POETRY OUT LOUD

A Festival of Children’s Poetry

December 15, 2020
This year’s 22nd annual Poetry Out Loud celebration is a first for the New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence. It includes this beautiful book of student poetry as well as a virtual Poetry Out Loud where you will see and hear our poets share their original poems. Though it feels very different without New Rochelle High School’s Whitney M. Young, Jr. Auditorium filled with students, families, teachers, and administrators, the COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped the creativity of our school community. The celebration must go on!

The New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence is thrilled to develop, fund and implement high-quality, impactful, educational enrichment programming like Poetry Out Loud in partnership with the City School District of New Rochelle. We work to promote active community engagement for all of New Rochelle’s public schools and foster enthusiasm and support for our extraordinarily diverse and exceptional school district. Poetry Out Loud along with SAT/ACT prep courses, the Museum of Arts & Culture, Civics Symposium and Grants Program give the NR Fund opportunities to make a meaningful impact on the educational journey of the students in New Rochelle’s public schools.

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts!

Lauren Pekats
Jonathan Stark
Co-Chairs
New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence
POETRY OUT LOUD

Committee
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Rachel Relkin

Printing
Gotham Color

Thank You
To the Herman Goldman Foundation and the Jeremy Scheinfeld Foundation for Kids for their generous support.

To Danielle Kohn, Westchester County Youth Poet Laureate, for gifting us with her poetry and her message.

To all of the teachers who brought the magic of poetry into their classrooms, especially this year in such challenging times!


POETRY OUT LOUD Coordinators
Albert Leonard Middle School
Davis Elementary School
Isaac E. Young Middle School
Jefferson Elementary School
Trinity Elementary School
Ward Elementary School
Webster Elementary School

Mary Claire Breslin
Laurie Marinaro, Anna Orientale
Filomena Daniele
Brenda Guber
Deidre Dillon, Nicole Gaudio,
Johanna Vasquez
Kellie Catullo
Sarah Chickery, Marissa McIntyre,
Maria Sprio
Thankful

I am thankful for the Universe
for the ambient sounds echoing
on bicycles and oceans of warm milk
I am thankful for this planet
for the iris blooming
purples and dilating blues
a watercolor storm of
broken sky and aluminum clouds
I am thankful for tomato soup
for my mother
who cooks it with gentle hands
I am thankful for the horizon
with its scarlet galaxies
celestial and trapped
between white porcelain bowls
and atoms of the Universe

Danielle Kohn
Westchester County Youth Poet Laureate
I was in second grade when I wrote my first poem, and discovered that I could magically infuse thoughts, emotions, and images into words to create this thing called poetry. My first poem was about a sunrise. I do not remember exactly what I wrote, but I recall feeling like I was painting a picture with my words, and it felt powerful to share those words with others. I have been writing poetry ever since. I am a poet because writing helps me work through my emotions and shows me how to feel when I am uncertain and confused. I am a poet because writing helps me remember an experience, an image, or a person that I might otherwise forget. I am a poet because writing helps me understand my perspective on important issues, like inequality and the environment. Perhaps most importantly, I am a poet because writing and sharing my poems, and reading and enjoying yours, is a way to connect us together, and this year has taught us more than ever to appreciate the value of human connection.

I hope your experience writing poetry will ignite the same passion I felt after writing my first poem, and spark a lifelong love of writing, reading, and appreciating poetry. Your words are beautiful and inspiring, and worth saying out loud. Keep sharing your voice with the world.

Danielle Kohn
Westchester County Youth Poet Laureate
Our children’s poetry prevails! From the moment last March when we began reading the 68 poems written by New Rochelle’s elementary and middle school poets for the 22nd annual Poetry Out Loud festival, our committee filled with delight and hope. We knew we had the most essential ingredient in place for Poetry Out Loud to come to fruition during this very difficult year – the remarkable and inspiring poems of our student poets! These became our enchanted “yellow brick road” to publication and presentation during COVID.

Poetry Out Loud is an annual event dating back to 1999, providing an opportunity for poets from our district’s elementary and middle schools to read their original work out loud from a newly published book before family, friends, educators and community in the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Auditorium at New Rochelle High School. Unlike the 1,680 alumni poets of this festival, our 2020 poets are courageously performing via video. While they wrote their poems when they were in grades 3-6, they are reading their poems as students in grades 4-7. Their work is an affirmation of the beauty, wonder, wisdom and joy expressed in a child’s voice. And their work timelessly transcends all calendars and circumstances. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to our poets!

