

Time For Poetry?



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Writing in the Schools
Student Anthology 2023–2024



Red Hen Press | *Pasadena, CA*

Time For Poetry?

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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Charles W. Eliot Arts Magnet Academy
Jackson STEM Dual Language Magnet Academy
Pacoima Charter Elementary School
Pasadena High School

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Bonnie S. Kaplan
Linda Ravenswood
Brian Sonia-Wallace

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Gabriella Lazo
Shawn Mietz
Rosa Perez
Laura Chaparian
Linda Keavy
Dawnley Raíces
Ernesto Rodriguez
Nancy Valle

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HOST TEACHER: NANCY VALLE

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Time For Poetry?



Charles W. Eliot Arts Magnet Academy

HOST TEACHER

Mary Herrera

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Linda Ravenswood

7th Grade

AYNDAI

Orange

it is orange,
it is snow,
I can cook
with my mom.

JOSUE DAVID

Black

Black.

You cannot

Do it

his name was written, between
all the black and white,
the poet said the father the father.
And then it was black.

DIANA
Family

I like my family
because they mean
the world to me
it's blue
it's rain
it's a telephone.
We are those connections.

KIARA

My Rat

my mom my dad my brother
my grandpa
my rat Addy
that's my special one
she means everything to me
she is kind to me
when I think of the connections
I see pink
I see mountains
I'm on my phone
with my rat

NATHAN

My Dad

red bird

flowers

apples

trees

video games

and my phone

my mom

and my dad

but most of all I pick

my dad. We have a good time together and we do fun things.

VELVA

Reasons

traveling all around the page

a graphic novel

I make my way.

My mother always cries,

for reasons

Charles W. Eliot Arts Magnet Academy

HOST TEACHER

Shawn Mietz

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Bonnie S. Kaplan

7th Grade

LUIS AGUIRRE

Ode to baseball.

Baseball so much fun
I hit the ball and run and run run
I run through the base
I run fast just incase they throw me out
Into home plate i slide
Luckily with no one by my side
That's why baseball is so much fun
I get to hit the ball and run to first base.

ABIGAIL CASTANOS

Sports Haiku

For the thrill of sport
I like soccer because i can run
I can score and win

ALICIA CEJA

The poetry of my little sister colette ella Ceja

1. Harmless as a whale
2. Funny like a apple pie
3. Timeless like the coldest planet neptune
4. Loud like a lion
5. Strange like a interesting black bear
6. New as a newborn baby werewolf
7. Forgotten like lava
8. Angry like a fire breathing dragon
9. Kind like a zebra
10. Wild as a animal
11. Cute like a cat
12. Cheeky like a hyena
13. Roar like a lion and a tiger
14. Howl like a werewolf and a wolf
15. Smart like a black cat with emerald green eyes
16. Knows so much like a good witch
17. Run like the wind
18. Being like a leaf
19. Being flow with the movements of every elemental gates
20. Knowing how to switch every directions in every possible way
21. Stomps as a t-rex
22. Smooth like a milkshake
23. Cool like snow
24. Cold as ice
25. Burn like heat
26. Shiny like treasure
27. Nice like the moon
28. Sweet like cake

LILY CUMMINS

My ode to Seville

You left when i was at school i knew it was coming like when the
bell rings to leave when i went home the bed where you would
rest your soft doggy head would be empty as my heart you
where old i was young i thought you'd always be their but you
left like the leaves on a tree at fall when you past away i still miss
you to this very day.

CHARLES ERICSON

Ode to bed

My bed is something I treasure greatly.
The sheets, the blanket, I treasure.
I love it all . . . everything.

RILEY JOHNSON

If you knew me you would know

I had a dog named king and he was the best dog in the world

I have a little sister and she loves me with all her heart

I have a care mom who loves and cares for my friend like there her own

I am samoan, scottish, indian, black, and chinese

I have a loving family who loves me so much

GRAYSON KNAPP

Plant of a Pot

I am something of many colors

I can be green,

brown, yellow,

red, blue,

purple,

or many other colors

But which one am I?

I can not see but I can sense,

with my little stem or my big feelers

I have different features,

such as leaves and my stem.

But some more unusual ones maybe such as jaws or sticky nectar

I am tall or small or

big and wide or small and teensy or maybe not

What am I as a strange small thing,

most vital parts hidden under dirt,

guarded by clay

I am quite small just

like the whole of others,

in my little pot hidden in big houses
But that is not just my place

I can be anywhere,
in the darkest, scariest, depths,

the warm, rain-filled jungle
I differ based on where I came from,

in a dry desert I have wide roots
but in a sunless area there's nothing I can do

There are many different types of me,
not all can fit in pots,

but I am not a big one
My little self,

as you likely know,
is a tiny little plant,

not a big thing
Because I am just right,

for the tiny little pot unlike the big trees.
Things like me can have flowers and bees,

but they do not have to because we are just small little potted plants.

LARISSA CAMPOS

The Moors

Oh how red her lips are they are as red as the color of fresh blood
My heart of stone is as cold as the thought of lost love
The remains of my gold heart belong to the moors
And my green eyes possess all the kingdom of the enchanted forest
Where the beautiful girl got lost and never found

JAYCE LEE
Rockstars Rage

I play GTA and when I play it makes me feel like I'm rich cause I have 23,000,000

And when people need money I do missions with them to help out and when I
use a gaming steering

wheel it makes it feel real cause it is a real steering wheel

JORDYNN LEMUS

The moon and sun

When the sun goes down the moon goes up
The moon is a night light for the world to see people drive or people
walk when the moon goes down the sun goes up the sun is a light for the
world to see. It will never end it will go over and over again

Someday it will end.

LOUISE MACQUARRIE GLANVILLE

This everlasting Luxurie

New as a book straight from its Amazon Plastic.
Wild as a time machine to flavorful dreams

Harmless as a smooth lake of silky honey
Weird like the cream of a newborn dragonfruit

Loud as a concert
in your mouth

The way you dissolve into a warm, rich,
liquid when melted in an old pan

You are like a soft angel, melting into
My tastebuds.

You are
like a whisper

Telling me that
I can look for the good.

Loud as fireworks in my mouth
For the Cacao is firmly tasted

The sweet touch of milk added evenly
within.

A sense of guilt cast
upon many when they taste it,

But I sense forgiveness.

I sense . . .

Comfort

like true home

Engraved squares

Let me share this feeling with others.

Carefully crafted bars

I taste the care.

come with glossy golden Tickets,

Making me feel special.

Thank you chocolate.

For you are more than you may seem.

AH'MIIAH MORGAN

The Thrill of First Love

“When I laid eyes on him, I just knew he was the one. His Honolulu blue eyes, dark brown skin, and silky hair blowing in the breeze made my heart skip a beat. Though I was shy, I mustered up the courage to say ‘Hi.’ He responded and we started dating shortly after. However, a few months into our relationship, I noticed he wasn’t claiming me as his girlfriend. My friend even told me he wasn’t serious about me, and I discovered he was cheating. It was a difficult decision, but I knew I deserved someone who would love and care for me wholeheartedly. So we broke up and I moved on. Remember, you deserve someone who will love and care for you completely. Don’t settle for less than the respect and love you deserve. Choose wisely and wait for someone who will cherish and treat you with kindness and respect.”

JAZMIN P. OSORIO BARRIOS
My cat in the Summer-Time

Green eyes stare at me
Brown Tail goes swish-swish
In the summer-time

AGNES MACLEAN

My time is falling with You

Falling time

When you try to say goodbye to time

so slow my family

Getting pulled back by memories

I never said goodbye

What do I do when time is falling

I remember I remember the candy jars

ALONDRA ELIZABETH FRAIRE MARTINEZ
ODE TO BEES

A fuzzy lil thing. black and yellow like the moon and
the sun. wings like a bird in flight. it buzzes like a
siren. hard working one. in one big group they protect
their queen.

MICAH

The tropical Philippines

Philippines are cool
Rice meat and some fresh cool fish
Is the perfect dish

BYRON MUNOZ
Blue and Red Sirens

mommy and daddy said the basement was safe
every day daddy would give me pills that would protect from the outside world
one day it was open
are those blue and red sirens?
what thats yellow thing above me and why does it hurt my eyes

ELENA M. HOLGUIN OCHOA
Ode to My Big Stuffed Giraffe

Harmless as a Rollie Pollie
Weird like the dirty grass
Timeless like my dreams
Loud as an Intersection
Strange like a bratty five year old
New as a Key
Forgotten like the closet its in
Angry like a bee
Kind like a seal
Wild as a sewer rat

LUIGI RABAYA

Ode to Spiderman

Kind as spiderman saves the world we be sad when he gone
Wild as spider so smart building in a web climber
Angry like Venom will take revenge spiderman
I literally forgot Spiderman's name and I will forget again.
A New Hero and join spiderman group to make more heroes
A Strange or suspicious spider man's villain was trapping with
heroes of spider man group
Is time to save spiderman in on evil base
The spiderman says a bad word cause spider man don't want to talk
A spiderman villain and make my ear hurt
A Harmless spider that bites after a spider bites you.

LEO RAY RODGERS

Sonic

Time Is going fast by the minute
known yet slowly forgotten
Wish things slowed down

These green hills bring back memories
that I can't get back
feel that being fast is not everything
Want to slow down

I'm blue confident and fast yet sad
My Hedgehog fox and echidna
friends are growing
I feel alone and forgotten

No I have everything
Fast Blue confident a hero
This can't and won't bring me down
Never will

IDA S.B. ROSENCRANTZ

If you saw me you would see

If you knew me you would know, I like running up the trees in the morning,
floating up to the clouds, performing for the world. Did you know that
If you knew me you would know, I am wild yet tame, bending the world to my
will and going with the flow of people's tide like a lion posing as a housecat
If I told you you could tell that I like cats whether it is a sphinx or a lynx
And I am indecisive even when it comes to drinks
Of course the first choice, water harmless as a daisy
Then there is soda, when I drink it I go crazy
And fresh squeezed orange juice as new as a baby
Some beverages keep you alive, they help you thrive,
That is one of the reasons you survive,
and make sure you don't meet your demise.
There is ice tea as cold as a winter tree
Tea is hot and bubbling like lava
There are unknown ones such as the juice of a guava
AH I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CHOOSE
I think I'm going to lose a fuse
But if you saw me you would see
I am not helpless, powerless, or defenseless
I can stand up for myself
When someone speaks for me that is not what annoys me itself
When they speak It is that deep down they think I am weak and I wish
They never made a peep, squeak, or creek
And even if I have to stand alone or face the unknown
I'm OK so stay in your own zone

DEVIN RUTH

Haiku of Dragon Ball

Beings can fly and shoot

There are planets universes galaxies and stars

Collect the dragon balls to wish for anything

SHAUN R

Very Epic Poem

If you knew me you would know that

I'm cool.

I love my mom's recipes (and my dad's).

My brother is in the military.

I'm a cool person.

And I like cheese.

MIA SAYEGH

American Shorthair

Quiet nights late nights
It feels deeper and deeper
love drifting away

Ode to Mylo
Chubby bad breath
Meows for food
Even though he ate
Scratches on couches
Always hunting

Blood in the cold snow

Cold icy blood on a hot day the warm blood on my skin
greasy hands clear water quiet place where all my thoughts
Flow free one wrong step and it's over cold air on my face being
pressured always quiet never trust they always say fake it til you
make it.

ESTHER SILVA

Ode to my friends

My friends are amazing with their humor, like a group of Hyenas laughing. Meeting them was like a firework being lit and shooting up into the sky. They always support me like tape holding together paper. I don't know what I would do without them. If I lost them, I'd be like a knife going through my heart or a flood destroying a city.

