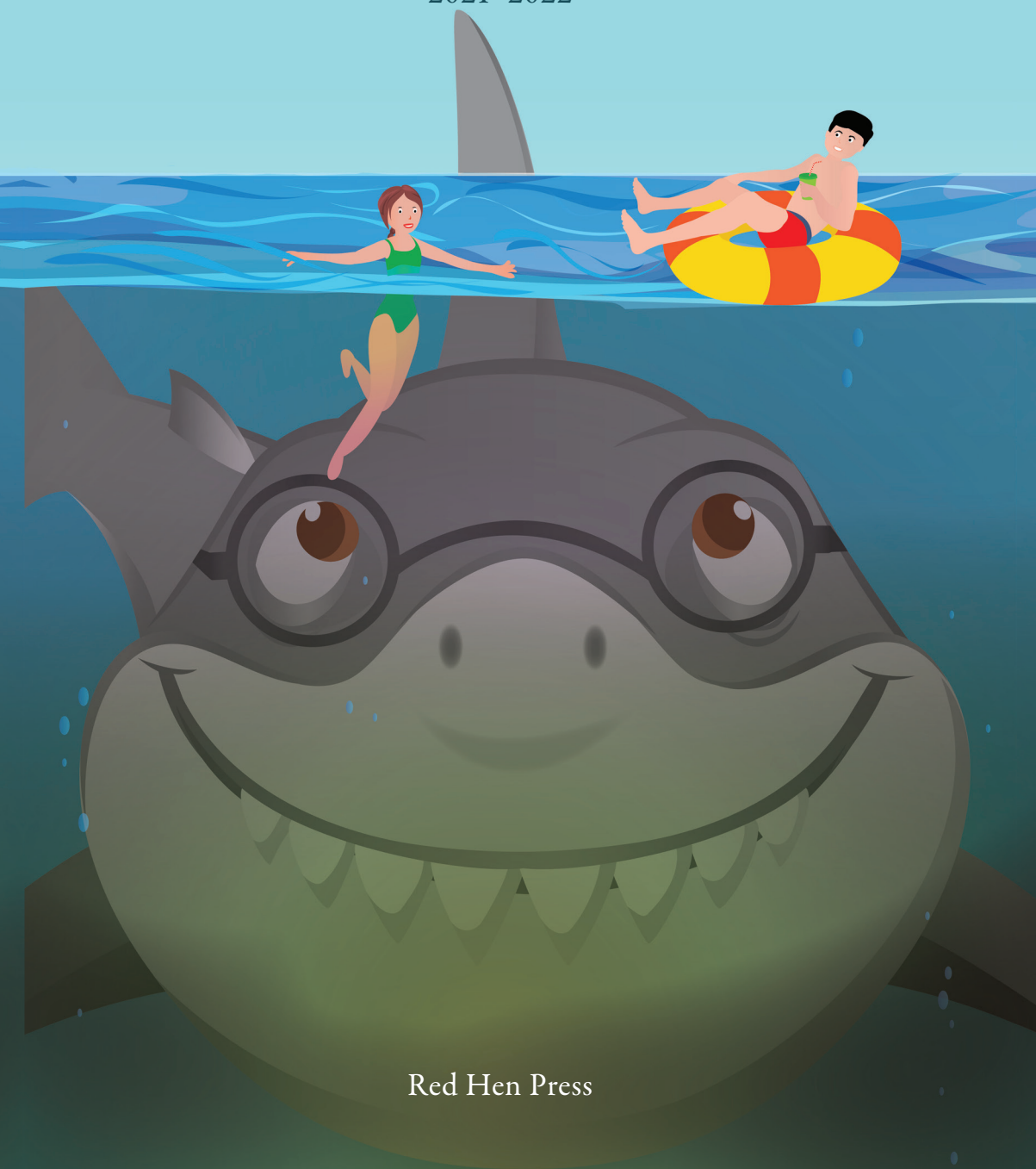


OCEAN OF FLAVOR

Writing in the Schools
Student Anthology
2021–2022



Red Hen Press

Ocean of Flavor



Ocean of Flavor

Writing in the Schools
Student Anthology 2021-2022



Red Hen Press | *Pasadena, CA*

Ocean of Flavor

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 two 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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Ocean of Flavor



Charles W. Eliot Arts Magnet Academy

HOST TEACHER

Kyanna Ray

WITS INSTRUCTORS

Erica Charis-Molling, Matty Layne Glasgow, and Bonnie S. Kaplan

7th Grade

MIA AMEN

My Desire

Passionate, greatest
with a sincere desire
bodily cravings

ELISABETH ANDERSON

I put all my brain power into this, but it is still bad.

I am not good at poems, sorry.

Some people may not like my slay style.

Some people may not like the way I talk.

Some people may not like the way I walk.

Some people may not like the things I wear.

Some people may not like how I look.

Some people do not like me.

Even though there are a lot of people hating me, I still like the way I am.

I love myself.

JOHANA GONZALEZ BANEGAS

Fantasy Poem

To the left of zero and into the center of negative numbers to imaginary ones
where beauty doesn't imply exclusion. The square root of a negative number,
thought forms of a little girl.

CHRISTOPHER BARAJAS

Gift

Grandma Vicky made me Sopa De Letra with chopped chicken. So soft, it was a cold day too, so the soup tasted better.

KELSI BARON

Shapes

Shapes. Why do they form this way?
Why do they come to an angle or a frame?
Shapes can be a large or small size,
But shapes can be used to create imaginary things in your mind.
You try and make shapes and shadows with your hands in front of the light.
Even when it doesn't come out as it should, it always comes out as something true.
More shapes, more creation,
then if more creation, more invention.
Invention can lead to destruction,
like how when you were stacking up your toy blocks as a baby,
and it came crashing down after too many piled up.
Sometimes when shapes stack, stack, and pile up,
there will be too much to hold.
That's how a human feels with pressure.
Humans come crashing down like those blocks,
but somehow, there's always one person that holds it all in,
but there will never be someone who can keep it all in
without crying, yelling, or letting out some form of sadness or anger.
Life is just shapes.
Humans are just frames.

DRAVEN BELLO

Purple

Purple tastes like sweet grapes

Purple is the scent of lavender

Purple is as pretty as amethyst

Purple is the color of bravery

Purple is the best color

JUNIA BENIHYA

As I Stand on the Sand

As I stand on the sand,
I watch the ocean roar.
I stare at the shore
and listen to the waves crash.

As I stand on the sand,
I dash for the sea.

Waves crash against the ocean.
As I stand in the ocean,
I smell the fresh scent of the beach.

KYRON BLANCHETTE

Baby Kyron

Spider monkey

My spider monkey jumped out the window and hopped on a tree.

When I went outside, he jumped on me.

He got bit and got fleas.

He got cleaned and ate peas.

He's also thirteen.

Feed me, please.

ANTHONY BLANKEVOORT

Ode to Food

Nice candy
Maybe razor blades in them
Maybe not
Eating the candy maybe not
Fun costumes
Boring costumes
It's fun
It's boring
As much candy as I want
As much candy as I need
Dollar store candy
And the full-size candy
Name brands
Off brands
We all like name brands

BRIANNA CANIZAL

Life

I am not for everyone.
I know my truth. I know who I am.
I know what I do and do not bring
to the table. I'm not easy to deal
with, but I do bring tons of value.
I bring love and strength,
but I am not perfect, and if
I don't fit in with a person or group.
That's okay with me.

VALERIE CAZARES

The Chase

A bunny is looking for a carrot
The bunny searches for it
The carrot was taken by a fox
The bunny chases the fox
The fox goes through a log
and the bunny gets stuck
A snake helps the bunny
by pushing the bunny out of the log
Then the snake catches the fox
and the bunny gets the carrot back

DIANA CERVANTES

School

Probably one of the hardest things.
I used to love school as a kid
playing tag with my friends at recess
getting in trouble and getting sent to the bench as timeout
seeing other kids laughing, giggling, smiling,
but now it feels like a chore.
If I go the full week, I'm proud,
but it's draining.
Even some students don't understand the anxiety of seeing people.
"What if they're talking about me?"
"What are they thinking about me?"
The pressure of taking tests.
"What if I don't get 100%?"
"I need to get a good grade."
Sitting in class
daydreaming about the world you have inside your head
wanting to sleep cause you stayed up all night
crying.
School
is draining.

MOTH RANNEE CONNER

The Spider Effect

I was sweating a river,
felt hot and dizzy.
Everything was spinning,
didn't know the reason why I felt this way.
All I knew was that I had to get to my bed,
carrying my whole body up the stairs.
Knew it was only a few minutes, but it felt like hours of walking.
Once I finally reached my room I collapsed,
not even reaching my bed.
Tiredness took over my whole body, and I fell asleep.
It felt like needles going in and out of my body,
but I couldn't wake up,
the feeling of being bitten all over my body by a spider.
Injecting the venom to my DNA.

GIOVANNI CONTRERAS

A Chill and Peaceful Friend

I'm not asking you to meet everyday
I could try and bare
when you are away
All I need is just some care

All I need is not to feel so much alone
All I need is a tender heart not hard as stone
All I need is to hear your voice on the phone

MICHELLE CONTRERAS

Joy

Joy Joy seeps into
my bones flooding
the marrow tickling
the cell
until a slow wide
smile spreads across my face

SHANE SANCHEZ CORTES

Untitled

Solitary cloud

Shadow in the setting sun

Stirs the drifter's heart

MATILDA CURRIE

Ode to a Bag

Brooke Zeisler made me a painted bag.
This bag was tan like the warm
beach sand. It was as big as the ocean at night.

It felt as soft as a Newfoundland puppy.
It smelled like it was in saltwater at midday.

When I put it on, it was like I was balancing a feather
on my shoulder. It made me feel like I was actually
known and not invisible.

I felt like I was loved and not forgotten.
It made me feel like people actually listen to the things I say.

JESUS DELATORRE

An Ode to Eggs

My mom made me eggs and sausage this morning,
and every morning every other day. They were made perfectly like a ride
that was made perfectly. The parts are new and just made from the best
ironsmith. The sausage was like a slide of joy and excitement. It slid down
my throat slowly and tasted even better in my stomach.

KHYLEE DENHAM

Window Owl

Owl is my lone friend
Every night it goes hunting
Seen through the window

GISELE YULIANA DOMINGUEZ-ALVA

Try Your Best

If you always try your best
then you'll never have to wonder
about what you could have done.
If you'd summoned all your thunder

and if your best
was not as good
as you hoped it would be
you still could say,
"I gave my best.
All that I had in me."