We are deeply thankful to the New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence for their unwavering commitment to sponsoring this program since its inception, and for their Herculean efforts to produce it on a video platform this year amidst many challenging circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our district’s educators and administrators for generously dedicating the time and effort necessary to prepare students and families for this year’s event. Thank you, thank you, thank you to the founding co-chairpersons, Meri Hilton and Nancy Gordon Seif, for their invaluable dedication to all 22 years of the Poetry Out Loud festival of children’s poetry, to Mayor Noam Bramson for his esteemed performance as the Master of Ceremonies for this program since 1999, and to artist Carol Cohen for contributing her 22nd beautiful book cover. Poetry Out Loud endures as a cherished way to help us honor the memory of our son, Jeremy, who loved to write and took great pleasure in sharing his work.

It’s now time to savor the words of our magical poets together!

Jodi and Rob Scheinfeld
December, 2020
Storms

Storms,
Lights flicker on and off,
While wind howls
Like a wolf.
Rain patters to the ground.
Lightning strikes all around.
Thunder explodes in the black
Dark sky.
As clouds spread really wide.
But.
I have shelter from the floods outside.
Because I’m inside.

Jeremy Scheinfeld
POETRY OUT LOUD 2020
A Festival of Children’s Poetry

Words sing off the page
Through the voice of a child
Each child a poet
Each song a poem
To hear
OUT LOUD

Meri Hilton and Nancy Gordon Seif
Founding Chairpersons

Poets

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Space

Mars has stars
Neptune is blue
I live on Earth
And I think you do too!
Saturn has rings
The sun is hot
Stars are big
But they look like a dot
What is space?
How big is it?
What are the stars?
Would they be nice to visit?
So many questions
Where do we get an answer?
Go to NASA
They’re the masters!

James Smart
Grade 3
Davis Elementary School
The Storm

The rain thumps
Leaves blow in the wind and the petals of flowers gust off
Thunder rumbles and lightning flashes before me
Squirrels climbing up a tree
Grass sways as the rain hits my window
I watch as I eat breakfast in silence
It’s like my backyard is a jungle

Nina Kietlinski
Grade 3
Webster Elementary School
Does Color REALLY Matter?

Does color REALLY matter?
I think it doesn’t

Harriet Tubman
Risk Taker, Smart, Careful, Slave
Escaped to Freedom, Came back for others
Did her color REALLY matter?
I think it didn’t

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Determined, Strong, Convincing
Activist who Had a Dream
Fought for Justice
Did his color REALLY matter?
I think it didn’t

I have many friends
Black, Brown, Tan and White
In school ALL my friends watch out for each other
But when people get older
They drift apart and forget
Under our skin we are all the same
Humans
Born on the same planet
It’s painful to see because….

Does color REALLY matter?
I KNOW it shouldn’t!

Sean Lopez
Grade 5
Trinity Elementary School
Earth Is Our Planet

Earth, the place of all birth,
Where all the beautiful plants grow
and all the deep blue rivers flow.
Earth, the place all birds have flown
and people have grown. The place where
creatures and things are still unknown.
Earth is our home and
it should be known that
pollution has no place in our home.
All this pollution is affecting our
wonderful earth in a humongous way,
and we should do everything so
we can make it go away.
I love my earth and I am here to stay!

Sierra Daly
Grade 6
Isaac E. Young Middle School
Birds

Birds fly like a silver arrow.  
Shooting through the sky.  
It’s like a dancing routine in the air.  
They fly in delight.  
They fly in the bright, bright sun.  
The world is like their audience.

Avery Howard  
Grade 3  
Ward Elementary School
The Miracle

Glitter falls down from the sky
We hold a crystal fog
Building sculptures
And white fluffy angels
Sipping on hot chocolate
Enjoying the soft ice
I love the chill
I know you do too
It makes us eager
To go outside
And play

Snow can feel cold
But also warm in your heart
Sparks of glitter in the air
White and simple
It comes alive
When we touch it
Fluff is the miracle of nature
White fog falling in night or day
It is a wondrous part of life

Krishna Perez
Grade 3
Jefferson Elementary School
Stop Bullying

Bullying is a time when you hurt others.
Instead, turn it around
Be kind to your sisters and brothers.

Don’t use anger recklessly,
Be nice constantly.

Be as nice as flowers in the summer,
Live your life being a lover.

A lover of life and a lover of friendship,
Having a love strong enough to power a spaceship.

Go above and beyond to be a human being,
Be the best person anyone has ever seen.

To be a bully takes too much bad energy.
Be a good sport and be kind,
To make the world a place where people love happily.