AULANI SIMIEN

Mickey and Minnie Mouse Poem

Mickey and Minnie Mouse popped out of my mind
And into this poem
A strong friendship doesn't need daily conversation
And they don't always need to be together
If their relationship has a place in their heart
True friends won't ever be apart

LILAH JANE SPARKS

Flappy Bird in Court

Okay, I'm sorry! I'm Sorry! Please I can't go to jail, I'm just a young bird.

Judge I admit my game was a bit rigged, but what was I supposed to do!

Nobody wants to play a boring game where you can win so easily,

How do you think I got 90 million downloads!

Oh those were the days 2013 was the best year of my life!

EMARIAH STURGIS

Ode to Teeth

My first tooth i collected
A canine, 5 years old
Harmless as a baby tooth
Has fallen from my mouth
Sharp and broken
In half
It bleeds
Only for 1
Minute
I cleaned
The wound
And the
Tooth
Now i have my first
Item in my collection

ELLA SWERDLOFF

Lily of the valley

Lily of the valley is as innocent as moonlight but with tears sadder
like a mother whose child went to war seeing it shine in the sunlight like
glass every time it cries i feel like a part of my heart drowning in my eyes
a flower with a child innocents, a mothers tears but still to me
it's beautiful as a angel holding a child close while
she sings it good night

LUCY WALKER

The Queen of Hearts

i'm scared and worried
afraid of the sun
i don't like people
not anyone
people are mean
and don't have hearts
they are all so cruel
and rip me apart

XAIYYEN WARREN
SPRING WEATHER

|Drawing is my thing|
|when i draw i feel open|
|like a nice spring day |

AVERY WILLIAMS

Toad

Like a kid with a raspy voice

I live in the mushroom kingdom

My friends are princess peach, Mario, and Luigi

My greatest fear is the mushroom kingdom falling

EDWARD ZUCKERBURG

Ode to Wingstop

What do you want to sing the praises of?
Chicken wings when the barbecue is so good and the garlic is so bad
i honestly would pick the hot honey and original hot
barbecue, hot honey and original hot
what would life be without it
i mean the fries are so good
and don't even get me started on the ranch
so creamy honestly it goes well with everything
and when i say everything i mean everything
the fries perfectly salted
and the tenders so good
but my personal favorite is bone in
its so good that you would want to die

Charles W. Eliot Arts Magnet Academy

HOST TEACHER

Dawnley Raíces

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Bonnie S. Kaplan

7th Grade

ADRIAN ABKARIAN

Toothless

Toothless

This is a dragon.

Black he's a Nightfury dragon.

He is the strongest dragon of all.

Can live up to 180 years old.

There are not many left because people have been killing them.

For the profit from them is very good money . . .

Toothless had changed the world by making the world having dragons and vikings be friends

Getting along so there is no more killing, no more dragons.

TIMOTHY ARLINE

Ode to Takis

Crunch Crunch

Takis are life

Hot like a metal part of a seatbelt in the summertime

Takis are loving

you bring me joy

Takis are the best

In the West, you can never contest

PATRICK BROOKS

If You Knew Me

If you knew me you would know I like anime because of the fight scenes and the plot they are overpowered, the characters and the theme.

If you knew me you would know I love animals because they are cute and some are strong and fearsome like lions or tigers.

I like motorcycles because they are fast, cool looking and you get to ride with your buddies.

I like hiking because its fun, adventures, and relaxing

DELILAH CERRATO

Big Blue Bag

I am 4 years old

Born in 2019

I think I'm the best Taki of all

I live in a big blue bag with blue flames

My friends are red Taki and Green Taki.

My wish is to be the best taki

My fear is turning into crumbs

My secret is that I always comes back

I am Blue Takis

DONNA CISNEROS
Know Your Worth

all the little things

snow falls silently

things can affect you

KAYLEE CRUZ

Sugar Rush

eating pastries
cupcakes brownies
now type two diabetes

DAMIAN CRUZ MORAN

Soccer is the Best

Soccer is happy and joyful
when I enter the pitch I feel at home
Stadiums full of fans cheering when you score the goal

ZIA ESPIE MEDELLIN

Ode To My Pencil

Ode to my pencil,
My sweet sweet pencil, you're the world to me and always.
You help me by writing with me
You help the world too
In fact, you're older than me, older than any one on earth,
You were born in 1560.
Ode to my pencil who also helps me and the world to draw.
You help me create amazing drawings, inside or outside.
Outside when the wind is breezy and warm with nice soft clouds and
Inside when it is noisy and loud.
Ode to my pencil, what will I do without you.

JEREMIAH FINISTER

Frogs

What Am I ??

Blue/and/spec/kled/legs

Climb on trees And logs

They live in Central and South America

They live In The Rainforest

What Am I?

A Poison Dart Frog!

REBECA FULLBRIGHT

October

Coffins snuggle in graves,
Sound shadows crawl across the cemetery ground,
It is October and the night sky looms,
As the creatures go searching for food.

MARIO GALLARDO

Never Again

How can he do this to me?

I wanna get him back.

Possible revenge:

Shave his head

Give him bad luck

Hope karma gets him

I'm not going back to that barber no more . . .

CINTHIA GARCIA

THE MISSING PEACE OF HEART

Oh, Dear Diary,

How I regret cheating on Minnie with Daisy, that devious duck,

Donald went with Minnie another devious duck.

Daisy is saying it was for the best.

Oh, but I really miss Minnie.

Oh, Minnie oh Minnie my sweet sweet Minnie.

You remind me of a symphony of billions of diamonds in the sunset

My ending won't be the same no happy ending no happy mouse.

M

M

M

M

CHRISTOPHER GONZALEZ-THOMAS

The Clicker

I'm full of sweetness

when you take a bite out of me it's soft full of chocolate that just came
out of grandma's oven that always gets clicked with a computer mouse.

HECTOR HERNANDEZ

IF YOU KNOW

As my day brightens with my T.V. at full blast
I dance to my scooter to ride around my neighborhood
A gang comes up and I scooter away back to my house.

GLORIA JARAMILLO

Christmas Day

holiday spirit
spending time with family
the christmas spirit

OLYMPIA JIHANIAN

A Hat's Diary

Dear Diary: I am so bored. Yesterday, all I did was wait, and then when the waiting was done, I realized I was in a packed metal container, then it flooded and I almost drowned! Anyways, my dream is to be worn to a movie theater, then I would get to relax and watch the movie. All I ever get to do is wait in front of computers showing boring files and documents. When that's over at least I get to rest on a pole and maybe talk to Water Bottle or Clock. But at least I don't have it as bad as Toothbrush.

LIZ KELLY

Soft Cats

Willow you are as soft as cotton

Athena your as sweet as candy

Willow when I see you I think of cotton candy

MARIAH LACOSTA

A First For Everything

Today was my first rootbeer float! It was so good!
Mixed with rock candy it was legendary
For some people, it is the first time
To walk a first to have a crutch
A first to trip on a rock
And a first to have a crush
A first to lose a game
All these things feel like I was meant to be in this world

AYLI LOPEZ

Rain

gray clouds like concrete coming in
a raindrop on my nose
knowing my mom is going to tell me to come in
it makes me want to stay outside
walking outside in the rain with my itchy jacket
jumping on puddles, the umbrella as loud as the rain when it touches
Then the sun comes but the mosquito leaves bites on my skin

JAMIE LOPEZ

A Nice Stroll

down the soft dirt path
the winter snow is melting
spring is now growing

JJ MALLETT

Peeling Back

Banana pudding

I don't trust nothin' yellow

Eat now or throw up

DAELIN MEJIA
Socks too Small

Hi am small sock
And am 1 year old and
I have a friend name big sock
my fear is getting thrown away and
I just want to get worn again

ALONDRA MIRANDA

Summertime

gooey gummy sweet

watermelon Water yum

sour summertime

TIFFANY NAVARRETE CHIGO

School

School I don't like you, in fact i hate you.

No offence school but you're pretty boring period to next period
going up and down the stairs.

I don't like classwork, I don't like homework.

I JUST WANT MORE SLEEP.

MADELYN NISHIZAKI
Princess in Paradise . . . Not

God these dwarfs. Clean this, clean that, it's always the same. Wake up, make food, clean up, make more food, sleep. I'm so done. The dwarfs are fun . . . sometimes. But it's still the same thing. Wake up, make food, clean up, make more food, sleep. If I knew my life would be like this, I would have eaten that apple the second I saw it.

After my "Happily Ever After," I found my prince, fell in love, even got married. But a couple months later, I found him cheating. So I'm back with the dwarfs. They think I'm happy, they're really oblivious sometimes.

Diary, I'm just so tired. Grumpy just really gets on my nerves sometimes. You know how I always say cupcakes make everything better? They just make him grumpier! The other dwarfs steal them before he can take a bite. Thankfully there's only seven of them, if there were more, I don't think I could manage. Hold on, they have ten cousins coming tomorrow . . . You know what, I'm leaving for Hawaii tonight. See you in a century, Diary.

DANIEL PANIAGUA

Shoesy

Squeak Squeak

New as new Fragment lows

Shoes shoes I love my new shoes

Shoes shoes I love my new shoes

Life without shoes would give me the blues and would leave me with lots
of clues

With new shoes I feel as fresh like a bright yellow Mango

Do you like shoes cause I like shoes

Shoes shoes

Shoes shoes

JOSLYN PANOSSIAN

My Love

Your soft auburn eyes
Make my knees meet their demise

When you give me love
It's as soft as a dove

Your vague words
Make me think of birds

You seem to have a keen passion
For having sympathy and compassion

You make me swoon
Underneath the midnight moon

How you keep endearment for my tricks
Keeps me shocked during the eclipse

TESSA BRYCE PHILLIPS FORTICH

Ube

dads halo halo
i get him his yummy treat
That will be his gift

ANNIKA QUEZADA

Dug

Hi there, SQUIRREL. . . . Hello, I'm a golden retriever, my name is Dug. Oh yes, I can talk because my smart good master made this collar for me. I can bark. BARK. Here's howling. AWOOOOO. Apologies, anyway. I'm on a mission looking for a bird with my great tracking senses. This mission is important, very important. I want to find a bird, have you seen a bird? It's purple and blue like the rainbow. It would be amazing if you helped me find this bird. Would you help me? Really? YEAH! WOO! I have just met you and I love you.

DAYRIN RAMIREZ RAMIREZ

Mi Cat

My cat always follows me Everywhere

When hungry she follows me and meows

Close like a shadow

When my cat wants to play she comes up to me with her toy mouse

I hide the mouse, it's not time to play

EVELYN RAMIREZ

Winter Tamales

tamales are good
the house smells delicious
on a chilly day

ANTHONY ROBLES

Spider Secrets

I have to hide it from my friends
except ned
Heights are my biggest fear
and
I don't like spiders
But I'm Spiderman

LONDON RUIZ

In-N-Out

You are so delicious !

You are the food to my heart .

Everything about you is just amazing.

I can go to you anytime I want, any day, and any hour.

I see the wait for an hour and it just doesn't matter to me.

Every time I see it's music to my ears.

MICHAEL SERNA

Hat Trick

Soccer, you make me feel happy

you score—we shout

you are Messi and Ronaldo—we are kids with dreams

You smell like freshly cut grass on the field.

When I see you I see celebrations

You taste like beer showers when people throw it in the air.

You feel like Freedom.

JOLIE SIMMONS

Hypocrites, Pick a Side:

You say that you love the rain but you still grab
an umbrella

You say that you love the sun but still go
in the shade

You say that you love the beach and water
but still sit and tan

You say this but still do that

ELIZABETH SOLORZANO

Martha

winter a warm house

fresh tacos on a cold day

my mothers cooking

ZOE STOHLER

ODE TO PAINTING

Your radiant form with colors like fire,
the vast quantity so open flying across the page
my brush only guiding my minds eye
making a beautiful picture in its wake.

ALEX THOME

The Gum That Got Stepped On

Hello I'm the new gun in town.