ALBERTO ESCANDON

Untitled

I used to date an unemployed girl before.
But sadly, it did not WORK
for HER at the time.

VALERIA ESCARENO

Panda Poem

You black and white beasts
from the far east.
Oh, how I long to be invited to your panda feasts.
I put on my panda hat with my panda suit,
tie my panda tie and my panda shoes.
I arrive at your gate with all my panda bling.
But you say, for me to enter, I must wear your panda ring.
That doesn't sound so bad if that's all I need to do
to be allowed to enter and eat bamboo with you.
I've waited for this moment, longed to be accepted.
To be honest, it's not what I expected.
Although I am so close, and the ring looks nice,
I hesitate for a second, take a moment to think twice.
Is this what my life has come to, debating a "panda ring"?
Enslaved to every whim of the panda king,
doing what he wants me to, just to be approved.
Once I put that ring on, it cannot be removed.
No, I will not stoop to a panda ring.
I have my own bear song to sing.
As I say goodbye, waving my bare hand,
I notice panda rings on all their bare hands.
Spotless, I return, back home to the ice,
ready to chill out and live a polarized life.

JUSTIN FIGUEROA

My Family

The only people I will ever need
They are the reason I will succeed
As family we may fight
I hope we can make things right
Relationships are together
But family is forever
I love them with all my heart
I hope we are never apart

ANGEL FRANCO

A Dream of a Black Panther

“What are you doing inside my house?”

Growls and hisses for food

“Get out of my house.”

Panther in my house

Why are you here at my house?

Growls and hisses for food

LUCCA GALEANO

Ode to Hamburgers

The juicy beef, the crispy lettuce and melted cheese

I love hamburgers

The crispy french fries and ketchup on the side

I love hamburgers

The smell of the greasy beef sizzling on the grill

I love hamburgers

The smell of the smoke on the fourth of July barbecue

I love hamburgers

SADIE GARCIA

Haiku

Searching for sunshine
The bird whistles in the tree
So today begins

SANDRA GONZALEZ

Wonderland

White rabbit, singing flowers, talking caterpillar, weird creatures, tea parties, croquet with the queen.
Just a little glimpse of wonderland.

I find myself looking back at wonderland along with the crazy memories I made there.
I remember it like it was just yesterday.

It was a crazy world, but I love that crazy world.
Sometimes I hope when I drift off to sleep, I will open my eyes and find myself back in that amazing world called wonderland.

It felt so real.
I sometimes find myself thinking, was it really a dream? What if I never followed the white rabbit? What if I would have gone to the march hare instead of the mad hatter?

The cheshire cat's smile still haunts me to this day.
It's impossible to forget wonderland.
The place I could only visit once when I closed my eyes in my wildest dreams.

SHELBY GULLEY

Myself

I am something cool.

I love to play on the field.

I am super-duper fast.

CHLOE KENDALL GURZI

As a Kid

Remember the days you just had fun laying around the fire. The days you ran through the grass, the days you rolled down the hills with nothing on your mind except all the good times.

You dreamed of bright lights not knowing there is dark. Couldn't figure out everything, that's what made it a fun start.

Made cookies, drew on the walls, and made mistakes we still do. Of course, there were times where we fell down, but we got back up and saw the sun. We went into our room and found something to wear not knowing how it looked but we didn't care.

The days we woke up with nothing to do, just hanging out with our family, they already planned out what to do.

My childhood was fun, my childhood was great. I love the person I turned out to be and I learned from my mistakes. I will remember all the times that brought me joy to help me become my future self. I'm still growing and can't wait to see the person I turn out to be.

ASPEN HARTIGAN

Dungeons and Dragons

Colorful, a charm inside
Sometimes patterned like dragon hide
Clunk clunk clunk across the table
Wait for it to settle, stable
I want to be a pack of dice
sparkling like fresh frozen ice
Dungeons and Dragons
boblets and flagons
You decide the player's fate
Will you be filled with luck or filled with hate?

LICHEN HARTIGAN

Ode to Secrets

Ode to secrets
Always kept
bound with ropes
made of promise

Ode to secrets
Never spilled
like hot wax
from a candle

Ode to secrets
Friends we tell
trusting them
with hidden truths

Ode to secrets
Long kept inside
like a butterfly
in a jar

Ode to secrets
Always kept
never spilled
by trusted friends

Ode to secrets
Ode to secrets
Keep my secret
kept inside

AMIE HAW
Untitled

I am the Earth.
I am the embodiment of nature,
The embodiment of all things living.
I provide shelter for those in need
until they begin leeching off my generosity,
unwilling to leave like parasites,
leaving nothing left of me but bone.
I am the stars.
I am a vessel of life,
a vessel of a hopeful eternity of light,
but when I'm met with conflict,
my only choice is to burn out,
to burn out and die.
But the people!
The people still see a shining light,
A light that burns forever,
And when that light disappears,
nobody even notices I'm gone.
I am the universe,
a beautiful concoction of various planets and galaxies,
an endless cycle of expanding and contracting,
a majestic piece of art.
I contain everything you can ever imagine.
Over time frailness grows on me.
Oh, who knew?
Such a powerful force in everyone's eyes,
failing to succeed,
ceasing to exist,
Over time, I disappear.

CYRESS HERNANDEZ

Caged

The grass is always greener on the other side. In this case, it is. I stare at the rust on the cages I'm forced into. Thinking. When will it break? What if I'm stuck here forever, behind bars? Stuck. Break, break, break. I repeat the words to myself in my head. What if I break before it does? I see people, and families, passing past the glass, happy. And here I am. Stuck. Alone. In my head. So truly, the grass is greener on the other side.

LAYLA HOWARD

Crocodile

Some crocodiles swim in nice blue freshwater
while other crocodiles swim in dirty trash black water.

“Rawr,” says one of the crocodiles.

“Squeak,” goes the other, unusual for a crocodile to say.

Do you know which crocodile said that?

Was it the fresh blue crocodiles or the dirty brackish water crocodiles?

ZOE HUYLBER

Bread at the Shop

Sometimes we don't feel hungry,
but sometimes we do.
Hunger has spread all over the world to you and who?
The bread at the shop has become stale.
Bread at the shop has become bail.
The bread at the shop does sell,
to the poor, the little man who doesn't feel hail.
It's cold outside and the bread is old.
He takes a bite with little told.
The man in the shop has sold a roll.

KING JOHNSON

Larry

Larry comes in many forms.

Tall, big, small, poor.

Larry has a family.

Larry fights for the skeletons happily.

Larry can come from graveyard and tombstone.

He is very weak considering that he's made from only bones.

ALEXANDER KAHKEDJIAN

The Magic of Art

As I take a seat
and bring out the notebook,
my hand goes to work
like it's got a mind of its own.
I can't control it,
but I don't want to stop.
It's a great feeling.
One that everyone should experience,
as if the pencil is a chisel
and the brick is the page.
Every stroke of the lead
creates something new
and sooner or later
you'll create a masterpiece,
a masterpiece only you can understand.
Once you're done, you'll feel the magic
of art flowing through your veins.

GARY LITTLEJOHN

Gary

Creative, tall, black, funny

Son of Shamika

I love video games, food, and drawing

I fear lighter fears

I need to be home alone just so I can have my privacy

I would like to see a giant explosion

Pasadena and California

LittleJohn

JOCELYN LLOYD

Ode to My Best Friend

You're nice

You're sweet

You're the best person I could meet

Every time I see you I get happy

When I'm sad and I see you it's like nothing else matters

You make me excited to go to school

I trust you with everything even my sanity

Not only are you my bestie but you give me free therapy

MILO MACDONALD

An Ode to Cheese

It's never bad.
It always makes my day.
It has oh so many different tastes each one being unique in its own way!
Put it on pasta.
Put on a party plater.
Put it on anything you desire it doesn't matter!
Because in the end
no matter what
the cheese will always keep you standing up.
Cheese is great!
It goes with grapes!
So divine!
Whenever I eat cheese the flavors strive.
It reminds me of a soft spring evening so happy that I cry.
Cheese brings me emotion.
It opens my eyes
as a tear runs down my face with pride.

WAYNE MCCLAIN D

Rain

Rain is when clouds come
The little drops of wetness
The floor suddenly getting wet
The smell of freshness

MILAN MCCOY

Something I Wrote

When I was sleeping, I woke in a boat
afloat carrying a goat that had told a tale
for a fairy carrying a bell that was red like fire
and it smelled like strawberries
that were still on the boat,
that was eaten by the goat

SANDY MEDINA

Untitled

I understand them
(you don't)
The light feels so good
(you hate the light)
I could see everyone again
(you fell because of them)
All of them are free now
(are you free?)
If they're happy, so am I
(you're not)
I'm happy for them
(are you?)

EVER MELENDEZ

Ocean of Flavor

My sister made me a dish.
It had white strings
in a river of sauce.
It had dust of garlic
and came with a bread,
texture so soft.
It had tasted splendid
unmatched by any.
The strings were handcrafted
made into perfection.
One may just call it alfredo,
but I call it an ocean of flavor.

LAILA MELENDEZ

Time

Time goes by super fast.
My mom runs like the flash.
When time goes slow,
she goes goes goes!
In a blink of an eye,
it's already day or night,
She runs so fast.
She's always out of sight.
Do you know her daughter is about to be thirteen?
Time went by so fast I remember how fast I would run.
When I don't clean up my room,
my mom zoom zoom zoom across my face.
I won't go fast because I want my time with her to last.

JORDI MIRALLES

Deep Connections

My aunt once made me a blueberry cobbler
The taste and the aroma
When I first took a smell of it, I was taken away
My first bite was like an explosion of tastes
It swept me off my feet

KYLON MONTIQUE
An Ode to Food

There are many different
kinds of foods
in the world, but there are
five superfoods.
They only come once
a year. The superfoods
are St. Patty's Day food,
birthday food, Halloween food,
and turkey day food
The best is CHRISTMAS FOOD.

BOWIE INGELS MOSS

Red Wings

Don't cry,
the end is near. You made the decision.
Do not look at something you don't want to see, but do not be afraid.
Think of the beach.
The wind rushes past your face, drying your tears.
Think of the water washing away the sand.
Think of the birds calling out or the foam left behind.
No! Do not open your eyes, the end is close.
Think of the meadow.
Think of the flowers singing in the wind.
Think of the clouds drifting away to a better place.
Think of the hills hiding the sun.
No thoughts. The end is here.
Red wings spread on the pavement.
Did they cry?
Should they?
The sun rises and the world starts again.
You would open your eyes again.