Millie Stevenson
Grade 6
Albert Leonard Middle School
How I See the World

My eyes see the world
As a beautiful wonder
Full of nature and life

The flowers, the trees
The humming honey bees
Butterflies filling the sky with color

The rivers dancing through
The forest
The rabbits skipping in
The grass

The waves laughing as
They reach the shore
Shells shimmering in the sunlight
Dolphins soaring through the sea

The leaves running in the air
Roses glistening like red rubies

The way I see the world
Is oh, so pretty

Allie Vincitore
Grade 4
Ward Elementary School
Me

Intelligent, Joyful, Grateful
Daughter of Guadalupe
Who loves my family, friends, and my pet fish
Who feels excited about going to middle school
Who needs my family, my TV, and food
Who gives money, beach ball, and hair brush
Who fears cockroaches, spiders, and scary movies
Who’d like to see Paris
Who dreams of being an art teacher
A student of Isaac E. Young Middle School

Valerie Carsin
Grade 6
Isaac E. Young Middle School
Hurt

I am hurt and I have a scab on my knee
Plus I hit my eye and so it is hard for me to see
I was on the monkey bars swinging and all was swell
But I was not being careful and so I slipped and I fell
It happened so abruptly it is difficult to describe
It hit me like a flash right between my eyes
I was shocked how it all happened oh so fast
When I got home I still had tears made to last
So if you are reading this there is something I need to say
Be VERY careful when you go outside to play

Luca Cooley
Grade 5
Jefferson Elementary School
Blur

A blur is what the world used to be
But now with glasses
I can see
It looks clear
It looks bright
You’re not misshapen
You look right
The eye test was a bit of a pain
For surviving, I should have gotten fame
A puff of air straight in my eye
It made me want to cry
I wiggled
I moved around all day
“You won’t need glasses”
Is what my mom used to say.

Sianna Johnson
Grade 5
Davis Elementary School
Imagination

Imagination turns your eyes into magical things. It turns clouds into dragons with butterfly wings.
Your room is your palace,
Your bed is your throne,
Your dolls are your servants,
You are never alone.
Your brother is a pirate,
His ship is his room.
Your palace protects you from pirates of doom.
Imagination is endless, never going away,
Keeping you busy every day.

Addison Kurtin
Grade 4
Webster Elementary School
What am I?

I am on a human’s body.
I am whatever size you want.
I am whatever color you want.
   I am not a shape.
I make people feel unique.
You can put me in whatever style.
   You can wash me.
You can swing me side to side.
You can bring me everywhere and I will stay
   with you and on you.
I will make you look cute.
   What am I?
   I am hair!!

Sydney Taylor Pope
Grade 4
Trinity Elementary School
The Cherry Tree

On top of a green-grass hill lies the big cherry tree,
The cherry tree that shines so bright, it shines with all its glee.

Deep red cherries, the plump and sweet sensation.
So beautiful and perfect, they deserve a standing ovation.

A tree that dozes to sleep at dusk and wakes to sunrise at dawn.
The cherry tree is so outrageously big; its shadow stretches across the lawn.

The cherry tree that brings a light to those who are in need,
The cherry tree that will be remembered for its very generous deed.

Jax Ciscone
Grade 6
Albert Leonard Middle School
Dear Dance
(Inspired by “Dear Basketball” by Kobe Bryant)

Dear Dance,
From the moment I moved my feet and listened to music in my sister’s room
I knew one thing was real: I fell in love with you.
A love so deep I gave you my all
From my heart to my feet
As a little 3-year-old girl deeply in love with you
I never wanted to stop, I only kept going
And so I practiced and learned more
I went to dance classes with my sister
And I would hang out and dance as well
I gave more than you could ever ask for because that’s what I love to do
I danced everywhere
Not because I had to, but because I want to
I do everything for YOU
Because that’s what you do when someone makes you feel as alive as you’ve made me feel
You gave a big talent to a small 3-year-old girl and I’ll always love you for it.
And we both know, no matter where dance will take me...
I’ll always be that girl with Moves Like Jagger
Love, Cheyenne

Cheyenne Stephens
Grade 5
Trinity Elementary School
You

You are you and this is true, so special smart and kind

You are a riot, you must deny it but that is who you are

You may sometimes fail and try to bail out on something hard

But do not fret, you must not let go of who you are

You are so kind, so smart and true because that is who you are

Lilia Hafid
Grade 4
Ward Elementary School
I Am From

I am from the television set.
From patties and rolls.
I am from the fish tank that stands on the table.
Bright, colorful, bubbles pumping.
I am from Rosa World, from a beautiful pot
and overflowing.
I am from Muslim traditions and kind people.
From Appa and Umma.
I'm from the strict and the loving.
From “never give up!” And “keep trying!”
I’m from Allah o Akbar! And Salaam Allaikoum
I’m from Kandy, Sri Lanka.
Refreshing congee and the sweetest dates.
From the first family member to come to the U.S.A.
We watch and wait for the times to change
So others can join us.