I live in a mansion and I'm rich.

I'm a watermelon flavor and I look pink.

But I'm living a bad life. Because I don't like to get stepped on.

And look what happened. I got stepped on.

But to make one day better he wishes to change his flavor to spearmint.

LONDON VELAZQUEZ FRANCO

Hamzilla

I am hamzilla

and

I got food and water

and

I sleep a lot at in the day

and

at night I eat

and

workout.

WALTER VILLALTA

Miles Morales

I think about Gwen Stacy all the time

we save new york from the green goblin

We save the city from evil

And help people from buildings that are on fire

Still Gwen Stacy on my mind

She has short hair

The Venom is trying to transfer his parasite into her

I sacrificed myself and the parasite transferred to me instead of her

We got the parasite out from my body and destroyed it with fire!

RAYLAN WASHINGTON

In-N-Out

We all heard of it from a friend or just saw it and wanted to try it.

If you never heard of it, then guess what, I'm telling you.

You can smell the fresh fries

Through the drive through window.

You can dream of the burgers.

WESLEY WURTEMBERG

Years of Waiting

I live in your old run-down Goodwill. My dream is to be bought by someone . . . anyone.

I sit here waiting and waiting until trash day comes, then I try my best to look like I am still good enough to stay . . .

People pass by me every day.

I wish that someone would at least look at me.

Only shirts, pants, shorts and ugly christmas sweaters get acknowledged, not a pair of rundown and dirty shoes—secretly worn by young Mookie Betts.

. . . so I sit here waiting and waiting

waiting to be seen

waiting to be noticed

waiting . . . to be loved

ISABELLA ZAMUDIO

Money, Money, Money

When I see you I get happy knowing I am about to go on a shopping spree

When I hear you ding when I use Apple Pay I get excited to wear my new clothes

You smell kinda bad but it's okay because no one should smell you because you're dirty

I taste the mango boba with strawberry-popping boba that I got for \$7.00 from you

Jackson STEM Dual Language Magnet Academy

HOST TEACHER

Linda Keavy

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Linda Ravenswood

3rd Grade

ABNER

In the Restroom

I go to school by the street
and I get there by foot

the weirdest thing I ever saw at school was the time I saw a
mouse in the restroom.

when my parents come home I go and hug them and I say to my
mom how was your day
At dinner our table looks like my mom and my grandpa and my
grandma and sometimes my uncle and my cousin. We are all
having dinner together

ALLISON

MY Cat

the weirdest thing I ever saw at school was me and my friends dancing on Halloween.

My Cats wake me up at 5 o'clock in the morning to eat and drink and play and then we go back to sleep.

my brother who goes to the mall by his shoes.

SANDRA CISNEROS

After

my brother. When I'm with him.

I feel grateful. and joy.

We go to the mountains.

And we watch the sunset.

BLAKE

A Note

Darren is older than me. He knows that I like him. He is strong. He is fast. Sometimes I want to pass a note to my crush and tell him how I feel.

DARRIANNA

A Big Mess

When my parents come home they take me to the mall and to the park.

At dinner our table looks nice.

My mom makes some good pizza and my sister makes a big mess.

When I had two weeks off of school

I went and got my nails done and my hair done

and I did art for 60 minutes

and when it was time for school I went to school and have fun

ISAAC D

And then

The weirdest thing I ever saw at this school was a rat coming out of a rock and then running around the school and then the fire alarm went off in lunch.

ELIA

My Joy

Mama
Elena
traveled
to El Salvador
to sell stuff.
I miss her.
But she is going to
come back
for me
because she loves me

my grandma
my sunshine,
my sunset,
my ocean,
my joy,
my happiness,
my friend,
my angel.
And . . . My rainbow.

My grandma wakes up on the couch, she goes to make tea,
then she grabs popcorn, sits on the couch and watches TV.

ERICA

Always

when my parents come home my dad makes himself a lemonade and watches his TV and relaxes and then he takes a nap and my mom cooks food at dinner our table has my mom making hot food and telling us what the food is it's a surprise. And it's always really good.

JOSE FRANCO

Dirty Dog

I went to Mexico
and I saw a shark
so I was scared
and I fell down
and then I went to Chicago
and I saw a dirty dog.
Also, I like buying hats

if I was a rainbow I would smile every day

ISAAC F

If...

I am here to make people happy
and to be helping my mom.

If I was an octopus

I would swim

if I was a rainbow cloud

I would say yes or no.

I would look at the street

at the world

at the corners

and the houses

I would be a friend.

GENESIS

Ocean

my mom is joy to me,
when she cries it fills the ocean.
My mom is happy
when she sees the sunshine
and rainbows, she is grateful for a friend.

I was made to live
to be talented
to make a good world
to enjoy life.
I was made to go to the beach
to be healthy
to not hurt the Earth.
I was born to ride horses
to have pets
to have a dream
to have a goal.

GIOVANNI

Hair

when my parents come home
they are covered in hair all over the place because my mother is a barber.

At dinner time our table looks like me eating soup.

The weirdest thing at school
was when I saw a mouse run into a bush

GUIMST

My Life

swimming in a river
hiking up a mountain
walking through a street
hitting a wall
the corner is high
I see a big house
I like my life

ELI IBARRA

Cats

I went to Mexico
and I saw some horses.
And I saw some Cats.

ISABELLA

Doritos

I went to Mexico and I started to run and then I ended up falling.
And then I got up
and then I got on my bike
and I started riding it

one time I was eating Doritos
at the beach in Jamaica
when the sun set

JACOB

Venomous

if I was at an ocean
I would go swimming with my friend Frank
I would go with my family
I would be eating an ice cream
sitting on a bench
the ice cream will be chocolate

if I was an octopus I would swim around the ocean
I am a blue ringed octopus
I will be a venomous octopus
I am sad because there is trash in my house.

When my parents come home
they say how was your day son.
I say good
and they say good.
I clean the house when my parents are home.
At our dinner table
it looks like spicy food on white plates and then I play with my video game.

JAIME

Joy

The most important thing to know about me is that I love my family and they bring me joy. The family takes care of me and they make me laugh and smile. I'm grateful for my family because they help us to have fun and if I'm ever feeling sad we go to the mountains to look at the beautiful scenery.

JASON

Untitled

I love my home, I love my school. It's fun to play and to dream about the future.

KELDI

IFA

My dog, IFA. My dog IFA brings happiness to my friends and me. We go to the ocean and watch the sunset while IFA runs around. I'm grateful for her and for the joy that she brings she is so much fun. Sometimes my dog IFA nervously pants right in my face when we are in the car driving on a road trip.

When my dad comes home, he turns The key in the door and takes off his shoes. The dog comes running to him. My mom is cooking dinner.

At dinner, our table is a rectangle with four placemats. My mom, dad, sister and me talk about our day. We usually eat no meat and our mom is lactose intolerant.

When I want to get cleaned up I turn on the shower and I make it warm then I take a shower with my sister and put on shampoo and conditioner then soap.

I go to school by the freeway and we have a great view of the mountains. I go to school by riding in my car with my dad and my little sister.

The weirdest thing I ever saw at school was when I was at my old school during lunch on the field I saw people riding horses on the sidewalk across the street. It was so cool.

LILLIANNA

Smokey

I was made to be talented
to enjoy life
to help others
to be kind and loving
to keep wildfires from happening.

MELANIE

Snow and Mud

I went to the woods
and it was dark.

I was doing math for my homework. There was snow
and mud
a dog
and a tiger

I was drawing math
with my markers
in the dark

I saw a dog running away from a tiger the dog got away
free from the tiger
the dog was running
safe in the mud

MIA

Watch the Sky

if I was at the mountain
I would take pictures.
And I would swim
and feel the breeze.
I would drink my shake
and I would watch the sky.

I love my grandma
she's always making lunch for me when I get back from school.

PAULA N

Everyone In Mexico

at dinner our table looks like . . .
full of food
me and my brother
are watching TV while we eat.

if I was at the ocean I would swim,
look at the fishes / sea creatures.
I would collect seashells or hang out with my family

if I was an octopus I would sting everyone in Mexico
I would eat fish / seaweed
and during the sunset
I would hide from eels.

RUTH

Spider

I go to school by car.
And by 7:15 in the morning
my school is near.
We drive from my house with my dad.

The weirdest thing at school
was a big spider in the class.

ROGER

Movies

I love my dog.
We play games.
My dog is fast.
My dog is my friend.

I love the Earth
I love my life.
I love my dad
we go to the movies
and see the wish movie on Friday.

ISABELLA R

The Most Important Thing

if I was the ocean
I would stick my toes in the Sand
and eat ice cream.
The most important thing
to know about me is
I have dreams.

SAMANTHA

Birds

if I was at the mountains
I would see the waterfall
and I would swim in the water
and see the birds.
I would swim within
the water flow.

SOFIA

Sometimes

when my parents come home they . . .

go to soccer,

and sometimes

they come with food from the store. They cook for me.

And sometimes,

they just go to bed.

SPENCER

Chuck

the weirdest thing at school was that time that Chuck E. Cheese came to the school and everyone went crazy and we were outside.

JASMINE S

Nature

I was made to live
to be talented
to help the environment
to enjoy life
to be smart
to learn
to live life to the fullest
to spend time with the people I love
to enjoy nature
to be grateful

TELLAYAH

The Sand

I was walking on a cool day and I saw a snowflake falling
from the sky it looked like as a feather the sky is beautiful and
inspiring and amazing and filled with color

I was walking on the pier and got cupcakes and looked at the sea
and when I was walking I saw a bee and almost fell.

I painted a cupcake.
I was on a boat and saw the beautiful sunset.

If I was an octopus in this water, this ocean I would be
swimming around in the cold waters of the Atlantic and look
at the coral and feel the natural sand with my purple and blue
colors of my skin

if I was a rainbow I would fly and I would say hello I am a
rainbow and I would embrace my colors and show everyone
how beautiful I am.

I see the sand by the clear swimming pool
I'm sitting on a bench drinking water on a hot day

KIMBERLY VASQUEZ

If

if I was at the ocean I would . . .
be with my best friend Paola
and go swimming.

If I was an octopus I would . . .
be white and camouflage
so I could hunt my prey.

ZASIA

Rainbows

School is fun, the sun is yellow and never ends. Rainbows fly off my fingertips.

ZAYDEN

Giant Mouse

when my parents come home
they put their stuff down
and say hi to the rest of the family.
At dinner time we help with the plates, my brother and my sister.
When I want to get cleaned up
I hop into the shower.
Then the next day I go to school
by the houses and I get there in the car.
My mom drives me to school.
The weirdest thing I ever saw in the school was when I saw a giant mouse.

Pacoima Charter Elementary School

HOST TEACHER

Rosa Perez, Gabriella Lazo

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Brian Sonia-Wallace

5th Grade

VIVIAN ALVAREZ

My Sister Now Off To College

The memories I have. Bite marks I had.
The workouts we did. I was just a small kid.
The time passed by too fast. Our time didn't last.
We separated over time. And now my heart is like a lime.
It's your time to go. Now it's just me all alone
I'll wait until we reunite. But until then my heart will have a bite

—Vivian Alvarez

JANELLY BORQUEZ

Raindrops

I was in the car.
Raindrops went dashing down the window
I stared at the raindrops
Rain drops dash and raced down.
I looked at the raindrops
I imagined the raindrops racing.
One rain drop on the left
One raindrops on the right
One raindrop in the middle.
The raindrops raced.
The raindrop on the right won
I was rooting for the middle.
Because it was ahead.