EMIRI NARIKAWA

Always

Always stuck in a self with others
Always collecting dust and getting older by the second
Always unbothered to be cleaned
Always judged by our cover
I have a great story to tell you, you know
But as always, I can't because
as always nobody bothers
Always I'm not moving so you can find me someday
Imagine that perfect day always
Always sitting for one day being opened
Always imagine that perfect day when I am opened
with words spilling out unable to hold the suspense any longer
Always waiting for you

LUCIA NUNEZ

Haiku

First, calm down.

Next, stay that way
for the rest of your life.

BERNIE ORION
Green Glob

A green glob sits
under a microscope.
I am trying
to figure it out.
Not sure what it is.
Maybe a booger.
I guess we will never know.
I will still try to find out
even if it is hopeless.
It also might be photoshopped.
We will never know.

ANEKIN ORTIZ

A Simple Haiku

The sunshine so bright
It glazes everyone around
It's a perfect day

SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ-PALACIOS

Football

I fly like a football.

I bounce like a football.

I perfectly fit in the quarterback's hands.

With a spiral, I glide like a football.

I get caught and held tightly by a receiver.

I continue to feel the wind on my grips as the receiver runs me down the field.

I hit the ground hard with excitement from the receiver.

I hear the crowd yell with excitement.

I get set up to get kicked, and I feel the impact of the punter's foot.

Flip after flip I'm in the air.

Moments later it starts again.

I experience the cycle every weekend.

I am a football.

BRYAN PATINO

Colorful Tiger

The burning bright tiger in the jungle hides,
blinks his big orange eyes,
baring his white fangs,
and sneaks between trees to find dinner
and peace of mind.

FAITH PEREZ
Monarchs

Trap a butterfly.
When they escape, they might be
sour and attack you.

HAYDEE PEREZ

Posole

My aunt cooked my favorite soup.
It was delicious,
nice and warm.
She mixes and stirs
like how I make batter for cupcakes.
I can't get over the scent.
It smelled like soup,
the posole that I love.

LUKUS PEREZ

Ode to Joel

Ode he was a stranger to me. I haven't known him since kindergarten.

Ode he was cool and he didn't know me that much.

Ode it was odd at first but when we were in first

grade we got along and we became friends

Ode we became friends and we hung out

together and went to his house to play

Ode I didn't talk to him that long or hang out

with him because we got a lot of things we needed to do

Ode when we were like in sixth grade it was COVID

so we didn't go to school at that time.

Ode there was no time, day, no hour, no time

Ode there was no life, no flower, no day, no night

AUBRIEL POWERS

moods.

I like to look at the sun.
It makes me think of bright yellow flowers.
They make me frown.
They make me smile.
They bring a big bright smile.
I love myself.
But sometimes I don't.
All that matters is that I'm glad.
All that matters is that I'm proud of myself.

CITLALI RAMIREZ

Zebras

Zebras are just like us,
unique like everyone.
We are all different.
But we are all living things
in the end.

DAREONA REECE

Eternity in Heaven

Everyday I think of how beautiful it is in heaven.

The sidewalks are golden. The animals are beautiful and harmless.

You won't have to worry about anything because you will spend the rest of eternity in peace.

SOPHIA RIVAS

Untitled

My cousin made me a bracelet.
The bracelet was very pretty,
big on my wrist
yet beautiful.
She doesn't really like people
so knowing that made me
feel special.

MAHKAI ROBERTS

My Poem

Hot Cheetos, they're the best, and no I'm not a jest.
I can eat them all day. Too bad they don't
stay. You may think I'm addicted but truly if you have
them you can admit you may say something
different. Truly I hate to say but
I got to go so have a good day.

SIDNEY ROBINSON

Untitled

Summertime is here. There is no more school. Now we don't have to follow the rules. The hot sun melts the popsicle in my hands. Kids at the beach running in the sand. Summer is here with laughter and joy. Now kids have time to play with their toys.

ISABEL ROBLES

Since You've Been Gone

There's so much I've been wanting to tell you
since you left.

My mental health is fairly good,
but I still miss you.

I think about you so much and feel like a fool,
but I still miss you.

I convince myself that
I'm exactly where I need to be, and I should be happy.
But you're not here with me,
and I still miss you,
I still need you.
More than I know I should.

JOANNA ROBLES

Hispanic Heaven

My Hispanic heaven is a place for everyone but mainly Hispanic people.

It's a place where you feel safe.

It's a place where nobody judges you.

It's a place where you can be you.

You can do anything.

You even get to choose where you want to live.

It's a wonderful place.

It's a place filled with love and joy.

It's like if you were in a fantasy.

EMMA RONNIE

Maleficent

Oh, when a man clips
our wings we will not be
pleased until vengeance sings.
When love first starts
we are happy and weak.
When he shatters our hearts
we become wild.
Oh, love is such a tumultuous
thing. It starts with passion
Ends with a sting

CRISTOPHER ROSALES

A Day with a Dragon

One day
I was eating
at a taco truck then
I saw a dragon
flying in the sky
then I jumped on the dragon
and flew with him and
saw the whole world

NOAH RUIZ

Untitled

Snapple sweet scent of kiwi
a strawberry smell
is like a golden river
flowing through my
mouth with a divine taste

ALINA SALCEDO

The Sweater

My grandma made me a sweater
that she knitted herself.

It was as soft as a wolf's fur
and as bright as the sun.

It was warm as laying in bed with hot chocolate on a cold day.

ALBERTO SALDIVAR
Moon and Stars

Today
the moon and stars
refused to
shine
They told me it's my time to shine

BIANCA SANCHEZ

Sunshine

My horse is so huge
A really crazy brown horse
An amazing ride

TATIANA SANCHEZ

Peter Pan and the Pandemic

My mandrill toy stole my banana, and it was all a dream.
But when I woke up and came and walked then it was
a big whole dream.

My name is Maxy.
I just named that name.
It would say hi there.

The childhood toy that I used to have was a stuffed animal
and it was an elephant, and it is now gone forever.

I made a drawing for my Tio, and he liked it, and he gives a gift
for my birthday. So does everyone in my family.

Peter Pan would say in the pandemic, "Please wear a mask because I don't get sick."
And I told the Lost Boys and Wendy about it, and they would wear masks too.

JAYLEEN SEGURA

Best Friends

Jayleen and Khylee
Play roblox all day all night
And they get tired

ANANDA SHIFFMAN

Ode to Cheese

Oh, how I crave it so

The creamy white that
resembles snow

When I look at the block of
the soft goodness

It fills me with glee

And when it arrives in my mouth,
the joy multiplies by three

Cheese, oh Cheese

It goes with everything

Crackers, meat, and sauce

All of these things together can
make you feel like a boss

Cheese, oh Cheese

The weave and texture of the aged delight
Always makes my day,
so lovely and bright

Cheese, oh Cheese

I love you, you put me at ease.

ELIAS SILVA

Ode to Sopita

My grandma makes me
sopa de fideos, broth as
bright and beautiful as
melted gold. I feel the
smoothness of the
noodles as they touch my
lips. The smell is
comparable to the tears
of Jesus. I treasure the
meal as one would
treasure life, the most
important energy of all.

VANESSA SMITH

The Corner of My Room

Many pillows aid my tired back
like the clouds aid my tired mind
in the corner of my room.
It's service never fails
since my imagination prevails
in the corner of my room.
My cats come and let me pet their fluffy bodies
as if they know I need them,
or do they?
In the corner of my room

Only the quiet and I are welcome.
Confusion sometimes sneaks in
in the corner of my room.
I can do what I want without limit or direction.
I can stare into the distance without anyone
asking
if I am okay,

and I don't have to say I'm fine.

I can cry if I want to
and as my tears fall,
I feel happy to be free
on the corner of my room.
I can play games.
I can watch shows or movies,
as I have escaped the world that is knocking
on my locked door
in the corner of my room.

JAMES TAYLOR

Babysitting

Watching my nephew
Play on his iPad
He is only two years old

AMELIE THONAR

Untitled

Roses are red, violets are blue.
I didn't know I could trust you.
What did I ever do?
I am sorry for you.
Forgive me
so you see
the wonderful in me
as I plead
with everything in me.

ZOEY THONAR

Barbie Girl

The little cute child
is dressing in the best clothes.
Barbie lived the life.

JOANNA TORRES

Secret

My best friend asked
to keep a secret for her.
She's annoying me.

VIANCA RECONCO TOVAR

Summer Time

warm in the morning
feeling sleepy everyday
nap in the daytime

RHIANNA VALDEZ

Red Panda

My red panda lost my toaster that was brand new,
but I woke up and ran to the kitchen and realized it was all
a big dream.

He asked me to clean his room and to walk the dog.

JULIEN VASQUEZ

The Fried Rice Apology

Just so dang good I couldn't resist.

Salty and savory just perfect.

To be honest when it was all
gone, I wished there was more.

I know you were looking forward to eating, but I just couldn't
resist.

But on the other hand,
you should've eaten the fried rice first.

JOSHUA RODRIGUEZ VAZQUEZ

Mexican Heaven

My Mexican heaven is where Mexicans can drink.

They get to eat a lot of stuff.

They get to play soccer and more games.

They get to work but if they don't it doesn't matter.

They cannot cheat or kiss another girl.

They can dance and watch games and more.

ISABELLA SETIAN VILLANUEVA

Milo Ew ☹️

I am not Ronald's son.
I'm so tall and gross.
What's up Dhar Man Fam?
All I think about is cheese.
All I do is Tik Tok dances.
I am disturbingly tall.
My e-boy hair does me no good.
I am somehow straight.
I convince myself I'm not ginger,
Peeta Mellark.
My socks are always very stripey, but they look sorta cool.
I have a crush on Joe Biden.
My name sounds like a dog's name.
Cheese is cool.
I love cheese.
My only good quality is my humor.