Rimaz Rizwan
Grade 6
Isaac E. Young Middle School
The Bicycle of Life

Life is like a bicycle—
When you first start,
You need to start on a tricycle

Pedaling as fast as you can
And getting help all the time,
You feel like it is going to take decades
Trying again and again
Just to get up that hill

Soon you make it,
You feel like you won a gold medal in the Olympics
And over time you feel like you can try the bicycle

You get on the bicycle
You start to pedal just with a little help this time
You try again and again

Years pass
Trying to get up that hill
And you don’t give up
Because you know someday you will make it
And when that day finally comes
You’re on your own—
No one to help you now

Nina Griffith
Grade 5
Ward Elementary School
One Day

One day, we will celebrate the hard work that Frederick Douglass did to free slaves.
One day, we will rise together like how Ruby Bridges did at the white school she attended.
One day, we will celebrate Freedom Day on April 27th.
One day, we will believe in ourselves like how Kobe Bryant did in each game that he played.
One day, we will face our difficult times like how Nelson Mandela, de Klerk and so many others who changed the world to make it a better place.
One day, we will celebrate the hard work that Wangari Maathai did to protect the environment and the trees.
One day, we will remember the hard work that all these people did to protect, serve, change, and impact our world.
One day is today!

Salvador Gallardo
Grade 4
Webster Elementary School
Human Impact Here and Now

It catches my eye
when I see the poor trees getting demolished
The aroma of beautiful flowers
is dwindling in the world
Whoosh! Squeak! Bang!
erases the sound of the birds
calling for help from the ends of their lungs
My fingers brush the dead air, cold,
and in need of kindness
Human impact causes the loss that it creates
Human impact destroys the world that it has made

Gabriella Pino
Grade 5
Jefferson Elementary School
Plain

Life is very plain
It’s going down the drain
This isn’t very fair
I feel an evil glare
What is this?
Where is the bliss?
We should ride a plane,
Try to gain some fame
Yet life is not the same
It is a very dangerous game
We could get ill
This COVID-19 can kill!

Jarreal Yarborough
Grade 6
Albert Leonard Middle School
A Better Baseball Game

I used to hit off a tee
But now they pitch the ball to me
I used to always drop the ball
But now I catch it at the wall
I used to swing very late
But now I hit it at the plate
I used to always hit the ground
But now I hit way past the mound
I used to be out at the base
But now I always get called SAFE!

Talia Jackson
Grade 5
Jefferson Elementary School
Soccer

A soccer ball, a soccer ball is all I see!
Why don’t you come and play with me?
I love Soccer!
Soccer is my Sport!
I love to play in the blazing sun, what great fun!
I stole the ball and ran quickly to make a goal.
I want to play, play, play but my mama is calling, I can’t stay.

Sameer Noor
Grade 3
Trinity Elementary School
Chicken Nuggets

Chicken nuggets, oh, how good they are,
Chicken nuggets are better than a candy bar!
Chicken nuggets with ketchup on the side,
When you eat chicken nuggets with ketchup
You’ll go on a ride!

Chicken nuggets are my favorite food.
You know the reason?
Because they put me in a good mood!
Chicken nuggets have their own basketball team,
named the Denver Nuggets.
The Denver Nuggets sink a lot of buckets!
I probably just lied to you, who knows if that’s true.
But it’s really okay,
Because, trust me, when you eat chicken nuggets,
You’ll say, HIP HIP HOORAY!

Ben Kurumunda
Grade 3
Davis Elementary School
The Guard

When I need protection,
I call The Guard
When the night is scary,
I call The Guard
When I am lonely,
I call The Guard

When it is cold,
And the sun says goodbye,
And the wind blows in my face,
And no friends to say hi
There is no one around
And no one to talk to
Just the cold, hard ground
No birds have flown
I call The Guard

The Guard is nice,
The Guard is sweet
Although sometimes after playing in the mud,
The Guard smells like feet
But The Guard is always there
The Guard is my dog, Daisy

Sloane Harshman
Grade 4
Webster Elementary School
Be You

The sky is blue
So God loves you!
Don’t ever be afraid
To show the real you!
You are wonderful
And great
Like the pasta on my plate!