It doesn't matter if someone is ahead of you,you always have a chance of winning

ELISHA CARILLO REYES

My Name

Extraordinary

Loving

Intelligent

Super active

Happy

Amazing

My name is Elisha

ABIGAIL CERVANTES

Overcoming

In life there will be people who hurt you
Spend more time with those people who love you
You will make mistakes
Mistakes are okay
Mistakes make up life
You may have regrets
Unless you can take time back
Focus on happiness now
You may lose people you love
Pour that love on people who need it
You will bump against obstacles to reach your goals
Obstacles are challenges
That sharpen your motivation and resolve
You may have worries that hold your back
Every fear you overcome
Makes you stronger and better
You are overcoming

DAVID CHAVEZ

On a peaceful walk

The leaves rustle,
the wind blows,
and a peaceful feeling of no noise.
The yellowish leaves,
The color of the sky,
And the chirp of the birds.
The sight of the sunset,
The laughter of the children.

CAMILA CUEVAS
Hershey's Kiss

If I were to be a sweet candy
my name would be Hershey's Kiss
when they make me in the factory
I spread all the sweetness around

so the worker's sneak one so they could eat it , finally when they take

me on a ride to Target so people could buy me,
But here is the thing that when they eat me i feel so nervous that the

chocolate grips all around me ,

but i am all happy that they enjoy eating me know how it is being a

Hershey's chocolate now.

EMILY ESTEVEZ-VAZQUEZ

The Dinosaur's adventure at Night

The dinosaur Tommy was as happy as he could be resting under the moon. After laying around Tommy got hungry so he ate a banana. Once Tommy finished eating his banana he decided to explore. When he was exploring he found a lyre that was next to a tire. Excited, Tommy played, and played underneath the moon's ray of light. Tommy encourages you to just be yourself.

ADAM GONZALEZ

Untitled

I feel happy.
The weekend is approaching.
Even though it will pour,
I will still have fun.

The weekend is here!
Running around my backyard.
I fell . . .
It hurt as if a shark bit me.

Washing my boo boo
Band aid time.
I'm saying good bye to the weekend

LUIS HERNANDEZ

My Journey To Go To Ross With My Mom

I rushed and rushed
to go to Ross with my mom.
We got in but long enough,
I asked my mom,
“How many minutes left mom to leave Ross?”
I was using my phone. Watching king kong
And I asked my mother
It’s been so long since I finished watching King kong.

ISRAEL LEMUS

My phone poem

If im a phone, I knew that I would be used everyday by others for fun, studying, reading, and more. I am very useful toward people because I am able to send and receive messages online for them. I am one of the most famous technologies in the world and I am happy that I am useful towards others. But I am very scared sometimes when I am on the verge of being destroyed. When my battery dies I am very sad because I can't get used to it for the next few minutes.

EMMANUEL LOPEZ

The time that I Went to the pet store

When I went to the pet store there were so many options there were

H: Hedgehogs

A: Axolotls

M: Macaws

S: Snakes

T: Turtles

E: Earthworms

R: Rabbits

The animal that I chose was a hamster!

SONNY-REY MARTINEZ

Battle for gold island

One time Grassy was walking and then he fell,

Then he woke up in a world of imagination. There were also other people. Then something strange happened. The floor started cracking and everyone started panicking. Grassy knew the power of the world but then something punched out of the ground it was the creator. He told everyone the challenge grassy was right on the challenge was to defeat the strongest person ever everyone failed except grassy he learned the power of one punch man.

Grassy is safe because he won the challenge, the creator said.

BELLA MARTINEZ

White Crayon

I am white crayon. I am a white
Crayon without a purpose. There i am
all by myself. Separated from the pack.
while others get numbed, i stay sharp.
I am not as bright as the others, or as
Colorful, i am just me there is nothing
More I could be. I am not primary, I
Am not apart of the rainbow, I am just
Me there is nothing more I could be.
I am just not used for many things.
But wait I am. I am used for plenty not
Not just without a purpose. I am used
For making highlights, and for making
Colors lighter if they are too dark.
There is no differences to be me there
are just differences you can see.

—Bella Martinez

KALANI NAPPER

Life over Death

A new chapter of fantasia's life began. She wanted it to stop, she wanted it to end.

She was bullied until she stopped school. She was called a loser because she wasn't very cool.

Her sister Rosette couldn't play; she was always at work. Now she isn't nice to Fantasia, now she is a jerk.

Fantasia was done and she was finished. She had a good idea but no she couldn't.

She thought and thought for hours to come to this conclusion. Fantasia wanted to be with God with no other solution.

She grabbed a knife from the drawer to be slain. She was about to lose the life she had just gained.

But a stroke of love came to her heart. No matter how busy Rosette was, nothing can tear them two apart.

Fantasia put the knife back and went to her room filled with regret. But she knew she had the best family and she didn't want to leave, not yet.

No matter how much you feel unloved just know there is always someone out there who loves you.

—Kalani.

LERA EMILY OSTROVSKI

Playful Cats

Got up early in the morning waiting everyone to wake up
Very patient to wait when the owner feeds them
Very silly everyday and in the early morning
Excited to go to the garage everyday
Always awake every night to play
Love to chew on some things at home
Everyday always sleepy at on top of the scratching post
Like to scratch on the scratching post

MATTHEW PALACIOS

Rain

I'm at home, thinking about what to do.
Like any other day, I'm staring at the view.
Looking at the window, every drop races through.
It's been raining forever, so it feels like I grew.

Looking at the board games I have.
All these games I have are bad and boring.
No wonder they're called board games.
Still thinking about what I should do.

My mom woke up from her nap.
Until finally we made up our own game.
Our game was called grocery store.
We made cut up paper to make it look like money.
While we did that my little sister got her toys.
Then we started playing right away.
Maybe rainy days aren't too bad.

MELANY PENA

Wingstop

Opening the black box then
smelling the
delicious fragrance.

Picking up one of the wet
original
hot

boneless wings
and dipping it in the
creamy ranch.

Tasting the
flavorful sauce
and I

munch and munch
on the wings.

Grabbing a fry and again, dipping it in the
incredible ranch.

Then when I am done I will
lick the
extra sauce off my fingers.

JOSE PUENTES

SOCCKER

Soccer is one of the best sports
worldwide. Some of the greats
have played the beautiful game.
Soccer is filled with rivals.
There are also supports\fans.
There are managers who come up with a plan.
To secure VICTORY!
If you ever played the beautiful game.
IT is full of a lot
of athleticism, Memory and more.
If you play or know about the beautiful game
There are goats which means Greatest of all time.
In my opinion MESSI IS THE GOAT.

BRADLEY RESENDI-LATIF

Humming-bird

We

Go

And

We go

And we

Fly and

Fly and

Soar we do

We land and we

Go again and

Fly and float

We land

And

Walk

W

A

L

K

I

N

G

DIANA REYES

Walking

On the weekends walking for hours in the hot sun feeling that your burning makes me feel like melting cheese.

Telling your mom to leave but she lies again and again for hours and hours makes me feel like she will live there for days.

Staying in a place for hours makes me feel like I've been there for centuries.

Mom just keeps calling someone and keeps looking at clothes but never gets them makes me feel more bored and tired.

Telling her to get something for me makes me feel like an annoying little kid.

The time we get out it's already the next day makes me feel like we've been in a long bright cave.

DESTINY RODRIGUEZ

Bestfriend

When I'm with you, I'm the happiest I can be.
Outside in nature, or in the comfort of our own houses,
you're always fun to be with.
When we are on a call, or out on the yard, you make me
smile and laugh.
You're always happy and your smile lights up my day.
You're one of my best friends because you're you and
you're fun to be around too.

ARACELI RODRIGUEZ

Strawberry Ice cream

Im a strawberry ice cream
I was made by different foods which created me
As sweet as sugar
And as non divine as eggs I still have my own individuality
My cone keeps me from falling
My buddy chocolate ice cream is melting
When she is with me
She goes back to normal

STEVEN SANDOVAL

Music Cures Everything

As you're laying on your bed filled with anger and despise with your
headphones on i wonder what music you like not thinking about your
problems that you have but the right music can cure your feelings
The drumming and the strumming or the delightful nature sounds
Can help you feel your inner self but as your music or sounds
Flow through your head watch as the melody changes your
feelings always stick to the bright side and don't look back
At the dark side I know what anger feels like and it does
Not feel good .
Listen to your favorite kind of music
And your horrible feelings will go away.

MARIBEL RUIZ

Mice

If i was a mice
i will devour rice
however i will definitely not be nice
I will gobble my prey not my predator
Which are those disgraceful humans
Which murder my dad by a mice trap
I miss so much but i'm still standing after all this time
Have you ever felt sad before?

ROBERT SANTIAGO

Dinosaur on the moon

A dinosaur slips on a banana peel and lands on the moon

he gets stuck in a tier and playing a lyre

He plays for hours and gets tired and falls asleep

He realizes that it was all a dream and wakes up for him to slip on a

banana peel.

ISRAEL SANTOS

The Laughter and Comedy in a Memory

“Remember that one time I fell off the bed?” I suddenly asked

“What? How long ago was that?” responded my sister Isabel

“Like last week. I was close to falling asleep but I was on the edge and then our cat Venus scared me, then I fell. Hard”

“Ohhh, Yeah I remember that. That was funny”

“Remember when I stepped on a clothes hanger, did the splits then fell on the iron?”

“When was that”

“ . . . ”

“Israel?”

“ . . . ”

“Im asking you a question

“On Monday . . .”

“Are you serious Israel”

“ . . . ”

“Yes”

“Remember when mom told me to get a Q-tip”

“I ran,”

“It was when the AC was leaking.”

“I slipped on the towel.”

“And hurt my pinky” I said, trying to hold my
Laughter.

“And I stayed on the floor-”

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

I bursted out

Laughing

I turned red

I fell

I made another
memory

ELENA SOLIS

Memories to hold

I have my memories of my family
Family is my love
Family is my joy
Family is my value
I have my memories
I have my love in one person
Who i greatly miss
He's my uncle
He went to fast
All i have is my memories
His big smile
His weird jokes
His big hugs
And all I have is his feeling
And all I have is his memory
These are
My memories to hold

JOSELUIS URRUTIA

Trying To Fall Asleep

I was tired but couldn't rest because of the sound of tires, and My neighbor playing his lyre. I still couldn't rest because of the sound of dinosaurs roaring at night. So I looked at the moon hoping to fall asleep, but it was already morning. So I ate a banana. Now I will be telling you about the time I was tired. The time I felt tired was when I came back home from a long tiring day at disneyland. My leg just didn't work anymore.

EMILY VAQUERA

Sounds

Flip,flop,flip,flop.

That is the sound of gorditas being made in the kitchen.

Sizzle, sizzle, pop.

That is the sound of tortillas being fried to make taquitos dorados.

On Christmas, me, my mom, and my brother are in the kitchen

making dinner and some sweet

treats for dessert.

Everyday after school straight to the kitchen I go to help my mom

make dinner

Day by day, night to night my kitchen is my favorite place.

URIEL SAUCEDA

Nothing Is Easy At First

Everything seems easy
until it's not. Soccer you tried and tried but
Didn't make the team, basketball a court filled with light and people
hoping you
make it but
you miss and fall in despair but didn't you think everything was easy,
Volleyball
You smack the ball but
no it decides to leave you in the ditch but didn't you think everything
was easy. Tennis you
smack the ball but
it's out of bounce and hear the other team cheering but didn't you
think everything was easy.
You finally wonder what are you gonna be Your left without options
baseball that was it, you hit it

but you get out you wanna give up again but then you remember
EVERYTHING IS NOT EASY

Pacoima Charter Elementary School

HOST TEACHER

Ernesto Rodriguez

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Brian Sonia-Wallace

5th Grade

ISABELLA ALVARENGA

I Am a Snake

I wonder why everyone is scared of snakes.

I hear crunching leaves, trees getting chopped off, the air going everywhere.

I see the sky, the clouds, the trees, the fruits around the trees.

I want to know why I am a snake.

I am a snake.

I pretend to be dead when my predators come around me.