DONOVAN WEATHERS

Elementary School Love

No ordinary love, just pure and innocent
Because kids wanna be grownups, and that's what grownups do
The scorching hot sun burning the sand including all the playground equipment
The enjoyment of holding hands, the enjoyment of being cheered on by your friends
Just the idea of holding hands, hugging, and walking around all day together
The scorching hot sun, burning the side of your face
This is what grownups do isn't it?
Trying to be sneaky, your friends giggling behind tree and you acting like you don't
notice
You kiss like grownups, just to break up two days later

Jackson STEM Dual Language Magnet Academy

HOST TEACHER

Linda Keavy

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Shonda Buchanan

5th Grade

DESTINY ANGUIANO-GOMEZ

My Legs

My legs
I need my legs to run
to walk
to jump
they help me climb
they help me learn how to kick,
learn ninja moves

GISELL ARELLANO

My Hands

Scars on my hands may seem bad,
but that's not the thing my hands are.
My hands are my helpers.
They help me when I need a hand.

They help me get back up when I fall.
They help me pick something up when it falls.
They're helping me write this poem
right now.

What would I be
without my hands?

SARAY ARGUETA

Nature Life

Wake up spring is here!
Birds chirping.
Trees drooping apples.
Bushes moving like they're talking.

Blossoms blooming.
Blossoms flying as if they're traveling.
Wind moves you smoothly.
Butterflies flying with the breeze.

Grass slightly touching your leg.
Rivers flowing slowly with lily pads.
Flowers blooming in the smooth grass.
The sun is going down.

Let's look outside later.
Stars appearing in the sky.
Good night spring.
See you another day.

KAI-LEL J. CARPENTER

My Pups

My puppies are boxers.
They are hyper and playful.
They're white and brown.
Their names are Chica and Bailey.

JESUS FERNANDEZ

Ode to Sopas

Crispy like a steak
Yummy like a taco from La Estrella
Spicy as a ghost pepper
Round like the world
Cheese from a golden cow
Maza good like heaven
One of the best dishes
Makes me drool
Sopas

ALICIA FLORES

Beautiful Blue Butterfly

Beautiful blue butterfly
soaring through the sky
small butterfly, big butterfly
small wings, big wings
beautiful blue butterfly
flying so high
beautiful blue butterfly
blue like the sky
flying so high
up to the bright blue
sky

AVA GARCIA

Daylight Savings on the Beach

The water on the beach is made of saltwater.

The sunrise on a beach has colors like red, orange, or yellow combined.

Making a sandcastle

on the shore

it sounds like waves.

It's also daylight saving time.

JOSEPH GONZALEZ

Pizza

Round like the world
Cheese as yellow as the sun
Red like mars
My favorite food
is pizza.

JOLINA GUERRERO

Clouds

My hair is like the fluffy clouds
in the sky.

The taste of candy is
sweet in my mouth.

The sound of nothing is quiet
and the sweet aroma in the
air
as my imagination goes
free.

ANA C. HERNANDEZ

A Free Flower

A day I'm free
and another I'm not
What will
I do?

As a blooming flower
calm as a river dances with the flow
and brings all kinds
of stuff

As the wind tickles my face
as I hear animals playing with the wind
and playing around in the peace
of the world

It's like a peaceful flower.

MARTIN JAEGGI-WONG
Letter To The Future

Dear future self,
Are you an engineer?
I hope you are
Did you go to mars yet?
If you have
is life sustainable?
If you haven't
maybe you will
Is your hobby farming?
I bet it is
How was college?
Was it fun?

From,
your past self

KARSEN MALLORY

Dear Basketball

From the moment I stepped foot on the court,
I knew I would be a star
shooting, layuping,
getting assists,
and getting points.
Basketball,
I fell in love with you
as a six-year-old boy,
deeply in love with you.
I never saw the end of a tunnel.
I just saw me, Karsen Mallory, running out of one.
A love that is so deep I gave basketball
my all
from my mind and my body
my body to my spirit my spirit to my soul.
You'll always be with me.
I'll never give up on you.
You'll never give up on me.
I love basketball,
and it loves
me.
In this game of life,
your family is the court,
and
the ball is your heart.
No matter how down you get,
no matter how good you are,
your love for basketball will never break.
Dear basketball,

my love for you will never break
Keep me with you forever.
Dear Basketball.

ASHLEY AGUILAR MARTINEZ

The Beach

Laying on the blanket

Swish goes the waves

Tasting the salt in the water

Warm like a bath

Smells like summer

DAVID MARTINEZ

Favorite Smoothie

Fruit is good,
the juicy drink
Mango is so sweet
My stomach growls
My mouth waters
Smells like a dream like no other
My favorite treat
Special love from mom
Mango smoothie

KEVIN VASQUEZ MARTINEZ

My Body

My body is what lets me run, jump,
and write this poem.

If I did not have my body I couldn't do anything,
but I have a body.

My body is the most important thing
in my life.

If I did not have a body I would
just be a skeleton.

Life would be boring without a body,
but I have a normal one
with no missing parts so I am
grateful.

MAXIMUS MARTINEZ

My Daily Poem

I woke up eyes feeling like if it has weights.
I eat food like heaven and water like gold!
I go to school like if I just had an energy boost.
The end of school is like getting out of jail.

I'm playing my games.
I feel like if I'm in the game.
As my eyes get heavy
I put my clothes on.
They wrap me like a warm blanket.
As I drift off in a river of dreams
I wake up another day
and repeat.

MARLEY MUNOZ

The Moon

The moon
is big
The moon
is rock
The moon
takes on forms
and only
shines
in the night
You can see the moon
in the night
in the sky

EVAN PEREZ

My Dream Car

This car is so fast
you may not see.
Maybe in Hollywood
but not near me.

This car is so loud
you probably can't hear
someone talking very near.

The best part is the engine.
It's actually two V8 combined,
making it a W16,
perfectly divine,
a Bugatti Chiron.

SHAYLA ESCOBAR PEREZ

The Pretty Beach

Beach

Beach

There is nothing
more beautiful
than your pretty waves

Your pretty palm tree

Your soft sand

Beach

Beach

GERARDO ARAQUE RAMIREZ

Love Your Family

Love your family
like you love ice cream

Love your family
like you love your game console

Love your family
like you love playing sports

Love your family
like you love yourself

Love your family
very much

MAYA REYES

A Sleepy Poem

My hair is soft like pillow,
the taste of nothing bores me to sleep,
and everything is so quiet.
It's quiet enough for me to fall into a deep sleep and when my eyes are telling me
goodnight.
I could smell the sweet scent of strawberries
and I finally
find sleep
at
last.

DANICA RICO

Could You Imagine

Imagine

if I could fly with the birds in the sky
the wind blowing my hair
the wind tickling my feet
the wind blowing in my face.

I fly in the sky

birds fly past me
as I spy the sun in the distance.
It's warming up my face.

DAYVION RIDGELL

Food

I like chicken

I like mac and cheese

I like chips and
meat

I like cake and
cupcakes

In fact I like
to eat

I don't like chitlins

I don't like vegetables

I don't like baked beans

MOISES SALCEDO

Trucks

Trucks are nice.
Trucks are fast.
You can go to truck meets
with your friends.
You can drop
and lift the suspension.
You can put a wing
on the tailgate.
You can put a 454 engine.
You can do burnouts.
It can be white and black
on the outside.
It can be red or green
on the inside.
It smells like tires.

JODEN SIMMONS

Poem to Music

Music is calm.

It is relaxing.

Music is in nature.

I like music.

My favorite

is blues.

Does music make you wanna dance?

Makes me wanna dance.

KAYDEN SMITH

Football

I love football.
When I walk on the field
I know I am going to be
the next Trevon Diggs.

I play defensive back.
When I play I'm out of control.
But when I play I let my anger out.
But then if I let too much out I hurt people.

But what I love most about football is
that when I play
it's not just to win.
It's to have fun and play with my friends.

MIA TABAREZ

Trust

He lied
She cried
He apologized
and he didn't mean it.

She was hurt once again
and can't trust
anyone
again.

ADRIAN TOVAR

The Blue Jay

The Blue Jay is a brave bird
It's a strong bird.
It's a calm bird.
The Blue Jay represents peace.

Its feathers are blue like the ocean
with patterns of black like night
seeing gray when in motion
and the white is like a star shining bright

Blue Jays are incredibly fast.
They can fly high up to the sky.
They can fly up to 25 mph.
Blue Jays are cool.

ZACHARY TYLER

I Love My Dog

I love my dog.
He is cute.
I love my dog
and you should too.

His name is Laz.
He sleeps all-day.
His name is Laz
He eats all-day.

He has a bro
whose name is Chucho.
He does the same as Laz.
They love each other.

I do too.
We all love each other,
and you should too.

SEBASTIAN URBINA-RIVAS

Red

Red is hot, cloth, and candy.
Red smells like strawberries and apples.
Red feels like anger.
Red is the sound of a siren.
Red is the fires, Mars, envy.
Red is hot.
Red is Mars.
Red is watermelon.
Red is bad.

Jackson STEM Dual Language Magnet Academy

HOST TEACHER

Shanon Smith

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Matty Layne Glasgow

4th/5th Grade

HARPER ABRAHAM

The Delight Song of Harper

I am the soft wind that flows through your hair
I am around you everywhere
As I blow my whispers into the trees,
I know tonight will be a wonderful breeze
I know this is just what you need

JULIET AGUILAR

Shoe and Sock

I am your best pen pal shoe. I am stuck to you like a sticky gum stuck in curly hair.
Sock, you and me have been great pen pals for so long. You're my
best friend for life. Sometimes we get separated for a couple of hours.
It feels so long like a green turtle walking on a sandy beach, but we must get squeaky
clean.
We run together all the time. We even walk together. When it rains we both get
soaking wet. Shoe, when you go without me sometimes you seem sad when I'm not
with you.
Sock, you seem sad when I leave. Let's stick together forever.
When we go on night walks the sky is dark and dancing around
and the stars are shining and staring.
It's cold like ice cream.
And no cars around.

JEREMIAH ALMANZA

Untitled

The fresh green grass at the park
tickles my bare feet like a feather that comes from a blue bird
flapping its wings whenever I think of food.
You need to eat so I look
at the beautiful sky staring back at me,
and I say it's such a nice day to be eating wings
just like eating wings out of the beautiful sky
just as the eagle comes out the sky.
The sky that's like a bomb in the sun.

DAVID ARTEAGA

Concrete Poem

I am a monkey.

A monkey in the big jungle with a sweet smell.

My fur gets wet as the rain falls to the grassy ground filled with mud.

The sound of the rain is ticking on my fur.

As I eat my banana in the shade, the ticking of the rain fades away.

A lot of animals come out of their homes.

The light of the sun flashes in my eyes.