Neryea Beason
Grade 3
Ward Elementary School
Pollution

Walking through the street
I didn’t find anything pleasing or neat
Then something caught my eye
Something that earth should truly deny
It was litter covering the floor
It was litter covering the floor
Not comparable to anything I’ve seen before
Then the sharp scent of smoke filled my nose
I wish those facilities would shut down and close
Pollution is breaking our Earth apart
So please fight back with your head and your heart

Alexander Rodriguez
Grade 5
Jefferson Elementary School
Feelings

Excitement

Excitement feels like your heart racing up and down
As if it was on a roller coaster

Sadness

Sadness feels like your heart is broken
And all your hope is lost
Feeling like you are not whole anymore

Proud

Proud feels like winning a trophy
Doing something for the first time

Josiah De La Roca
Grade 3
Trinity Elementary School
Empty

I am a tiger, but nobody knows
I hide from the light, nobody notices
I am protected, but trapped at the same time
I live in the darkness, no way out
I am afraid, but strong
I want to pounce, but that would not matter
Where am I?
I am invisible

I look strong, and sturdy, powerful, and brave
On the inside I am cowardly, weak, and insecure
I am like a young person finding, searching.
       Who am I?
I am invisible

Invisible.
It is stuck in my head
My insides are screaming, shouting, yelling.
"Who am I? Where am I? Does it matter?"
I look down there,
I am the one, the only one.
I am told I am special, but what is so special if . . .

I am invisible
Invisible
Invisible.

Mollie Aisner
Grade 6
Albert Leonard Middle School
You Be You

Life is hard but
You have a big heart.
Don’t let others tear you apart.
We all have our strengths, so
Take it to long lengths.
Be brave and strong.
Don’t hang along.
Don’t let negativity bring
Down your self-esteem.
This isn’t the end but
Good luck, my friend.

As I said before, it’s not the end.
So hello, again!
You’re not alone, so don’t hide away.
You have friends that are here to stay.
If you’re stuck, don’t give up.
I wish you the best of luck.

Nya Gonzalez
Grade 6
Isaac E. Young Middle School
Rainy Day

Rain, rain, rain
Water is flooding the drain
I wish I could go out to play
But unfortunately, not today
I must find something to do
I’m trying to think of something new
Should I read a book?
Or better yet, should I cook?
What would I make?
Maybe I could bake a cake
Perhaps I should watch a movie with my brother
Or watch a great new show about a girl who’s undercover
All day has gone by while I contemplate
My mom yells out, “Dinner’s ready on the plate”
Time went by way too fast
Next time I hope the rainy day will last

Sanaa Suri
Grade 5
Davis Elementary School
Kite

I fly very high up in the blue sky
No longer on the ground
I see you playing and laughing down below
I have a kite race with my colorful friends
As I play in the spring and summer wind
With the birds that fly from afar
Fly birdie fly, I’m also in the sky
The sky is the best home for a kite

Serjah Melendez
Grade 3
Jefferson Elementary School
Infinite Possibilities

Billions of questions unanswered.
   All of them won’t be answered.
But I’m a kid and I need to know everything...
   How do we know God or Jesus is real?
   How do we know we have a soul?
   Why can’t we have wings like birds?
   How was the universe created?
   Is life a simulation?
That’s not half of my questions.
   Why can’t we breathe in space?
   How were humans created?
   Were the Egyptians the first humans?
   Why do we think gods are real?
   Can we travel through time?
Are there multiple versions of me in different timelines?
   What is my purpose?
   Can we be reincarnated?
   Is this just a game?
Infinite possibilities hover over us.
We have 8 billion years until the sun cools down.
   Let’s make it count.

Dylan A. Thomas
Grade 6
Isaac E. Young Middle School
Sunset

I feel sorry for you from out of the blue
Because you have to end the day
It was so nice to see you in the morning
But now you have to go away
Your bright beautiful colors
Reflected the horizon like a rainbow path
I wish you could stay a minute longer
But it’s time for you to go down
Oh, why can’t you stay?
Why do you have to end the day?
You passed the line
It’s time to say good-bye
I’ll see you in the morning
Shining in the bright blue sky
And now the moon takes over

Abigail Seung-Yeon Kwon
Grade 4
Davis Elementary School
Losing a Friend

You wave goodbye,
While someone else says hi.

You turn away,
While I stay.

Woke up in tears,
Won’t listen to my peers.

It hurts,
Still remember our T-shirts?

I miss you,
Remember when you had the flu?

I’m afraid,
I can’t even make a braid!
Without you.