I feel scared when my predators come around me.

I touch the ground, the trees.

I am worried if my predators come at me when I am sleeping.

I cry when people think I am a monster, when they look at me like I am scary.

I am a snake.

I understand why people want to kill snakes.

I say sssssssss.

I dream about having friends.

I hope I will find friends

I eat lizards, birds, insects, frogs, rats, squirrels.

I am a snake.

JACOB ALVAREZ

My life as a bald eagle

If I was a bald eagle.

I will sleep and then I will wake up.

Then I will fly freely all day.

After I am done flying I will go to my house

And eat a fish I caught earlier in the day.

YOVANNI BELTRAN

Happy

Happy looks like smiley faces

Happy smells like cologne

Happy feels good

Happy sounds like music.

Happy tasted like my moms cooking.

I felt happy when i got my iphone.

SALVADOR BORQUEZ

All About Me

I wonder if i'm good at sport

I hear fans

I see kids when i'm outside

i want shoes

I'm good at sports

I feel air

I touch soccer balls

I worry about me losing a championship final for soccer

I cry when i'm sad

I am good at basketball

I understand myself

I pretend im messi

I dream i could become a famous soccer player

I'm a good soccer player

NATHAN BRYAN MAGALLON

I Am a Lion

I feel fast and
Loud. So loud that I can
roar. And a lion can eat,
hunt, sleep, run fast, and
protect the baby lions.

AZUL CELESTE MAGANA

Anxious Girl

Looks like a cloudy day
smells like fresh clean cut grass on a Monday morning.
Feels like warm sweater Cloth
Sounds like Waves Crashing together
Tastes like Vinegar swishing between my mouth

I felt anxious

when my mom almost found out
what I was lying about.

ANGELICA CRUZ

Happiness

Happy looks like a turtle swimming in water,
Happiness smells like flowers blooming,
Happiness feels like the hot sun on my body,
Happiness sounds like waves crashing on the sand and rocks,
Happiness tastes like ice cream on a sunny day,
The happiest I was was when I went to Mexico to see my family and
we went to go eat tacos .

NATHAN GALLEGOS

I have a friend

I have a friend his name is Philip. We ride
bikes together

I have a friend his name is Aaron we played
games together

I have a friend his name is Alex. We fight
all the time.

I feel happy to have my friends. Sometimes
Alex and I fight for some dumb reasons.

Some of the three reasons that me and Alex
fight are because we fight over the ball.

JUNIOR GUERRERO

Title is a Snake

I am a snake that lives in the forest.

I am a snake sleeping in a tree.

I am a snake that moves fast.

I am a snake and I feel mad.

I am a snake that eats another snake.

I am a snake that eats foxes.

I am a snake that eats insects.

I am a snake that eats people.

I am a snake that eats another animal.

JACOB HERNANDEZ

Self Portrait as a Dog

If i'm a dog I am waking up
early in the morning.

First I wait for my owner to wake up to
Go on a walk.

He did not want to go on a walk.

So I was barking so he could get up.
Finally we went on a walk.

DYLAN KIRK MCNEILL

Happiness

happiness

Looks like ice cream .

Smells like sugar.

Feels cold.

Sounds like nothing.

Taste like cookies and cream.

I felt happiness when my mom took me to get ice cream.

ARIANA LAINEZ

If I was a Cat

If I was a cat I will be very sleepy and every time I will
Like to play around with toys.
And I will like to go around the street
And explore and I will feel happy.
I will make friends like cat friends, and I will like to live
With a owner that feeds me and that loves me
And be a good person.
And when there are cold days I want my owner
To give me a toasty bed.

JULIAN LEPE

The spider

If I'm a spider I would eat fly and I
made a home I'm living in the desert I'm hide
home I'm go to explore came face to face with a
praying mantis

Im get ready to fight I killed praying mantis with
my poison and wrapped with my web

ate half saving the rest for later

I'm going home and I find a snake ! Then I started
wrapping it all around the snake and a snake died
The end

EMELY LOPEZ SALAZAR

Don Adan

I am happy like a cat eating a bird.
I wonder what it feels like to die
When I see a figure that is familiar I cry.
If I had the power to bring Don Adan back to life I would.
Don Adan was my neighbor . . .
He was like my grandpa . . .
He said I would become a star . . .
He was there when I needed someone.
I am happy to see my family, they bring me comfort.
When I pretend I don't see the figure of Don Adan I feel pain
I feel pain but I always stay happy
When I touch a soccer ball and train it takes my pain.
I worry about my family
When I cry I see a picture of Don Adan
My sisters know I am sad about Don Adan's death

Do I understand the meaning of life?
I say good things about Don Adan.
I dream of Don Adan
And try to be happy.
I hope Don Adan can look over me.
I am in pain inside but i dont show it.

CLARISSA MEJIA

Self Portrait as a rainbow

I feel as happy
As a
Rainbow
Forming.
I see butterflies
Flying
With
Excitement.
If I was a
Rainbow
I would
Hear birds
Chirping.
Rainbows are like
My mom
Cooking
My
Favorite food
spaghetti.

MELVIN MELENDEZ AND DEREK RAMIREZ

Fat Rat Cat

I am a funny kid.

I wonder if I can have a glow stick.

I hear my own voice.

I see a truck by my house.

I want a glow stick.

I am a human boulder.

I pretend that I am a black ops one character.

I feel an invisible arm hitting me.

I touch air!.

I worry about the air.

I cry when my mom says “one day I am not going to be here for you”.

I am a happy rat with a fat cat.

I understand spanish.

I say fat rat with a fat cat both with a fat tall bat!.

I dream about a fat rat fight Tournament “round one biggie cheese VS ratatouille”.

I tried to get a job in a game.

I hope I get my long lost glow stick.

I am or will be a glow stick for halloween.

I have a friend named derek he helped me bake a berek.

FRANCISCO MUNOZ

Friends

Me and my friends have a lot in common.
We like to play soccer and we like to play games.
We went to the water park and had a blast.
It smelled like chlorine.

EMILY NAVARRO

Happy

Happy smells like air.

Happy looks like my momma.

Happy Sounds like birds singing.

Happy feels like a soft Christmas blanket.

Happy tastes like cinnamon.

When I felt Happy I was at Mexico celebrating my Birthday me, my
mom, tia, tío, and cousins

Went to the Arcade.

CAMILA NICANOR

Calm

Calm looks like the waves at the beach.
Sitting on the bench while cold air hits you.
The smell of books relaxes me.
I feel calm when I'm with my friends.
My friends and I laugh a lot and play a lot.
Soft blankets make me feel calm.

DANNELII PACHECO

My friends are Amazing

I have a friend her name is Ashley. She likes to play with me. I have a friend her name is Espalanda. She likes when I play with her. I have a friend her name is Esmerod. She likes to talk to me. I have a friend her name is Morel and she likes to play. I have a friend her name is Jasmin. She is in 6th grade.

AYLEEN PALERMO

Happiness feels like

Happiness feels like a soft blanket

Happiness smells like my mom and my grandma's spaghetti

Happiness taste like my favorite gum

Happiness looks like a beach with a big bright sun

Happiness sounds like my favorite musical artist Kali uchis

The happiest I've ever felt was when I got to go to my
grandma's house. I got to see 2 dogs that she has Azul,
Lucky. Azul started to jump on me, also lucky.

DEREK RAMIREZ

My Fat Cat Named Pat

I have a fat cat named pat i sat him
on a mat and give him a tall bat and
i threw him and a fat rat the rat fought
with the fat cat that had a bat so the rat had
no choice but to fight with a big bite

HARLEY RAMIREZ

Self Portrait as a Chameleon

If I'm a chameleon I would dig for a big bug and would eat it for my big
adventure.

Then

I'll sleep on a tree while eating a bee.

I will feel happy as a bean with its seed.

ANTHONY ROSALES

I as bear

If I'm a bear

I could give you a scare

I'm a bear so I eat berries.

I feel soft as a bear

DAVID RUIZ

Sleepy

Sleepy feels like I'm at home .

Sleepy smells like night.

Sleepy sounds very quiet.

Sleepy tastes like my pillow.

But Sleepy is magical.

MATTHEW RUIZ

Turtle

If I was a turtle I would swim in a lake.
Swim with all animals, even the snakes.
I like to look at all the colors.

BRANDON SECONDINO

I Am

I am a person that feels like a gorilla

I wonder how deep the ocean is.

I see people doing school work

I want money.

CRISTOBAL VACA

Calm

Calm looks like a bird sleeping on a tree.

Calm smells like cokes.

Calm sounds like a bird chirping.

Calm feels like a new stuffed animal.

I Felt calm when I went to the park alone.

I woke up and I found a backpack around me.

MARLEY VALERIO SALAZAR

I Pretend

I am a funny person.

I Wonder the truth.

I hear beautiful music.

I see the water on the beach.

I want a cute dog.

I am a girl.

I pretend to be okay.

I feel tired like a rainbow with no colors.

I touch a soft beed.

I worry about my family.

I cry when they are mad at me.

I am a person.

I understand why they call me ugly.

I say you are beautiful when you smile.

I dream of being a cool, kind and intelligent kid.

I hope that my teacher gives my class free time.

ALEJANDRO VERDUGO

Self Portrait as a Cat

If I was a cat I'd
be sleeping in the sun
that's coming from
the window. I wake up and
scratch the chairs and
get in trouble. I'm
going to take a wee pee,
then I eat catnip. Sleep
with owner, I own the owner.

Pacoima Charter Elementary School

HOST TEACHER

Nancy Valle

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Linda Ravenswood

5th Grade

ADRIK

This is . . .

i'm very good at video games like Fortnite and Pokémon. I love to take naps and sleep. All of my friends call me hamster. I love Pokémon the show and also the games. I'm a hamster

this is important to me.

My house, my drawings, my food, my drawings, my teacher, my clothes, my family, my sleep, myself. This is my life.

AIDEN

Favourite

I am
your
son

I'm
good
at
soccer

my
favourite
subject
is
reading

ANDY

Love my life

this is me. I love french fries and I love my family and I like playing soccer.

mom dad sister brother granddad two dogs one guinea pig
at night the family is tired and hungry and sweaty there is
the fresh smell of bread and the delicious taste of bread my
mother says Hola Mi Amor Como Estás en la Escuela

our home is peaceful quiet and warm at night I get cleaned up
and then I sleep and pray

ASHLEY

Lake and Park

I love going to the lake
I love going to the park
I love ham and cheese
I love a good winter
my brother is beautiful
flowers are beautiful

this is true
this is important
my big family
tulips, the flowers of my life

MANUEL BONILLA

my life

this is important.

I love my family.

This is true.

My mom's cooking is good.

This is true.

I like soccer shoes.

I like to help in my house.

I love Pacoima charter school.

My mom and my dad help me to do school projects.

I love my birthday.

I love Christmas.

I love my house where I live.

BRISEIDIS

My Birthday

This is my beautiful life.

I was born on 9/11.

I love food

I love to be annoying with my kid Brother

I love spending time on my phone.

This is my beautiful life

I was born on 9/11.

ANDREA CASAS

This is my life, I am Mexican

The life of a landscaper

dad

my dad has oil on his clothes
when he comes home he looks happy, hungry
he says hi my little princess how was school are you hungry

me and my dad and my uncle eat at the dinner table and we are all together
eating stuffed bell peppers.

Later I shower and brush my hair and my teeth and I watch movies maybe diary
of a wimpy kid and then I fall asleep halfway through

I love mac & cheese
I love to spend time with my dad and sister/family
I like to watch my favorite show Clarence and Gumball
I am a pet owner/I have two turtles two dogs and one cat my fun life

this is true
my dad is a good chef.
This is fun
playing with Nerf guns with my cousins
this is beautiful
spending time with my family
this is delicious
mac & cheese

these are things I don't like
homework and papayas

JULIAN CORTEZ

But Still

I'm a good son.