As the birds chirp, I'm almost done with my banana.

That is my great life.

RUBEN BANUELOS

Book Poem

I am a thing you hold.

I am a thing you read if you're bored.

I am at a lot of places.

You see a lot of words.

You feel paper and hard and soft from the cover.

You smell like a brand new book.

You hear pages flipping and flipping.

I have a lot of pages

and get more interesting as you flip the pages.

I can be spotted in a lot of schools and libraries.

I have pictures and coloring.

ALISSA CALDERON

To ACC

You are my umbrella on rainy days. You are the rainbow giving me joy and happiness. We are like peanut butter and jelly. We just go together and you're my best friend but sometimes I think you are more than a friend to me, and it is totally fine if you don't feel the same but my feelings have been hidden in the dark long enough! It is time they come into the light! I like you. I really do and I want to spend my life with you.

From clothes

To clothes

You are the apple of my eye, the happiness to my heart. You are my bestest friend and the one person who makes me happy.

I don't know what it is, but I like it. You make me have butterflies in my stomach. You are a true friend, clothes. Whenever I am sad you are always there for me, and I am thankful for that. Sometimes I feel like we are more than friends. I used to be confused about the way I feel but now I know that you are the one clothes you are the one, so I ask you this now, clothes. Do you feel the same?

From ACC

JUQUIN GUZMAN

The Hair Poem

My hair

It's so messy I must wash it and my hair it is the ocean

When my hair is messy it looks like a mountain

When I put killer bee gel on my hair it sticks like rock

My hair is black like a black bear

My hair is a soft bear

My hair is heavy like a lion

My hair is begging me to wash it

When I wash my hair it takes centuries

CAZANDRA HERNANDEZ

Delight Poem About a Horse

I am a horse running quickly through the fields of your farm.

I am the horse eating all the grass as slow as a turtle.

I am the long hair of a horse longer than a river.

The wavy hair of a horse wavier than waves in the ocean.

NATALIE HERNANDEZ

Concrete Poem About a Horse

It feels smooth and soft
It makes me happy
Its dark color is like chocolate
It never lets me down
It is a beautiful thing
It gives me hugs like my mom

STEVEN IRIAS

The Soccer Ball

I'm the round ball that goes in the net

I'm the black and white that has shapes

I'm the round ball that gets kicked

I'm the round black colorful ball that gets air inside of me

I'm the round ball that gets played with shoes by humans

I'm the round ball that gets caught by a human hand

I am the round ball that has rectangular shapes

KYIEGH JORDAN

The Beach

I was at the beach
I saw a horse
I have my feet in the sand
Having a picnic with my family
The sand is like a soft pillow
The water like ice
The sound of the waves
The food like a buffet
I smell the fresh air
I play all day
I'm happy and joyful
I swim as fast as a fish
I dig like a mole in the dirt I'm a cheetah running on the sand
I see the fish in the ocean
I'm a whale in the ocean making big waves
My stomach begging for food
The food begging to not be eaten
But I'm so hungry I could eat a horse

LOX LEON

Lox's Delight Poem

I am as crunchy as the sound of a delicious taco being eaten by a human

I am as delicious as a slice of pizza sizzling on your wooden stove

I am the words you read on a book every day at 5:30

I am the veggies sizzling inside a dumpling

I am the smooth singing song on your phone

I am the loud ``BOOM`` when you punch a punching bag

I am the ball losing air when it gets kicked

I am the poetry in this delight poem

JACOB LOPEZ

Basketball

I am the basketball that rolls around the big red round circle,
and you missing the basket
because the ball came out.

I am the basketball that goes in the net.

It makes that nice clean noise.

I am the basketball that goes up in the air and goes in the net.

JEREMIAH LUGO

The Park of Delight

As I go climb the unbearable mountain and swing to heaven
and as I play with my friends in the grass
as we play the game of capture wall
the wind forms all around us and
as the wonders of life surround us
in the great joy in spring break,
we will have the most fun ever
with the wind blowing and saying, "Good times and Happy Easter!"

BERNARD MINOR

My Football and My Shoulder Pads

My shoulder are hard.
My football cleats have spikes on them.
My dog is big and fluffy.
He is warm and fast.
When I don't have my hair
cut my sides
are nappy, and I don't look good.
When I get my haircut,
I feel
like a whole new man
with my freshcut.
I got my hair cut at my house
because my barber comes to house.
I'm going to get a new dog.
I got my new dog and went home and ate dinner and went to
sleep.

JORGE PORTILLO

The Delight Song of Jorge

I am a candy running
going to cool trips
while eating a lot of pizza
while running around the world a lot of times
the air
is bloomy like the strong wind

OLIVER QUEZADA

Rain

When I played outside,
I saw that the clouds were getting mad.
Sooner or later all that rage that was kept in was about to come out!
As the rain hit the floor and puddles filled up,
my mom called me up for lunch.
As I ate the food she gave me, the flavors melted in my mouth, and it was nice
and tasty and the smell.
As the heat hit my face, I smiled and said thank you mom.

JUSTIN RAMIREZ

A Recipe for Mom

Step #1: Shake 5 cups of love and shake it all around with a sweet kick when it's getting poured.

Step #2: Boil 8 cups of smartness. After that pour it into the blender. Poof! Her smile is as happy as the sun when it comes up.

Step #3: Toast 4 cups of kindness then put it into the blender. Her hair is as wavy as the ocean.

Last and final step: Cook 5 cups of love and the last touch is 15 pinches of happiness.

SHAUN RODAS

The Delight Song of Shaun

I am the peaceful sheep that roams around the soft grass.

I am the bright rising sun in the cold morning.

I am the cool breeze blowing the terrible heat away.

I am the cool waves slushing in the warm water.

I am the bright sun shining through the beautiful meadow.

I am the cold snowflakes falling from the cloudy sky.

I am the flag of stars and stripes of freedom waving in the sky.

LEO RAY RODGERS

The Very Nice Delight Poem

I am the sweet, spicy, and tasty smell of hot chocolate bubbling from the pot,
thinking everyone wants to eat me.

I am the delicious pizza getting taken out of the wooden oven that you can smell
when I was burning up in the oven.

I am the book you read every day at 2:00, but you rip my pages, and it hurts.

I am the one that turns on the TV so you can watch TV.

I am the part of the brain that tells you to sleep for the next day.

I am the book that you wrote for your family.

I am the bones that let you dance and be happy.

I am reading this poem to you now.

What are we?

ELISABETH OLVERA ROSA

A Recipe for Love

The first step is to carefully combine a gallon of loyalty and 2 cups of hugs.

When you are done with that, set it aside and then blend up 1 cup of giving compliments that make you blush and turn as red as a rose and one gallon of listening to your beautiful voice.

Once you're done with that, you must freeze 10 ice cubes that include 10 cups of laughter that sound as loud as an elephant and a handful of hanging out till the morning sun comes again.

The next step is the most important one, which is the batter of love.

Once you're done with that, you can top it all off with half a gallon of the happiness that sparkles like the stars in the night sky and a handful of kindness that is as beautiful as your daring blue eyes and there you have it: a recipe for love.

MADELINE VALDEZ

By Someone No Less

I am the yellow sour lemon laying in the back of the cabinet waiting,
wanting to be eaten by someone no less.

I am the red haired dolls in the cold scaring attic
waiting to be played with by someone no less.

I am the thorn covered rose plant
waiting to be admired and loved by someone no less.

I am the least known science boring classroom book
waiting to be read by someone no less.

I am the white cotton paper in the back of the desk
waiting to be used by someone no less.

I am waiting like the lemons, dolls, roses, books, and paper waiting for
something no less.

KRISTEN VALENCIA

The Apple Poem </3

I am the worm inside the bad apple
dancing through it like it's some pool.
I am the sour, rotten taste you get into your mouth
after you bite me. I am the reddish, greenish, rotten apple
that got thrown in the garbage like it was something useless. I am
the stem on the rotten apple that got ripped from its
apple body. I am the inside seeds that are in the apple
just to get spit out like an airplane shooting off.

KADE WOODSON

The Delight Song

I am the black pedals on your bike.

I make your bike move and go faster when you feel the fresh air and when you go
fast.

I will be by your side all the time.

Jackson STEM Dual Language Magnet Academy

HOST TEACHER

Jocelyn Strickland

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Matty Layne Glasgow

2nd/3rd Grade

SPENCER-JADE ABRAHAM

All About My Dad

My dad is as sweet
as a cookie and
my dad is happy like
a happy dad and
my dad is the best best best dad ever.
My dad is as funny as a monkey.
My dad is as helpful as a helpful dad.

ELI DINSMORE

Untitled

My mom is as sweet as a cookie

And milk she is

really nice as nice as Ms Strickland

Really

Nice

IZABELLA DOMINGUEZ

Untitled

My favorite color is pink.
Ice cream is as cold as in the night
And is as tasty as cake.

ARI GARCIA

Untitled

Stitch is as blue as the sky.

Gum is as blue as water.

Blueberry donuts are as blue as a marker.

Sour strips are as blue as paint.

ALEJANDRO JUAREZ

Untitled

You're the best teacher.

You're funny.

Love Ms. Strickland.

BLAKE STEPHENS

Untitled

The ocean is beautiful. I love the waves.
They are big and a pretty dark blue
and a beautiful light blue.
When the sun shines in the ocean, it glows.
When you go in the ocean
everything will be magical.
You will see mermaids
and unicorns.

EMMA DE LA TORRE

Untitled

My pink is like the light pink flower in my yard
and that little light pink cloud that I made with cotton.
Also that little little polka dot pencil.
I love the color pink.

NIKALA WALLACE

Untitled

Kittens are as cute as a lamby.
A kitten is as fluffy as a cloud.
And a kitten is as sleepy as me.

Pacoima Charter Elementary School

HOST TEACHER

Tina Amirteymoori

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Ricardo Means Ybarra

5th Grade

JAYDEN ALVARENGA

Untitled

Jayden is papicholo

I am cute

Yummy papicholo

Deez girls like me

Eat me

My nickname is papi

MELANIE AYALA

If I was in charge in school

If I was in charge of school
there would be no school. We will
have the days or years off
or more recess. We won't wear
masks. We will clean the ocean and more.
All I want is the world to be okay and to treat it nice.

QUINCY CERVANTES

Winter Days

All my poems are cold—
each day when I try to practice
my poems get cold and go away
When they go away I get sad
and run away.