I used to be hurt,
But now I know.
Sometimes it’s better,
To let someone go.

Gianna Laracuente
Grade 5
Trinity Elementary School
Night Sky

Have you ever looked out your window at night and seen the night sky shine?
Have you seen how the moon creates so much light, How the stars make the sky so bright?
The night sky twinkles like fireworks. It looks like Vincent Van Gogh created artwork.

The night sky is beautiful,
It sends a chill down my spine.
As I gaze out into the night sky,
I see the constellations nice and wide.
Misty nights are the best.
The night sky is calm as I rest.
The dark night sky reflects against the silver pine.
I wish the night sky would stay all the time.
I can’t wait for tomorrow to look out my window and see the night sky shine once again.

Sofia de la Fuente
Grade 3
Webster Elementary School
The Cold Dark Night

In the thicket of the wood with a saddening howl
A wolf cries to its lost pack with a growl
The night soon comes with a long black blanket
Covering the sky above the cold dark thicket
The wolf puts its head down not putting up a fight
And not another howl on this cold dark night

Lilli Taylor
Grade 5
Davis Elementary School
Sleeping

As you sleep
The darkness obscures
Your eyes
And you feel scared
Like your soul is in space
But then you start to relax
You dream
Whatever is on your mind
You begin to relax
And feel like your soul
Comes back to you
You feel like you’re home
And then it’s the next morning
But the perfect dream goes away
And you wish
You could have it back

Demetrios Nikitiadis
Grade 5
Ward Elementary School
Our Generation

Our generation is trash
There I said it at last
It’s the truth, I can’t lie
It’s the way I feel inside
Karma, violence and much more
Always getting pushed to the floor
I’m tired of all these lies
It’s like y’all gonna win a prize
When others are dying
Fools are fighting
Parents are going to jail
Their kids are wishing farewell
Locked up in their cells
Wishing that they had done well
Behind closed doors lives a child who screams
Broken truths made by parents cannot be redeemed
It’s not like I want the world to beam
It’s just… can we stop living a dream

Jordyn Nelson
Grade 5
Jefferson Elementary School
Light

I’ve fallen in a pit,
A pit as black as night.
I need to leave this place,
I need to find some light.

I have to light a candle,
But I don’t have any wax.
I know you need to pay the price,
But I didn’t know the tax.

I see others just like me,
Those trying to escape the pit.
Some try to use their force,
While others use their wit.

I use positivity,
I keep a smile on my face.
Maybe happiness can fight the dark,
Maybe it will get me out of this place.

Suddenly a cheerful cloud,
Lifts me into the sky.
The birds sing and the sun grins,
I feel like I can fly.

But I still see others in the endless pit,
The pit as cold as night.
But this time I can help,
I can be the one to give them light.

Gabrielle Cohen
Grade 6
Albert Leonard Middle School
Like the Wind

The wind is sometimes cold, warm. Wind blows like a leaf, but wind can move. It can move right or left. Back or forth. Down or up. But wind travels. Wind travels like me. Wind twirls like me. Wind is cold like me. Wind is active like me. Wind blows. It blows like bubbles. Wind has a lot of movement. Wind can move paper, just like the object I’m writing on. Wind can’t be seen but it can’t hide. Wind can gather up. Wind is phenomenal. I love wind. Wind cannot be seen but it can have movement. Wind can create a show. The show is amazing. Whoever it might be, I love wind more than them. Wind is my best friend.

Serenity Figueroa
Grade 4
Trinity Elementary School
The Perfect Person

You always hear people say no one is perfect,
    But I have met the perfect person.
Someone kind and strong.
Someone who never gives up and accepts differences.
Someone who is artistic and smart.
Someone who loves you and will do anything for you.
Someone who makes you laugh and smile.
Someone who is always glad and never sad.
Someone who loves and protects you.
Someone you can trust to hold your deepest secret.
Someone who was famous but did not care about the fame,
    But how she got the fame.
Someone that you never want to leave you,
    But you know that they have to.
The perfect person.

Caitlin Bach
Grade 4
Webster Elementary School
Samuel’s Choices

I was a slave for my master,
For my days were filled with sorrow,
I was taken away from my family
And sold to different people.
I have only two choices
To turn my life around.
Do I go and join the war?
Or stay and be a
Slave?

Ranade Awassam
Grade 4
Trinity Elementary School
Thoughts

Thoughts so deep, you can just dive into them
  Deep like the ocean
  Deep like the sky
  You can just jump into them
  You can lie down on those thoughts
  Because those thoughts make you
  Because those thoughts are you
They are the thoughts you think each and every day

Peyton Galloway
Grade 5
Webster Elementary School
Out of This World

Swimming, swimming
Up towards the light
I’ll be free of pain
And all kinds of fright.