I'm a shoe lover.

I am a Chicano.

I'm a big Wingstop lover.

I'm very skillful.

Everything on my list is important.

my mom comes home and is tired but still makes food.

MENDOZA DANIELA

Mom and One Day

mom

my mom comes home with all her bags in her hands and tired from teaching kids all day. And sometimes mad because of her coworkers. My mom says hi and she kisses me and hugs me and how was your day at school? And did you eat?

My mom cooks some thing and when the food is ready she calls me and my brothers. My brothers go eat in their room and I sit at the table with my mom and dad.

Before I go to sleep I shower, brush my teeth, and wash my face, and pray. I play with my dogs, and then I go to bed.

one day

this is me a daughter, a respectful person, a talker, one day I will visit Hawaii, someday I will pay off my parents, so my parents won't have to work anymore. Someday I will give my brothers all the stuff they want for all the care they gave me, one day I will give Stacey everything for everything that she has done for me and was there for me on the worst day and the best day, my ups and downs and making me smile.

DEBORAH

Pizza

I love eating pizza
I love Chinese food because it's juicy and filling
and when I see it I desire it.

I own three pets
I love my dog
I am a friend

I am a daughter
I love my sister
family is all I think about

I love art
Chocolate is my favorite candy
I speak Spanish and English

I care and I love my family

DESTINY

Destiny Destination

this is true

I love my parents.

This is important

soccer.

This is beautiful.

My sister

this is my life.

Friends and family

this is what I don't like

mushrooms

FERNANDO

LA Godzilla

this is my life

I'm super fast

I'm good at games

I love Japanese food

I want to visit Japan

I'm a Godzilla fan

I love my parents

I love baseball and

I play super smash brothers

I am the fastest in the whole school because I won the title of fastest runner

this is important

this is me.

ISAAC

My Caaaats

this is true

I love cats

this is important

my cats

this is beautiful

my cats

this is my life

my Cats

JAYLEEN

My Mom

I love mom because she makes me happy.

I love my best friend because she is the best and very funny.

I like to share to people because it makes them happy.

this is a day in my school life
this is true I am a good friend.

JENNY

Pacoima Charter Poems

I love my parents because they always tell me to be good at school
and I love my sister because she always does my nails. I love my Tia
because she helps me to do my studies. I love doing my cousins hair
because her hair is straight.

This is true.

I love my dogs

This is important.

Our family

This is beautiful.

Mom.

This is my life.

Too much homework.

JEREMIAH

Mom is Mad at Me

i have no friends

my friends hate me

i'm not fun

this is my life

At night mom is mad at me

I say hi

at 10 PM I go to sleep

JOANNA

Dogs, Family, Dogs

I love my dogs so much.
Me and my family have fun and
we play with each other.
I have friends
I want them by my side
and I want to be by their side
forever
no matter what.

KAMERON

Mom

mom is sweet and she smells like cake and fries. She's tired and her feet hurt and her hair is a mess she says hi my baby how was your day. The smell of meat is at the house and there is my dad bringing my brother and us food then me and my brother play games until it's time to go to sleep

I like video games. I like pizza. I like Pokémon. I like chocolate. I'm an animal lover. I am Mexican and American. I like spending time with my family. I'm a Fortnite lover. I like DBZ. Call me shrimp.

ROY MORALES

I am . . .

I am your kind friend.

I am playful.

I am good at math

I am a good son.

I am a dog lover.

RANDY

Mi5tr Croo

this is important big Randy

wint bick to tann

this is amazing Chig

it's so good and wouldn't Cradi

i also like being the man

SEBASTIAN

Visual Poem

I am your son

/o111o\
/o111o\
/o111o\
I I
I I
IIIIIIIIII

STACY CASTRO MARCELLINO

Like Them

I'm an old-school Chola
and what I mean about that is
I mean my mom and dad
were gangsters,
the real gangsters of their hood.
And they showed me
what they looked like and I said
"I want to be just like that"
and they approved

and this is true, not false
I love oldies music because it's my peace.
I love Call of Duty® because whenever I need a break I play it on my free time.
I love Wingstop and fruit with habanero and avocado fries
I'm allergic to fake gold only real gold here
my style is old school
I'm a Fortnite lover
I eat a lot
I love DC's or just chunky shoes
I like Legos
I am a daughter
I'm a sister
I'm a cousin
I'm a girlfriend
I'm a friend
I'm an animal lover
I am Chicana proud

VALERIA

My Personality

my sister and her boyfriend take me to places and the
places are beautiful. This is true I like kickball.

I love shoes and my style.

I love to use my phone.

It's fun to play with my friends.

ALAN Z

This is my Life

this is my life
I'm Mexican
this is beautiful
I like dogs
this is important
I play soccer
this is my family
this is one day of my life

I like to do math
I like to play basketball
I love to go to the beach
my dad is the best
I like to play with my dad.

I like to go fishing and eat what we catch

when I play I put a lot of effort in to it

ANONYMOUS

Landscaper

my dad comes from work looking like soil dirt leaves on his back and
grass in his pockets smells like weeds

he says hola mija Como Estas ya Comestes !? Quieres que te garo
Comida !? everybody gathers and they do serve yourself food and we
pray before we eat the beans Mole tortillas hecho de mano y rice then I
go to brush my teeth, say good night to everybody and say prayers.

Pasadena High School

HOST TEACHER

Laura Chaparian

WITS INSTRUCTOR

Brian Sonia-Wallace

12th Grade

ELLIOT ADAMCZYK

Driving to School with my Brother

I am so sorry for having joy
Mornings should be filled with malice and anger
Music should be Metallica and Iron Maiden
Not Declan McKenna and Shawn Mendes
Mornings are for brooding and sadness
While preparing for a day without substance or happiness

I too wish I was home playing Hell Divers for 9 hours
Because that is more worth my time than learning about things that matter
I completely understand the struggle of waking up before 1 pm
As it is so important to be on your phone until 2 am

LESLIE ALONSO

Cento

This letter isn't like a regular happy, congratulation, get well letter.

Change the subject

Get mad

Stay Quiet

I've been trying to push you away, and ignore

Anything that has to do with you

But it doesn't seem

To be working

md=

I have a big fear

of rats. If I ever see one I swear

I'll pass out, I also fear bees,

If I see one I'll flee as fast as I can.

I hate the holiday Halloween so I rate it a o.

I rate you a o too because you've been holding me back

TOMAS ARCE

Mask

In the spotlights glare, he shines so bright,
A jester of laughter, his wit takes flight.
With every joke, he paints a grin,
But behind the scenes, the pain wears thin,
His laughter echoes, a shield so thin,
Concealing the bruises, the hurt within.
Each punchline a mask, each joke a lie,
To hide the scars beneath his eyes.
In the halls of his high school, he's the clown,
But in the silence of his home, he wears a frown.
His laughter echoes through the night,
He goes home, hoping not a fight
As his father continues to lose his sight
A desperate plea for things to be right.
So laugh with him, but listen too,
For behind the humor lies a truth.
Someones pain, a silent plea,
For understanding and empathy.

BOBBY ATILANO

Someone Better

Our time together was unforgettable,
Which has become something most regrettable.
The way you would act,
Is something that could never be backed.
You just loved judging people.
But would you even stop and think about the people?
Now imagine things from their perspective,
Hearing your words would only make them feel defective.
And now you ask me why I had to leave?
It was because all I had left was to grieve.
But now I found someone else.
Someone better.
Someone who's soft and tender.
All that's left into say is goodbye.
Have a nice life.
Something I would say but don't mean.
I hope someday,
You turn out a different way.

HECTOR AVALOS

Silly Little Bird

Silly Little Bird

Who leaves his nest

Willy Little Bird

Who craves a crunch

This food is not for you, unhealthy and too much

Your desires drive you to great lengths, a strong convictions if you must

It has to be crunchy, it cannot be anything else

Your standards are high, but this feast is not for you

Your feast lies elsewhere, a healthy and perfect amount

Silly little bird

You need to behave your best

Oh silly little bird

Go back to your nest

SYENNA AVILA

Cento

My love language is clowning
And talking crap to people,
the ones that are close know its all love though
I hate people but I love my people
But you
I can't remember life before you and that's a problem
But now your a mood killer
You think you're sooo smart
And if you never had something to say again,
The world would fall apart
I see you roll your eyes when I talk
So I end the conversation

ALEX BAJAKJIAN

Rio

Eating food is all i do,
The thrill of knowing it's not mine makes me hungrier for food.
My owners feed me more than enough,
But I'm the one who decides when I am full.
I drool over the fact that my owner ate some chicken,
I'm glad he wrapped it in tin foil and placed it on the counter.
I thank him for that invite, the invite to enjoy his food,
The moment he leaves the kitchen that might be my cue.

MELANIE BALDERAS

Tiny Mouse

You, as innocent as a mouse
 With nothing to tell
 I, wreck like a boat at sea
You who only wanted to play
 I who took a fist at your face
Your bruises the color of plums
 Your ribs as broken as me
I wish I could turn back time
 To the day of the crime
 To stop your cry
 For the sun will shine
And I will serve for the crime

AIDAN BANUELOS

Gambling is Great

Gambling is fun Gambling is great
So why don't you come in, take a seat
You'll pay a price to roll some dice
A game of luck you take the chance
A prize at reach and yet so far
You know better but you stay for more
Even when you lose you'll still remain
You lose again and you'll lose some more
You may get money but we'll get more
Stay to play, that's up to you, but we'll survive
With or without you

MASON BARAJAS

My dear Cat

Why must we need to pee at the same time

Causing us to race

As I rush to the bathroom you weave between my feet as fleet-footed as the wind

To make it to your litter box

As I see you enter the bathroom, I feel myself start to sweat

I know this fight all too well

I hate it

In agony I see you scratch your litter to the left then the right

Again and again

WHY must you agonize me like this

We both have to relieve ourselves so why must you go first

Why must you be first

I hate it

My dear cat

ASHLEE B OCHOA

Chewing Noises

I couldn't ever be
The noises to be
I enjoy the sound
You break it down
Trash it up
The way you display
The satisfaction of the break
You put it down and pick it up
You exclaimed changes it makes
The sound I hear expresses yum
As you feel the warmth of the touch
The way you expressed the love effects
You smack your lips
To really get in
I love the sound it makes
When I sit with you and hear the break
Who wouldn't want to be near you and your traits

KARLI BILBREW

Dead-End

You, my friend, made me cry yet claimed you didn't know why
I was lifted and dropped while your fist had its fun
But you were alert that I was getting hurt
up until my body was buried in the dirt
Our laughs quickly turned into silence
The rooms ears listening to my last heartbeats until I was gone
I thought you wanted to play but I just seemed to be the prey
I trusted you until you took the gift of life away
We were both so young at the time
But did you know you were committing a crime?
You, my friend, were my dead-end

JOHNNY BRONSOZIAN

My honest Poem

As strong as a lumberjack as calm like the spring breeze
My doctor said I would be the size of a meter stick and a half
 Now here I am the size of two-meter sticks
 Sometimes my breeze turns into heavy wind
That's okay since I am under control like an accountant
Money, money, money it's all that people go for nowadays
 Like a Fior a Drag race
 But time has a set pace
You have limited amount of it like a parking meter
 Like the man with the repeater
 Sitting on his porch also holding a torch
 Waiting, Waiting for something
 Yet the world stays the same

BRYAN BUENROSTRO

Two Lives

Have something to do
Begin the task.
Made with such quality and effort
And all the care one could afford
Making the right choices
Living in a world that isn't his
Suddenly find something else interesting.
His light has now been turned dark
Let him see what it has done
I believe that it has run dry and silent.
There have been some good times.
Whenever you are, I hope that you have a good life.