When they run away I get sad,
and people laugh at me. When I
run I tell my coach and he told
me to not give up so I did that.
My voice was good and
poems were not cold they were
getting good people were
cheering.

ANGELIQUE SANTIAGO GUARDADO

Advice from the Floor

HEY YOU,
It's me the floor,
I know you might think I can't talk
And you're right, I can't.
But I have something to say to you humans.
I am NOT for you the spit out your chewed, flavorless
GUM on me.
If you don't know what I am for let me explain.
I am for you to walk on me with SQUEAKY CLEAN SHOES,
NOT DIRTY MUDDY SHOES.
And I'm also not for you to be throwing your
Filthy human food on me.
And as for you children
STOP DRAWING ON ME WITH CHALK.
If you do it again give me a bath with
A hose PLEASE.
Don't clean me with your toes, they're nasty.
Hopefully next time you follow my advice.

JESUS HERNANDEZ

Best Surprise

Last week I gave
a surprise to my friend
because he was asking
and he wanted a playstation 5.
But he was still at the home sleeping.
We surprised him when he woke up then we said
Happy birthday!
But he did not see the ps5, so he was so sad but when I
gave him a present, he was impressed. When he opened it
he was so hyped by the playstation 5.

JORGE LAINEZ
Countryballs

We have the big ones
We have the small ones
We have the cool ones
Just like America
We have the happy ones
Just like Finland
We have the mean ones
We have the baby ones
We have the Spanish ones
Just like Mexico and Spain
We have the English just like the UK
Country balls come in all shapes and sizes
Even though they fight, you could still rely
On countryballs!

INAKI GONZALEZ LOPEZ

Under Dog

Under dog big dog I'm the
king I'm the best in the game
you know it you see it
so believe it I got it all I know it all
So don't lie don't cap because you
Know I'm good you know I'm the best
in the game I'm the under dog

CARLOS MORALES

Global Warming

Carbon will destroy the world by heat.
The earth will burn if we
don't do anything.
There are some heroes.
They are
grass in the ocean.
Without these we
would not be here
so that why it's important.
Like Mr. Beast planted 20 million
trees.
Carbon in the water.
Still they can't run because grass
will consume them and grow.
Coral are dying of global warming. They starve.
Fish will die because coral are dead.
It's important to take care of earth.

KIMBERLY OLMEDO

The Girl

The girl has pretty long shine hair

She has a pretty face

She has a pretty body

Everybody like her

She is soooooo pretty

I want to be like her

OMAR ALVAREZ PAZ

Beach Day

Me and my family went to the beach, and we had a good time. The first thing we did is build a sand castle. Next we were looking for sand insects. Last we went to the water and swam a lot.

GALA PRADO

Soda Can

Your brain's like an empty soda can.

You feel like there's nothing left in there for you to get ideas, but there's still a tiny bit of the soda, you just can't see it.

You can't hear it, but it's there talking to you.

JAYLA PULIDO

Winter Storm

In winter time, it was a breeze with some
snow it was freezing so we went to the fireplace
where it was warm it felt great we
also had a hot chocolate with a movie
and then we felt warm we felt warm
that's how you solve a winter storm
If you are cold and want to be warm
and want to have fun at the same time
with your friends or family and make memories
you won't forget that will be the best
with family and friends.

YAIR RAMIREZ

Untitled

Yair is a good kid.

Yair is a sport.

Yair is el spiterman,

Yai is a basketball player.

EMILIO ROMAN

The Kevin Story

We had so many memories climbing the rock until you broke your back and hit
your spine and died dear vanlos

VIVIANA SANCHEZ TORRES

Winterday

One day I was at the snow.
I could feel the cold breeze in my face.
My face got frozen.
I made a snowman.
I made an angle.
It was so much fun playing in the snow.
I can't wait to go there again next year.

Pacoima Charter Elementary School

HOST TEACHER

Maribel Dueñas

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Ricardo Means Ybarra

5th Grade

CESAR AGUIRRE

Advice from a Computer

I am helpful
but DON'T bring me food
when you use me.
Don't break me.
Don't mistreat me,
especially don't bring someone who eats a lot.
Use me, but a snacker who likes eating
is not invited.
Certainly, don't slam me,
or I will break if I were glass.
You will use me for important purposes
if you were using a dictionary
to find an answer.
Not to be treated bad if I were useless
but I'm also used for fun like if you were bored.
Anything you please to know or go to and be happy.

JACOB ALCANTAR

On the Weekends at the Park

Beneath the tree
just you and me in the park
I call for you because of a bark
then you come
you push me on the swing
there I go fling,
we slide on the wide slide I love
the weekends at the park with you
I can't wait to see you too

AIDAN CARLOS

Happy Day

It's a day that happens every year.
It's a day that is special to everybody.
It's special to humans and pets.

It's where happiness gets its next victims.
On this day you are the next victim
to happiness and joy for only one day
and make that day the best day you can.

JESSICA DEL TORO

Advice to Soccer

Kick! Kick! Kick!
You hit it
when it comes to you.
Aim the same way to victory.
Pass it to your teammates
knowing you're not alone.
Watch your step
or you may wreck it.
Trip or slip, it will be alright.
Pick yourself up.
Check yourself.
You are ready to continue playing.
Boom! You make a goal
then another
and another!
You tried your best.
People say you're the best.
Now you're leaving with the win
and know you'll be seen again,
wondering how far this talent can take you.

MIA ESPINOZA

Friendship with a Cat

Driving nineteen miles
over to visit a friend,
small and kind every day.
We arrive at the house.
She dashes out but wait it's a cat!
A cat called Lilly.
We play in the grass all day long,
chasing around a ball nonstop.
It turns late.
We eat
and go to sleep.
I have to leave now.
I say my goodbyes.
We drive away.
Till next time,
my good cat friend (true story).

DANA GRANADOS

Droplets

I fall out little by little.
The sky turns gray.
The air gets stronger within days.
Your school may be canceled.
For now I make
the floor slippery
till you fall down.
The plants need me.
So do you.
I water your crops so you can have food.

ABEL HERNANDEZ

Advice from a Car

I drive all day.
I drive all week.
You might be tired,
but you changed my tire.
Look both ways
or go away.
Listen for my beep.
No, it's not a sheep.
It's my car.
Now I'm far
from you.

ABIGAIL MANZO

Advice from a Bee

I fly all day.
I fly all night.
No, don't hit me.
I'm nice, not mean.
I am needed.
I help grow veggies and fruit.
I help around my home.
I go from flower to flower
and collect pollen.
Please, don't kill me.
I can sting but only
when I'm frightened.
Please, don't kill me.
I want to live.
Bees have feelings too.
We can be friends me and you,
but PLEASE let me LIVE!

CHRISTOPHER MARROQUIN

Advice from a Cactus

Hey, don't underestimate me
just because I have a flower sometimes.
Don't sit on my head.
IT'S NOT FUNNY!
It hurts me too, you know.
Sometimes I may only have one arm,
but I sure can still pack a punch.
SPIKE! Hey watch out!
Because next thing you know
you'll get spiked, and it kinda HURTS
both of us!
They are kinda hard to get out.
SPIKE! SPIKE! SPIKE! SPIKE!
Come on,
what did I just say?

ROBERTO MARTINEZ

The Fragile Mystery

I live,
I die,
but I get revived.
I can make you feel all kinds of
emotions,
and I am portable.
My face and body are the same
length, width, and height.
Everyone says I'm smart,
but I don't know everything.
I open and close.
I am very fragile,
but people can fix me.
What am I?

GIANCARLO MAZARIEGOS

Advice from a Fish

Don't be fishy, be sweet.

As long as you're yourself, you'll be neat.

GULP GULP GULP

I know you can do it, YOU CAN!

Be lively like an ocean. There are millions of different kinds of fish.

KUMISHA MC MILLON

Advice from Books

Books have feelings
physically and mentally.
People mistreat us everyday.
You rip me apart and wear me out.
You shouldn't have to tape us back together.
Sometimes you don't even want to read us.
You say reading us is boring.
Sometimes we have more about us
than just learning.

ISAAC MENDEZ

Fishing

When people fish
the most important things that people need
is a bait and line.
But there is something that you need to set up.
It's really hard and easy to set up.
You need line and weight.
It comes in many colors and shapes.
What the thing called is the most important thing
you need when you go fishing.

AXEL MENDOZA

The After School

A mess, a mess they leave behind, or should I say we leave behind.
We don't pick up our trash. We don't get the class broom and sweep the floors.
Next morning, the teacher says, "There is a mess students. There is a mess over here.
There is a mess in my desk blah blah blah."
Dismissal of the class teacher tells me to take care of the class cause I stay
in the after school. When we are about to leave, I tell the coach
that teacher wants the class clean.
Coach tells the kids to clean up 1 2 3 times. They don't even move a muscle.
I am like "Oh my god, teacher is gonna be like 'Come on, I thought you
were gonna take care of the class!'"
So then Mr. Nuno talks, and everyone now starts picking up trash,
getting the broom sweeping the floors.
Mr. Nuno says, "Ms. Dueñas doesn't like her classroom dirty."

EMMANUEL MENDOZA

Friends

I like to play games with my friends.
I also like to play on the oculus.
Sometimes he lends,
other times he fends.
Our friendship is stable like a powerline cable.
Sometimes he can be a little unstable,
but I'm just trying to make sure
our friendship isn't a fable.
If he is hit with a puck,
it seems you are out of luck.
Run before you get stuck
in a place of no luck.

JOSE MONTOYA

Advice from Shoes!

Hey brand new shoes!
So happy that you scream
but DON'T get me dirty!
SPLASH! SQUISH! SPLAT!
Oh no, all in just a week
after all I did to protect your feet.
Oh, how so neat you thought I was
now all alone in the closet
never to be seen.
Now you have feet like a bear.
Oh, those memories.
Those messy and muddy memories.
I remember your laugh
even if I am gone.
You know that after all
I just cannot be beat.

AXEL MORALES

Advice to My Dog

Try to feed all the pups.
Also stop pooping on my bed.
It's annoying to clean up.
I wish you didn't know how to do tricks
because it will be fun to teach you
and give you treats.
You should really stop barking in the middle of the night
Because I can't sleep.
Also stop chasing the neighbors and my cats.

ARJEN MORAN

Advice from Paper

Paper all day,
but don't throw me away.
I can still be of use.
Kids use the paper,
and they put me away for later.
Some kids make scribbles.
That is ugly!
When they do good drawings,
I like it and when they use me for writing.