I want to reach
That shimmer and shine
I will come for you
You shall be mine.

Way up high
I can barely reach
Splish, splash
I will come to your preach.

How long will this take?
Will I ever get there?
I want out of this world
I want out of here.

The darkness is fading
I come into the light
It’s beautiful, it’s blinding
It’s ever so bright.

I’m here now
It’s finally been given
I’ve finally arrived
I’m in heaven.

Scarlett Hartzman
Grade 6
Albert Leonard Middle School
Dance = Life

Dance is like a bird singing a song as your body moves along.
Dance is like a rhythmic soul.
Dance lets your body flow.
Dance is like a story being told.
Dance won’t make you feel old.
Dance they say, move your feet.
Dance they say, try to leap.
If you never leap you won’t know how to fly.
Dance, at least try.
There’s an old saying, “Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass,
It’s learning to dance in the rain!”
This is why I say,
And you should too
Dance, it’s good for you!

Makayla Marie Lawrence
Grade 6
Isaac E. Young Middle School
The Highway

Life,
Is a highway
With speed bumps and turns
Accidents and exits.

Life,
Has doors opening and closing
Some wrong and others right
Challenges and obstacles screaming your way.

Life,
Is full of good friendships,
Bad bullies, and people that stick up for you.

Life,
All the good memories with friends and family
Vacations and long road trips
Warm summers and cold winters
The ups and downs.

That’s life—
A highway.

Dylan Erber
Grade 5
Ward Elementary School
A Beam of Light

You open your eyes and there it is.
A beam of light hitting you.
You go closer and you realize
“Oh wait, it’s just the sun.”
The day keeps on going
And you stop to blink.
But when you open your eyes
The light is hitting you again.
You know it’s just the sun.
You’re crying from all the pressure.
But when you lift your head
From upon your lap
The sun is hitting you again.
But this time, you’re not annoyed.
You’re smiling because this gives
You a reason to smile.
As the day goes on
The sun fades away.
You wake up in the morning
And a beam of light is hitting you once again,
“Oh wait, that’s my reason to smile.”

Alejandro Barajas
Grade 6
Isaac E. Young Middle School
No Place to Call Home

No home
No shelter
Beg for food
Watch people shoot us kind smiles
On the street
Dirt layers our skin
Only the kindness of peoples’ hearts
Keeps us going
No place for us
No place for us to call home

Ellie Sadeghi
Grade 5
Davis Elementary School
See

You see me walk,
I see you talk.
You see my pain,
I see your vain.
You see me,
I see you.
When will you care?
Would you even dare?
Is it possible?
Is it achievable?
Is it attainable?
Yes,
Yes,
Yes!

Maya Clark
Grade 6
Albert Leonard Middle School
Life

Life is just like a camera
Just focus on what’s
Important and capture
The good times…
Develop from the
Negatives and if things
Don’t work out…
Then take another shot.
I don’t feel the way I should
I don’t look the way I feel.
I don’t forget, but I forgive
I don’t trust, but I listen.
I’m not perfect, but I know perfect is not me.
I don’t want or need.
I just want to need to have it.
Life is beautiful.
Life is madness.
Life is a series of events strung together
Like a phrase of a sentence
Forever changing and forever adapting.
All we can do is turn the page and read on.

Blessing Rosario
Grade 6
Isaac E. Young Middle School
Hyperbole Poem

Welcome to the beach
Where the water waves
To the sun
Where the crabs
Start singing

The ocean is so big
It can take over the whole beach
Where the whales can eat the fish
Where tiny fish start dancing

Welcome to the beach
Where the sharks feed on you
Welcome to the beach
Where you get cooked!

Come to this beach
You will be amazed by all this heat!