DANIEL CARILLO

Love turned hatred

Dear dragon Ball Legends,

I know we have been together for so long, we shared so many memories throughout the years. The chromo crystal prices are adding up way too much, these drop rates are outrageous. Within the past month, I've given you so much yet you give me nothing in return. I hate you tosh, with all my heart. You bring me joy and then anguish I can't take it anymore. I love you DBL, and I'll never forget the times we shared and the friends I made because of you but I no longer want to be with you, It's not me it's you. I've learned so much about myself knowing you. I found my passion for anime and the Dragon Ball series itself but it's time I let go of the games and come into the new games. I realize I no longer need you because I've become more stable without you, I have extra money to spend on myself and other things that I love, you have many people besides me so it's best we go our ways. Goodbye Toshi, forever.

Sincerely, ElBigOne1

ANGELA CONTREAS

The Critical Mind

The pace of the paws hitting the moist ground in the dark forest
Running on the thoughts that seem too big to flourish
My thick skin keeps me enduring
Eyes of Stone, cold, firm hiding behind a glare of sentiments
Pounding heart, hurt, losing its dark red color
The sky shading dark and hope fading
I am not sure if I'd make it to what I once knew
A familiar sound keeps me going

DEVON DAVIS

Break Up Letter

Dear Toxicity, I'm breaking up with you because you're not good for me. You're rotten, unfaithful, and manipulative. I've found better in someone new, someone who's not emotionless or argumentative. A person who shows emotions and gives me comfort. This person I found is Care, Care gives me faithfulness, trust, and honesty all things that you've never given me or been once. And even though I'm done with you I know you'll still find ways to be part of my life still, but no matter how much you try to be I'll never go back to you.

Sincerely, Devon.

ETHAN DAWANG

Disruptive

Being a little disruptive has it's ups and its downs
Being disruptive is for no-gooders and clowns
But grabbing a piece of paper, making a few folds here and there
Will create a fun little toy, to get in someones hair.

ALEXANDER DIAZ

Tuesday Night

It's 8pm and I'm hungry,
I should go to a restaurant
That closes at 9pm,
I should get there eat
And just for fun never leave,
Even if I see the employees
Cleaning and ready to go,
Why not call some friends
And drink at the bar,
Why not just make it rush hour,
For no reason at all

DANIELA DOMINGUEZ

How to Skip School

How to skip school:

1. turn all alarms off
2. go to sleep late
3. sleep through everyone trying to wake up up
4. don't get up from bed
5. act sick
6. have parents who don't mind you staying home

My name is Daniela and I am an expert in skipping school.

I wake up sometimes and I don't feel like coming to school.

ANTHONY FERNANDEZ

Honest Poem

I'm a first generation chicano in america
I was born in the city of "ghetto angels"
I'm a december capricorn who's birthday is at the end of our year
I'm a hopeful and optimistic person
Always there for everyone around me and overthink all my situations
I want to be as big as the night in my success
Covering everything with my aura and determination
The stars being all the moment in my life and the shines coming down being core
moments
Always loyal and true to what I'm doing and the people around me
Staying loyal to the game and true to myself
Realizing that anything that cost my peace is too expensive
I have street knowledge and aware of everything going on around me
I will be a person that makes it in this world and defy every stereotype.

SEAN IZUTSU

Of Earth, life, and stars

Oh dear Earth
of a pretty place
A place of life and death
of light and darkness
A world that's a speck
in the black of the universe

A world of past fire
A world of orange
A world of the close moon

As the ages pass
As particles travel
Life appears from the cooling fires of the pass

The world changes
Life changes
towards a wave of death and rebirth
and from the rebirth, change

As the ages pass
in change
As the cells combine
life continues

As the ages pass
as the life of water grows
the land remains bare

As the ages pass
As the crossing of land begins
Life changes

As the ages pass
As volcanoes kill
As a cosmic rock hits
Life continues

As the ages pass
As flower bloom
As birds fly
Life becomes intelligent

As the sky dances
As the star fuses
A being changes much

As the light flies
As the seasons pass
Domestic crops thrive

As cities spread
As life discovers
As light hits
The sky changes

As the Earth lights
In a brief way

The world changes
In the black of space
That's reached by the life
They wonder of stars

They wonder of space
They wonder of alien worlds
They wonder of life
They wonder of the universe

As particles are controlled
In the dance of the small
Grand things are built

As they wonder
Away from Earth
Solar light dims
In the start
of journeys
of wonder

Solar light invisible
Oh Earth, sincerely
You will be missed

HALIE LANDAVERDE

5 Minutes

I love how slow you walk in the hallway
Your slow meaningful stride
No regards for others behind you
Living life with only yourself in mind
I wish you the best of life with only
5 minutes left of time
My biggest pet peeve the biggest waste of life

RYANN McDADE

How to Argue

1. Find your victim
2. Laugh at victim
3. Make a joke about how they look
4. Now that your argument is set up, start yelling at them
5. Continue to have eye contact with your victim
6. Now you have the perfect argument.

KAYLIE MCKENZIE

Old Memories

Believe your lies. Convince yourself that you're right.
Together we have been through many unique experiences and
have encountered various types of situations.
We have shared countless memories that I'll never forget.
Your stories were once fresh, now they are weathered,
Like an old song stuck on a loop, not getting any clever.

HANNAH McWADE

Coffee Bean Customer

I wake up everyday ready to complain,
Why isn't my drink ready, ahead of everyone else?
I need a large even though I ordered a small,
How dare they get rid of that flavor, don't they know I like it?
She better get me a new sandwich,
I knew I wouldn't like it, but I ordered it anyway,
I ask her why costs have increased, she doesn't even know,
Doesn't she control the economy?
Doesn't she know what I like in my coffee?
I shouldn't have to ask, she should just know
Can't she read my mind?
I drank the whole thing, but I didn't like it,
I need a refund,
I need a free drink,
I can't wait to come back

LUIS MEDINA
My Internet Router

To you, my internet router
Your download speed never fails to amaze me
It's no wonder I never lag out during important moments
Buffering during video has never been better
Having disconnect you every night has been super beneficial to my
Routine
It's almost like I'm getting to know you better
I love your sporadic shutdowns, they make me not want to frown.

SAUL MORENO

Paco

My dear little rooster
How you've grown
From a short little boy
to an angry chihuahua
We share a home
But you still attack me
when we are alone.
I see as your neck feathers rise
You get defensive, but so do I
I ready my feet and wonder
if you realize that I can kick you like a football.
So watch yourself
before you become KFC,
just kidding, but I'm still gonna cook you.
You have deformed feet,
and you smell like poop and chicken feed.

NICHOLAS MORRIS

My Honest Poem

My name is Nick

I was born on December 23, a few days before Christmas

I hate how I would always push things back.

Telling myself that I will do things later knowing that I won't.

Procrastination is a thief, stealing time that you try to get back, but it's
far gone.

I think way too much into the future so much til it gets to the point
where it's in the past.

I want my path to be just right

It doesn't have to be perfect, but something to walk on.

I'm nervous about what's to come and want to make the right decision.

Like an NBA player with seconds left on the shot clock.

I don't have much time.

Who knows how things may turn out?

CELLA MURPHY

I am Poem

I am trustworthy to all
Loyal to all of those who see the best in me
Those who stay alongside with me as I walk through these walls of burdens
As those doubted me look back and watch me succeed
See me become the person they said I couldn't be

MATHEW MYKHALEVYCH

ME

I took a long breath!
In life I strive for bright light,
I develop something new every day,
How to communicate?
What will help me become a better version of myself?
I strive for the best, like a bird on high.
Restoring strength, inspiring responsibility.
So I step forward, boldly and brightly,
Friends nearby and an open heart.

ANDREW NAVARRO

ME

I am Andrew. I am a leo. I am 5'6. I weigh 170 been going through a journey. I am satisfied where I am but there are things that just keep pushing me back like the wind pushing trees back and forth. I've been loved but then was lost into another journey where I was not meant to be I love going to parks and kicking a ball like the partner that I had when we would just kick the ball back and forth. I've been told laziness isn't a choice must work for character

ANNA OROZCO

Pov of Milo

Oh how I love to go to her room!

See the madness in her face and run

Taking the stuffed animal that I always take

As I rip it up and think it's funny

Everyone comes for me as I enjoy to chew and rip open the seams

Oh Milo how I love when you take my stuffed animals!

MANUEL OSORIO

Honest Poem

My honest self where I think I'm often thinking that people care how I look but realizing I'm just a sardine in a vast ocean. Where I get fooled like a king with a backstabbing jester and putting too much trust on a roulette of chance. My heart too deceived and broken by those who I thought were the one but just stuck for attention, my anger wanting to lash out but contain like a death row inmate. My will to find the one is as strong as the strongest metal or solid on earth but with a mind telling me "you wanna keep looking" but I contemplate on that choice like me wanting to choose between a bottle of water or 2 liter bottle of dr.pepper. I think changing my goal with lead to a different outcome but I don't focus on what's happening to me right now and just being too worried for the future. I waste my money too quickly to satisfy my hunger for outside foods like mcdonald's and wienerschnitzel but keep telling myself to save up for a possible event approaching. Either way I still spend too much time thinking if I want to be someone I'm not or just keep being myself but that's a problem even I can't solve in a final test. Or make too many situations in my head about what happened before but I guess I can't handle truth even though I face it everyday. Overthinking like I can control what will happen but always end up with either the good or bad outcome. I set goals for myself but I barely even kick the ball in because of how low of a motivation I sometimes have but eventually I score a goal.

LADELL PARKER

Break up Letter

Dear Lying, I'm breaking up with you I've been lying since I came out the womb, and I think I'm hitting my limit. I've lied so much, my lies started to become my truth and I think that's where we crossed the line. We started off as a joke but as time went on we started to become more serious and we even started hurting other people. It's sad that this is our end but I don't think I can keep lying anymore but maybe this is all just a lie too.

Sincerely, Remedy

ALFREDO PERALTA

Myself

My name is Alfredo
I am a dude, nothing else
I am from Buffalo, New York
My family comes from their own place
I grew up in a good education area.
I have more street knowledge
Than school knowledge
am aware of my surroundings
Everywhere I go
Anywhere in general.

JOCELYN QUINTEROS

Breaking up with Anxiety

Dear anxiety, the pressure you give me is getting tiring. The fear of being not liked by others is getting to me. That horrible feeling you make me feel when I have to present is getting annoying. I need you to stop hovering over me all the time. You also need to stop being so clingy, you constantly need to be around me and it feels so draining. You've constantly been by my side for YEARS now and I want you to stop. You probably enjoyed this time more than me but now I am putting my foot down and making it stop. Goodbye forever and never come back.

Sincerely, Peacefulness

MARIBELLE RODRIGUEZ-HENSON

Goodbye cold

Dear cold,

I really really hate you. I have never enjoyed our times together, the layering of clothes and hands being too dumb to use. The Tip of my nose being oh too cold and my feelings lost in blues. To be completely honest you won't be missed. It's all you, not me, you make me feel sad and alone, and as though not enough sweaters, jackets,, and blankets can make me feel warm and loved. The constant sickness permeated the air with every cough and sneeze heard around me and the smell of wet coins whenever it rained. I regret being with you but I have always been made to try and love you 5 months a year every year and by far my biggest regret is not leaving for sunny Hawaii for a bit to have a much-needed break from you. Cold, you are the worst thing in my life, so many people love you, and though I warn them of how horrible you are, none of them listen. I've learned from you that I can and will never take the heat for granted, I must always cherish not shivering and make sure to treasure tanning in the hot sun!

No regrets,

Maribelle

JUSTIN ROBINSON

Anthony(brother)

Anthony we knew each other for a long time now
The way you eat up all the food in the house just makes me say wow.
I love the way you re built like a cow
With all that food you eat
And of course I don't care if you eat all the meat.
Because I of course don't need to eat since I just love not to
And of course everything I'm saying is true.
Sincerely Justin Robinson.