SOPHIA PARTIDA

Sunset

It switches left and right.

Back and forth.

It seems like it's doing a dance.

It goes along the shore. It is near the waves.

It gives shade.

It go' along with the sand.

Windy or not, it's always dancing.

It blocks you from the sun.

DIOCELYN RAMIREZ

Best Friend

I love walking, but most of all I love doing it with my bestest friend.

I love them all: my family, my dogs, my friends, but no one makes me happier than my best friend.

I like doing what we both like, but most of all I love trying new things with my best friend.

They're like a rainbow on a foggy day.

NOAH RAMOS

Advice from Trash

Don't throw me in the ocean.
Don't throw me on the ground.
Don't throw me in the forest.
It makes me cry when I destroy a habitat.
Am I the problem, or are you the problem?
Just please don't throw me in the ocean.
Don't throw me on the ground.
Don't throw me in the forest.
Throw me in the trash.
You can't just don't throw me on the ground.

EMMA REYES

Gone Too Soon

I'll never forget
always chasing you through the fields.
I'll never forget your heart of gold
and playing games with you all day long.
Always baking cookies,
chasing ladybugs and butterflies with you.
I'll never forget your name,
always nice and bright.
Everyone remembers your name,
your sweet personality.
I'm sorry you had to go so soon.
I'll remember you in my heart for years and years.
Hearing your sweet voice,
always caring for others.
I'll see you on the other side.
You are missed . . .
Lily.

VALERIA RODRIGUEZ

Advice from Shoes

I walk with you, I run with you,
And I jump with you
I do many things with you
But not a lot
I go around many times
I will stop when I'm off
When you run tie me
Or else you will fall
You should change me
But not replace me!
You should have fun with my colors!!
But being plain is good too.
Match me with blue
It will be cool.

DAVANNEE RUVALCABA

Late at Night

Late at night
we act like its light.
We're on the bed making a joke.
We are laying there till midnight has struck.
Tik Tok goes the clock,
breakfast is ready! Racing down
the stairs like no one cares.
Late at night
we eat our dinner.
Racing up the stairs,
it seems I'm the winner.

ANDREW SOLIS

My Friends and I

My friends and I always
Play football at my apartment
And we play score and play
Basketball and we also ride around
when we are done
We
Go back to the apartment and we chill
Then when everyone leaves I get in the shower
And when I am done I watch TV and then I eat and
When I am done eating I go to sleep.

ADELINA VERDUGO

Advice from a Dog

I am big and mighty
so don't doubt me.
If I think you're nice then I'll obey.
If you're mean then I'll fight.
I'll bark and bite until you're gone.
I like food just like people.
If you drop food then I'll eat it nom nom nom.
I don't just eat people food.
I eat dog food too.
Playing with a frisbee is my thing.
I can play tug a war.
I stay outside most of the day.
Once my owner comes home
it's time for me to sleep.

Pacoima Charter Elementary School

HOST TEACHER

Cecilia Garcia

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Ricardo Means Ybarra

5th Grade

IRMA ALBERTO

Advice from a Tomato

Please don't eat me.

I'm not good for you.

Because if you eat me I will make you sick!

Or you may go to the bathroom.

If you throw me on the floor I will splat!

People may like me BUT... I do not want to end up in a salad bowl.

Never ever in my life!

So now you got some advice from a tomato.

Don't do all these things please.

JESLENE BACA

Advice from a Computer

Okay, okay, first of all please don't drop me on the floor or I'll die! Please don't break me or I will send you to your grave. Most importantly this is gross but I have to say it please don't touch me with unsanitized hands or I will get sick. Please don't spill liquid on me or I will explode so please don't break me, thank you very much.

YEILIANIS CASTRO

Who Am I?

I came in October I came from the woods
to get to a town
I wear a white mask with brown hair on top of it
I even have a blue shirt with blue pants
And I even wear heavy black boots
I follow people to their house
Can you guess who I am?

DULCE GODINEZ

The Star in the Water

One day I go in the water
I saw a big star in the ocean
and I took a photo of the star
I saw a dolphin
I took photo of the dolphin
and I feel excited I see a dolphin and a star

JASMINE GODINEZ

The Dog

The Dog

goes Woof Woof, when the Dog jumps over the

car, the Dog went Woof Woof, when the

Dog went into the store, the Dog went Woof Woof, the Dog was

too tired to Woof Woof.

JOCELYN GONZALEZ

Advice from a Book

Please don't flip the pages it really hurts
It's like your slapping someone that hit you
in the face with a football
Also don't rip me up thousands of kids are
doing that now days! If you don't like to get
hit in the head than don't do it to ME
Thanks

LUIS GONZALEZ

Pacman

He's yellow he's big he is scared of ghosts but when he eats a cherry the ghosts are scared of

him he is a game from the 90's. You have three lives. There are yellow dots around the map and you get a score.

NATHAN LEON

The Door

I'm a key,
but I can't open doors.
I make a sound.
I make people happy.

CESAR MARTINEZ

Advice from a Pencil

This is great advice from a pencil.

Do not bite the lead off of me, as a result, you will die.

You will be poisoned and sent to your grave.

Your corpse will rot and you will never be able to breathe again.

Please do not break my spine.

If you do

I will die.

DO NOT throw me at a person or you will most likely impale their face.

Do not attempt to swallow me,

or I will give you an extremely brutal death.

Only use me to draw or write. I am not made for being bitten, broken, thrown, or
swallowed.

You can keep me in your backpack if it's yours.

But return it if it isn't. Do not leave me on the floor.

Someone can trip and hit their head on a door.

The impact can damage their head and might break their skull.

And make sure to never leave me unsharpened.

HUGO MARTINEZ

Mr. Bottle

HELLO my name is Mr. Bottle when I get thrown on the street I always get a
concussion!

I get swept by my feet I end up somewhere weird I saw a sharrrrk aaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa that was a close one SO DON'T THROW ME ON THE
STREET.

KIMBERLY MONTES

My Friends

My friends are very fun.

They could be very funny and silly.

My first friend I ever had was in daycare.

My other friend I met was in 5th grade.

My other friends are my family.

My friends' names are Dulce, Elithabeth, Yeilianis, Adriana, Kayla, and Irma.

KARRI MOORER

Family

Family, family's everything. My mom and sisters are my pride and joy.

My mom gives me what I need, and when I'm good I get what I want.

They love me, I love them.

They are my family, and family comes first.

JAZMIN NUNGARAY

Best Friend

My friend is funny.
I can't help but laugh.
He always gives me a smile and that is what I like about him.
Even if he might get in trouble he would never give up.
He cheers me up whenever I am sad.
I like being friends. He is the funniest person on earth.
He is like a brother to me.
It is funny having him make me laugh
I hate to admit it but he is funnier than a clown
even if he does not have colorful makeup.
Even if we have arguments we would cool down the next day
and get back to being friends and forget the argument ever happened
I would hate if he got in a fight.
Sometimes and only sometimes I try to stop him from arguing with others
but from a safe distance of course.
Of course I would support him. He is my friend.
I would do anything just to stop him from being mad.
It hurts me when I see him sad.
I hang out with him to make him feel better.
Sometimes if I'm mad at him he is still my friend, and I would not push or yell at
him.
Can you guess who he is?

LIZBETH OLIVARES

Having Fun with My Family

I like school. I like my teacher. I will be
the best at school and be friends with
my class. When I go home
I will play with my family.
Have fun with my brothers and my
sister.

NEFTHALI PACHECO

If I Was in CHARGE

I would make a day for NO homework
So we can rest from homework
So we can relax and watch tv all day
So we can do fun stuff
Also we rest from that pencil

ANGEL PALMERO

Untitled

If I were in charge of school I
would destroy homework and
you can only eat pizza and Mcdonalds
and play Roblox and Rocket League

MARQUEZ RIOS

Sounds of a Farm

Everday is so nice. I love the sound of hooves.

The sound of a moo.

The coop goes cluck.

The sound of a tractor.

The sounds of sheep.

The dog barking at
animals.

The sound of a harvester.

I like to end the day so bright.

JONATHAN RIVAS

Friend

I have a friend. He lives in another country, and he is my Best Friend.

ANTHONY RIVERA

Make the Best School

If I were in charge of the school,

I would make the best school ever.

I would give out toys

and put grass.

What would you do if you were in charge of the school?

JARED RODRIGUEZ

Advice from a Shoe

Please do not let your dog poop
on me. Then I get smelly and do
not wear dirty socks because
I get dirty, so please and
thank you.

MELANIE SERRANO

Me and My Best Friend

We go to the park with a dark parking lot.
A small dog, a tall dog, and they all bark.
The sun is rising up, up, up! Now we get to play like a jay in the hay.

ABDULLAH SHAHJALAL

Gaming

Everyday I play Fortnite with my sisters.
We try hard to get a victory royal and level up,
then we get new pickaxes.
We get dances and even skins.
Siblings are everything!

KIMBERLY SORIA

My Mom is Beautiful

She is the blue sky.

She glows in my heart.

Her middle name is beautiful.

Her best power is to be wonderful.

JONATHAN VAZQUEZ
The Secret Animal

At home he gives me joy
so I give him many toys
he likes getting tickled
and I like to eat pickles
he likes to use toy bones
and I like to use my phone
he is funny and
I like to use money

Pacoima Charter Elementary School

HOST TEACHER

Andrea Maldonado

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Ricardo Means Ybarra

5th Grade

JULIA AGUILERA

Advice from My Friends

I can get advice from my friends when I need help with something. I can get advice from my friends when I need help choosing something for my mom. I can get advice from my friends when I want to get something for my family. I can get advice when I want to learn new things.

JACOB ALVAREZ

Advice from a Game

I let you play
You get mad
You hurt my feelings
But when you get bored
you try to find me
I can stay
Let you have fun and play
so that way you know
not to throw me away

EILEEN ARANDA

Advice for Little Molly

The one treat is for me.
The cute face next to yours is mine.
You can try to catch me,
but I run with a sock in my mouth.
So now you must buy more
yummy socks for me.

JESIAH BACA

Advice from a Bird

Surviving in the wild
flying, sleeping, eating, drinking,
flying far from predators that kill anything in their path
with darkness and no light to shine
but in a path with sadness and loneliness with no bird
to play with and be happy with
no life to share
but when I fly away, I fly, I fly away
from the darkness as it fades away
where light shines on a path
to a Land that's clear and free with freedom
Happiness that is shared with other animals
with love and not hate
where no animals are hurt
or killed
as I fly with peace with friends and family
and leaving everything behind
including my past that was scary
but now I'm free
forever and ever with life and love
that I share.

ALLISON BOCH

Advice from a Video Game

People play me to entertain themselves.
I can be played as a single player.
There is also the option of a double player.
I have many different games
from sports to building to dancing.
I come in different forms
from a big console to a handheld device.
Anyone and everyone can use me.

E'MYLAH BOONE

Non Ginger Ginger

Ginger is kinda bitter like lotion
so I don't like to put it in my potions.
I toss and turn to make it better
while I toss a flat round circle straight in the air.
Sizzle! Sizzle!
As it goes
But it's not a bubble or a bright pink
flamingo.

KAYLA CASTANEDA

Want To Let It All Out

I just want to shout and yell
Ask the world
Why this time
Why this day
Why this year
And why me
I will not be perfect
In any way I am
But all I want
A normal life
A normal me
Even though every night is going to be same
I wonder why
Even though I dream of a time that I will not be sad
I just want to shout and yell
Tell myself it will be okay

JOSE CONTRERAS

Need Something

I tell my friend something
that I will need but not everything.
He is very tall.
I don't know if you can see him.
You might even have to yell
to tell him something.
I don't know if you can
guess who it can be.
It is my friend, Larry.

ADELA FLORES

Advice from a Mom

Your mom is your best friend
Your mom is there for you
Your mom never gives up on you
Your mom will do anything to keep you safe
Your mom will give her life for you
Your mom is the only one you can trust
She is not a stranger
You won't have your mom forever
Enjoy her because when she dies you won't have her
To hug her or kiss her
Mom is the only person you have
Your dad can be whoever
But your mom is the one who brought you to life

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ

Advice from a Computer

Don't spill water or
cocoa on me or I will not be
able to work anymore.
Don't slam on my keys from my
keyboard.
You can use me in school to do
school work.
Don't be playing games.
Just do work.
Thanks for listening.
Don't break me.

KIMBERLY GUARDADO

Advice from a Flower

I am colorful and bright
like a bright light
I shine in the day
and sleep at night
Stand pretty and tall
like a beautiful daisy
You can do it too!

SAMANTHA MACIAS

Advice from Homework

Do me everyday, every night
or you will have consequences
not just me, but you
so choose wisely
it can be easy or hard
but you'll figure it out
try very hard
and you will do good on it!

RUBEN MANLEY-BUCIO

Advice from Paper

Hey! Put me down.
If you're going to draw on me, I got a few rules.

Don't get me wet.
Also, don't let me go in the water because I might die.
I will get wrinkled and wrecked.

Just don't draw on me.
If you do, draw something nice.
Use me for cursive or math.

I am the same material as a tree branch.
They use me for fire, but I don't like it.

If you throw me out I might go to the ocean.
Causing death to animals.
I also might be wrinkled and torn apart
causing little pieces of trash to go all around the world
so don't throw me.

I don't like to get stepped on
Like I previously said
I'm begging you don't do anything that will hurt me.
When you're done using me
just recycle me, or keep me in a safe place.

ADRIANA MARTINES

Yellow

I'm yellow like the sun,
but I'm not shiny or bright.
I wear blue.
I love these things called bananas.
They're yellow just like me!
I have lots of family and friends just like me.
We all look the same, but we're really not.
I think that I am an alien, but I'm not.
Sometimes I get CRAZY!
But only when you give me medicine
I TURN PURPLE.
I will only give you this last clue:
I'm in a movie!

GIZZELLE L. MARTINEZ

Advice from the Lone Quitch

Take me with you
Please! or I'll cry
My owner left me.....*I SIGH*
If you eat me I will upper your love
Take me with you
You need me to survive
Get your soul, be ready to
DIE!
For this flower he can talk but don't trust him, for he is the one
who wants this world broken.
You meet a new friend in the freezing c-cold
He tried to help you...but you destroyed his bones
That poor poor flower his petals have fallen, fallen down
In the underground, you beat all these monsters and past snowdin town.
Find the file escape and get out without pale
Because this my friend is UNDERTALE...

ANGELES OBEZO

Name

My name is Angeles
My mom named me after my grandma
I never met my grandma
My dad said she had blonde hair and blue eyes
I love my name and that I'm named after her
Angeles, just like my grandma in heaven

ENRIQUE RAMIREZ

Advice from My Pencil

Don't press too hard on me.
Sharpen me with care.
But please don't press hard.
You could use me to write.
Or you could use me for art.
Just have fun.
But don't press hard.

JESUS RAMIREZ

Wolf Night

All day I am asleep
At night I get up
to howl like the wind
but my dark side hunts for you

KAREN RAMIREZ

Advice from a Dog

I roam the streets like I own them
I growl at dogs who want to fight
but today was different
I bumped into a girl while I was running for my life
I growled
I snarled
and I showed my teeth
but I saw kindness in her eyes
and when she left I followed her home
and when she saw me she carried me to a room
and I saw other humans but then they nodded
and the girl was jumping
and this night I slept on her bed
so here's some advice to all the dogs alone:
"find yourself a human that you know will be nice to you
and you'll be fine"

EZEKIEL SANCHEZ

Advice from a Spider

I am a spider
I make webs
people judge me and hit me on the spot
they think I'm bad or scary
sure, I have four legs and eight eyes unlike you
but I can help by killing flies and bugs
I hate when you trap me in a cup
if you do please put me back in the wild
if I am in your home, I was just trying to get to my home
if I make a web, it's just for the night
if I bite you, it's just for self defense

ROSEMARY SANTANA

Wind

As we ran the wind blew our hair
I never want to let go of you
You made it safe for me
You made it right for me
You made me feel warm when you hugged me
But then lost you
I really miss you
I have the letter that you gave me
The wind reminds me of you and me
Today the wind is only blowing my hair
I still remind myself of how you laugh
Every day and not a single tear

LARRY SANTIAGO

Shooting Hoops

Running cheetos

Jumping tall trees

Pass around hot potatoes

Dunking oreos in milk

Scoreboard is lighting

Cheering sirens

JASMINE TORRES

One Day

I went to a party,
and everyone wanted me to hit the piñata.
I went to go hit it,
and when I hit it three times the stick broke.

I was so strong that I broke the stick
but not the piñata.
Everyone was sad
because the piñata did not break.

DORISMAR VALLADARES

Advice from a Cat

Don't let me scratch you
It will make you bleed
I may be nice, but others are not
I roam the streets like they're mine
I might steal food,
but you should not
My favorite food could be tasty birds
But humans like you don't let me kill them
Even though I feel like the streets are mine,
I am still not able to do what I want
This is a warning!

JACOB VERDUZCO

Advice for a Pizza

I am a food

Put me in your mouth and chew me up

Don't put me on the ground

Also don't put me in the pool

If you put me in the pool, I will get soggy
and I won't taste good

If you put me on the ground, I will dirty
and you will not eat me and chew me up

Instructor Biographies

Shonda Buchanan is the author of the memoir *Black Indian*, a collection of poetry; *Who's Afraid of Black Indians?*, which was nominated for the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and the Library of Virginia Book Awards; and her third collection of poetry, *Equipose: Poems from Goddess Country*. An award-winning poet and educator, Shonda is a Sundance Writing Arts Fellow, a California Community Foundation Fellow, a PEN Emerging Voices Fellow, and Literary Editor of Harriet Tubman Press. Shonda's poetry and essays have been featured in numerous anthologies such as *The Seventh Wave*, *Urban Voices: 51 Poems from 51 American Poets*, *Silver Birch Press*, *Art Meets Literature: An Undying Love Affair*, *A Def Poetry Jam*, *Step into a World: A Global Anthology of the New Black Literature*, *Geography of Rage: Remember the Los Angeles Riots of 1992*, *Catch the Fire!!! A Cross-Generational Anthology of Contemporary African-American Poetry*, *Rivendale*, *WhatFreshWitchIsThis?*, and *LongStoryShort*. An active board member of Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center and a Women's Traditional dancer and singer, Shonda received an MFA at Antioch University and currently teaches at her alma mater, Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Erica Charis-Molling is a lesbian poet, educator, and librarian. Her writing has been published in literary journals including *Tinderbox*, *Redivider*, *Presence*, *Crosswinds*, *Glass*, *Anchor*, *Vinyl*, *Entropy*, *Apricity*, and *Mezzo Cammin*. Her poems have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and *The Orison Anthology*. Her cross-disciplinary collaborative work has been performed at Lesley University, the Dance Complex, and other Boston-area venues. A Mass Cultural Council Fellow, she's an alum of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and received her MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University.

Matty Layne Glasgow is the author of *deciduous qween* (Red Hen Press, 2019), selected by Richard Blanco for the 2017 Benjamin Saltman Award. He is a Vice Presidential Fellow at the University of Utah where he's pursuing his PhD in Creative Writing and serves as the Managing Editor of *Quarterly West* and the Wasatch Writers in the Schools Coordinator. Matty's work has appeared in *Poetry Daily*, *Missouri Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Ecotone*, *Denver Quarterly*, and elsewhere. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing & Environment from Iowa State University.

Bonnie S. Kaplan is a native Angeleno and a longtime teacher of adults in reentry. She holds an MFA with High Distinction from the California College of the Arts in film/video/performance art. Her poems are published in *Adrienne Rich: A Tribute Anthology* (Split Oak Press, 2012), *This Assignment is So Gay: LGBTIQ Poets on the Art of Teaching* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2013), **82 Review 2.2* (2014), *Bellevue Literary Review* (2021), *Room Magazine, Canada* (2021), and online in *Cultural Weekly* and *Portside*, among others. Her poem, "Mastectomy, Simple" was a 2021 finalist for the Marica and Jan Vilcek Poetry Prize at *Bellevue Literary Review*. Bonnie was awarded Teacher of the Year (2016) for the Western USA by the Correctional Education Association. This honor pays tribute to teachers working with adults in reentry.

Ricardo Means Ybarra is an LA mestizo, a sixth generation Californiano born in Echo Park at the Queen of Angels Hospital. He was the first of a labor union family to graduate from a university, UC Santa Cruz, where he earned his BA in Latin American Studies. Published in over twenty journals, he is the inaugural poet laureate of Malibu, CA. His books have been published by Piñata Books, Arte Público, Latin American Literary Review Press, and Red Hen Press. Ricardo has taught in the WITS program for eleven years.

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