ALONZO ROBLES

I'll Miss School

Dear school, I'm breaking up with you. Sometimes you just overwhelm me too much and it stresses me out. You always make me wake up too early everyday and it gets exhausting when I get home I'm even more tired. You've been making me do this for almost 12 years and I think it's time for us to go our separate ways. There were some things I loved about you like the teachers and the friends I've made throughout you. But without you in my life I wouldn't be the person I am today.

SELENA RUIZE-GARCIA

Break-up Letter to the hottest days of the year

Dear to the hottest days of the year,
I'm sorry, but if I'm being honest you weren't right for me. I've tried to endure your extreme temperatures so close to me. My body warmed up and poured with sweat every time I hung out with you. Turning into a darker shade of foundation and feeling the TVs on my skin even with sunscreen plastered all over my body. Every time we hung out, I'd scrunch my face in exhaustion, waiting for the days to be over so I wouldn't see you again. It's annoying trying to cool down while you're just constantly beaming at me. We've had good times I won't lie, the beach days and eating ice cream by the porch were moments I'll treasure, but the bad outweighs the good. You deserve to know the truth . . .I've had a new interest, the cold days. They understand how I warm myself up, but they keep me cool. So please let me go, we weren't meant to go on any longer.

Sincerely,

Selena

JENNIFER SALAZAR

We Need to Talk About You

Dear math,

I hate you. You've put me through so many troubles these past years. I had to struggle so many times trying to find what X and Y is but it's the same old thing as always. I tried to learn from you but you made it so confusing with all the division and fractions. The long boring lessons I had to hear every single day made me fed up with you. I hate having to add numbers with more numbers by an order and if I don't do it in order, It's all wrong. I don't want to deal with you ever again, I don't want to see that nasty annoying board filled up with equations and having to solve it without any help or sense at all. In the end, I don't want to ever see you ask me what X or Y is because nobody really cares. I hope nobody likes you, even though I doubt people even do.

JOSE SALOMON

Honest Poem

I'm Jose Salomon and this is my honest poem, I'm 6ft 170 pounds, and I am a Scorpio although it doesn't affect me, I'm still the same person, honest, and shy, I constantly overthink like a person with a warrant out for his arrest. I often think people are judging, even though I act like I don't care, I walk around with an I don't care mentality, but the little things bother me, often the lonely nights left me scared wondering where everyone is, but I'll never talk about it, often bottling my emotions left me angry like a person behind bars, I've been told to speak up but I can't escape the shyness, like a family with low income and 3 kids. I love nature, maybe too much, it reminds me that I have a whole life ahead of me, but it's scary, you can get lost in it, like you can get lost in life.

JESSE SANCHEZ MEDINA

Untitled

I am 5'8 1/2

My name is Jesse

I am a student from Pasadena High School

I usually tend to overlook the rules

I like to make conversations worthwhile

My fear that I often face is failing

Overachieving is something that I don't see as necessary

My overall goal is small to me but big for others

Playing soccer brought me together

Going out showed me who I was

CHLOE SARAULT

SOS

Let's make a movie about Climate Change,
"2012" meets "How it Ends",
but instead of these scenes no one can imagine happening in real life,
the movie shows the real scenes, different places all cross the world
that are being affected,
the polar bears in Antarctica losing their homes,
rising sea temperatures,
volcanoes erupting sooner than they should,
in this movie no one is trying to save the planet in some heroic way,
instead people worry about what to wear,
and what to eat,
just going about their day
like nothing is happening . . .
like there is no planet that needs saving

MARIO SORIANO SANTIAGO

How to Procrastinate

First, get an assignment

Secondly, find out when it is due

Third, ignore it, Forget it,

Do something else,

Watch a movie or show

Relax,

Realize it's due

With all haste and godspeed

Turn it in and move on to the next

Quality is not important

LAILA SPELLICINO

Cold weather

-Dear Cold weather, You're the best thing to ever happen to me. I don't know what I would do without you freezing me. I love the feeling of my fingers going numb and waking up and seeing no sun. I love not being able to type because my fingers are frozen, and if it were up to me this weather would not be chose.

ISIAH TAYLOR

Dear Brokeness

Me and you are done. We had a lot of fun and bad times together but I feel like you let me down too many times for me to count, I have been thinking about this for a while now, we just have not been working lately, I have been seeing this new girl. Her name is MONEY. She just has been giving me more things that I want that you. "Brokeness". It is for surely you and not me, we just want two different things out of life, you want to stay down and I want to elevate. I wish the total worst for you and hope you stay broke.

Sincerely, Mr Chase the Bag

JADEN THORPE

How to Ditch

1. Choose a class to ditch
2. Get friends to ditch with
3. Don't go to class
4. Leave campus
5. Find something to do and kill time
6. Don't get caught

Jaden is qualified to write this book because Mrs. Chaparian is lucky that he came to class today.

KADEN THORNTON

How to procrastinate

- Step 1. Get the assignment/thing you don't want to do at the moment. (If it's school related preferably in ms chaparians class where she has everything in a week planned out)
- Step 2. Find out the deadline for when you can't do that thing anymore
- Step 3. Take out your phone and do something unproductive (play games, text, scroll on social media)
- Step 4. When you get home continue to not do what you're supposed to be doing (sleep, watch tv, just relax)
- Step 5. Start chilling and completely forget about the task
- Step 6. Realize that the assignment is due in one hour and rush to finish it
- Step 7. Complete your assignment with a buzzer beater by having a few seconds left before the assignment closes

ALEXANDRA TORRES

Sad Part of Romance

let's make a movie about romance
a sad romance
a true view on the difficulties of being in a romantic relationship
show all the bad sides of each person
show the good sides
show the struggles
the difficulties of living together
Waking up mad at each other
It takes time
With time the sadness turns into happiness
You see why you're in a relationship with the person
You see why you chose to live with that person
You see the person who brings you happiness

HERIBERTO TREJO

Always late poem

Running behind, feeling the stress,
Trying to make it, I must confess.
The alarm snoozed, time slipping away,
Hoping I'll arrive before the end of the day.
Traffic jams and unexpected delays,
Testing my patience, in so many ways.

DAVID VELASQUEZ-MALDONADO

Childhood

Dear Childhood,

I'm leaving with you. Adulthood is coming close and I need to let go so I can grow. Being an adult I need to take care of my responsibilities. When I graduate I'm going to be in the real world and I need to face my problems head on. I may need to let go of old habits and create better new ones that will benefit me. All the best memories happened when I was with you and it was an amazing experience. For the future I'm hoping that some things still remain the same so I don't completely change. I will come back sometimes and feel nostalgic but not get too comfortable. Being an adult and out of high school will open me up to a new experience which is inevitable. It may be good or bad but I'll find a way to make it work. Being a child along with school is a once in a lifetime experience and goes by fast. I enjoyed every minute of it.

Sincerely, Adulthood

KAYLIN WESLEY

Roast poem "exam week"

The best part of the school year is upon me exam week.
Gathering all my left occurring thoughts is leaving me feeling a little bleak
Reviews of top of review reading all the wonderful information I have to
keep brewing in my mind
I love the rush of running from class to class to keep my head above the
papered-filled water
I just love exam week
Yes I absolutely want to do a test that is worth most of my grade what
reason would I have to be afraid
I just love exam week.

MAXWELL YEP

How to waste money

Step 1

Go to a store or restaurant that you want food or an item from

Step 2:

Find something that you want but don't need

Step 3:

Make the purchase regardless of price and consequence

Step 4:

Eat your food or return home with your purchase

Step 5:

Think about your purchase and if it was worth it at all

Step 6

Realize you made a bad decision and immediately feel regret

Out of anyone you know, I am the most qualified to give you this guide not only because I waste money regularly but I also don't make money either.

ELIAS ZAMARIO

Cassette

Like a mixed cassette
I'm small, dark, and full of random songs
They're my stories
They said I looked like a dirty 12 inch vinyl
Round, dark and messed up face
So I was covered in ink to hide the case
Was a dancer now a boxer
I sung then sprung
From 15 treated like I was 23
Cool
Not so much
So I took the punch
And let dedications take control
Leaving the thoughts with no soul
Insecurities are a bit-
I mean pain
I feel what people do
Drained
So drink an apple juice
At a red light
While I'm riding my caboose

JAIME ZAMBRANO

My Honest Poem

I hate to admit it, but I'm an over thinker
So much so I have bawled my eyes out now I have no tears left to give
My heart is now so cold I feel no emotions
In a way it's good, although now I am never either happy or sad just chasing a bag
My mind I distract with labor and naps
Alone in my room dozing off into the moon
Thinking what went wrong or how things could have been
I look for the past in the present but my mind is always in the future
Now I just drive alone in my car with the music so loud
Going so fast it feels like I'm floating on a cloud
Feeling aside just set on a goal
To one day have my home
With rzers and quads, trucks and foreign whips
Have kids who learn to love and respect
With my mother at rest and my sister at peace
Will be my ease and the end of my overthinking

ANONYMOUS

Untitled

I have many thoughts about why I am so mean. Maybe it's the virgo in me. My hobbies include being alone and having an attitude for no reason. Procrastination is my nature but keep in mind the job is going to be done, keep trying to make smart remarks to me and it's gonna turn me up. I have many problems but get to know me and my heart is pure. You might think I'm the problem but tell me some. I'm going to tell you a blunt answer you might not like. I've been told that my attitude is horrendous but it's the gangster in me that you're testing. I was quiet for a reason cause if not I'll show you why. I know this when I remembered my first birthday. Don't give me the attention, let the attention come out. Trust me it's better like that. Fear of mine is the anger I hold from my dad and the sadness I hold from my mom. Those are just facts and fascinations held in my head.

ANONYMOUS

The things that take me away

Dear Distractions.

Many sleepless nights to find and learn things that I will never use again

I have many doubts about what I'm doing

Stay up all night reading

Perhaps it was my fault that I could not control you

Yet time is running out

If only I could get more time

I will not miss you and hope you do not miss me.

Instructor Biographies

Bonnie S. Kaplan is a poet and educator who was raised in the San Fernando Valley and now lives in Altadena. Her work has appeared in various anthologies and journals, such as *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Room Magazine*, and *Sinister Wisdom*. One of her poems was nominated for the Pushcart Prize and she was a finalist for the Marica and Jan Vilcek Poetry Prize in 2021. Bonnie holds an MFA in film, video, and performance art from California College of the Arts. She has taught for programs serving parolees and probationers for more than two decades, and believes that the arts are essential for people of all ages and experiences. In addition to her work with Red Hen Press, Bonnie currently teaches with The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company in juvenile justice settings. Working with justice-involved adults and youth has been her lifelong passion.

Brian Sonia-Wallace is the West Hollywood City Poet Laureate, a 2021–22 Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellow for LGBTQ+ literary activism, and the author of *The Poetry of Strangers: What I Learned Traveling America with a Typewriter*. Bylines include *Rolling Stone*, *The Guardian*, *LitHub*, *American Poets*, *Rattle*, and more. Brian's company, RENT Poet, creates custom poems on-demand on vintage typewriters, and he teaches at UCLA Extension Writers' Program.

Linda Ravenswood is a Los Angeles poet and performance artist who received an Oxford Prize in Poetry (2023). She is the current Edwin Markham Prize in Poetry recipient (selected by US Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera) for *Reed Magazine*, the oldest literary magazine in California. Recent collections include *Cantadora: Letters from California* (Eyewear London/Black Spring Press Group, 2023), *A Poem Is a House* (Arthur Smith Prize in Poetry from Madville Press, 2024), *The 500* (Alternating Currents Press, 2024), and *If We Never Meet Again: A Pandemic Diary* (X Artists Books, 2025). She is the founding editor in chief at the Los Angeles Press. Find her at thelosangelespress.com