Kaylee Giron
Grade 5
Ward Elementary School
Global Warming

The thing that kills us all is ourselves
The heat is rising as technology sells
Do you know what makes a bus go?
It’s ozone-killing gas and we don’t say no!
Is the government an eagle eye?
Factories produce toxic air that will help us all die
WALL-E tried to make this planet clean and nice
We can also make a difference and not let heat break ice
Help our planet and do whatever you can
Please, I’m begging you to come up with a plan
Bill Nye said that temperatures will rise 4 to 8 degrees
Please help our planet before it will cease

Daniel Nascimento
Grade 5
Jefferson Elementary School
Friends

Always there when I am blue
   And I am there
When they are too
Always including
Never excluding
Complete when together
Crumble when apart
   But friends
Always find a way

Julia LoConte
Grade 4
Davis Elementary School
Bright Things in Reflections

Bright things shine bright in the moonlight
Gleaming with color
Bright and warm
I spot something in the water
An orange flower shining in reflection from the sun

Beautiful and brilliant
One of a kind
Sitting right there in front of me

All other flowers watch with envy
Many people stroke the flower
With gentle touches
Bright things will always show up in reflections

*Tino Rivieppo*
*Grade 5*
*Webster Elementary School*
You’re Amazing

You’re amazing inside and out.
You’re amazing even when you pout.
You’re amazing and filled with glee.
You’re amazing because you complete me.
You’re amazing for what you say and do.
You’re amazing because you are you.
You are marvelous, astonishing, astounding and more.
You are amazing because that’s what friends are for.

Amira Bedell
Grade 6
Isaac E. Young Middle School
Land of Dreams

When you sleep under your sheet
You will see the land of dreams

As you sleep you will dream
Of rainbows and butter streams

Come with me and you will see
All the pretty things in your dreams

So let’s run away to dreamland
Where the hills are sunny
And happiness never ends

Olivia Kayreen Carter
Grade 4
Ward Elementary School
Ice Cream

Ice cream in a bowl
Ice cream on a cone
Ice cream any way I want
As long as it’s my own
Ice cream can be sticky
Ice cream can be sweet
Ice cream is delicious
It’s my very favorite treat!

Angeline Yang
Grade 3
Davis Elementary School
Caring

I am caring
I care for my friends because they are helpful
I care for the students because they are my friends
I care for the teachers because they teach us how to learn
I am caring towards Ms. Rubin because she is the best teacher
I am caring towards my mom, dad and brother because they are my family and in my heart
I am caring towards the earth because we live here
I am caring

Kai McDonald
Grade 4
Jefferson Elementary School
Mother Nature

Mother Nature, oh Mother Nature,
You make such amazing wonders.
I get a little lazy
But that doesn’t mean I don’t love daisies.
The sunflowers are as bright as the sun.
Okay you may be tough
But you make me smile oh so much.
When you create lightning
It makes madness.
When you create rain
It makes sadness.
But whatever works
I kind of like it.
Mother Nature, oh Mother Nature,
You make happiness so major.

Leilanni Brito
Grade 4
Trinity Elementary School
The Beautiful Butterfly

Beautiful butterfly, beautiful butterfly, where did you go? Vacationing in Mexico, oh how I missed you so!

Beautiful butterfly, beautiful butterfly, you returned for the spring, We’ve missed your bright colors set upon your two wings.

Beautiful butterfly, beautiful butterfly, fluttering through the sky, How far and how long did it take you to fly?

Beautiful butterfly, beautiful butterfly, you bring so much joy, I don’t know if you’re a girl or a boy!

Beautiful butterfly, beautiful butterfly, don’t leave me so soon. I’ll miss you just as much ... as a butterfly misses its cocoon!

Tyler J. Nask
Grade 5
Webster Elementary School
Snack Time

Snack time can be shared
With friends from here and there
You’ll hear a munch
You’ll hear a crunch
Oh no, snack in children’s hair!

Crumbs spilling from lunchboxes
Juice making sticky blotches
On your shirt
On your pants
Weird snacks appear like gummy ants

Some have napkins to clean their mess
One girl wipes it on her dress
Snack time is full of fun
Sticky, greasy
Kind of glad when it’s done

Mia Mendoza
Grade 5
Jefferson Elementary School
Ideas

You need some ideas,
But you can’t think of any.
You fidget with your pencil
And try to think.

You feel like a mouse
Stuck in a big room.
A big, empty room
With nothing inside.

You can’t find any ideas
Your mind is a blank
Then BING!
You’ve found an idea!

Before you know it,
You have a million of them
You thought hard enough
And you found some ideas!

Kenneth Kweku
Grade 5
Ward Elementary School
Sunflower

I am bright,
I am sunny,
I come alive in the warm spring
and the hot summer!
Growing up straight and tall,
I am beautiful,
My seeds fall, uh-oh
Fall is near,
It’s time for me to leave.

Azariah Mitchell
Grade 3
Trinity Elementary School
Love Not Hate

We need to be united not separate.
We need to love not hate.
We need to respect not be offensive.
We need to love not hate.
We need peace not violence.
We need to love not hate.
We need joy not sadness.
We need love not hate.
We need laughter not tears.
We need love not hate.

Evelyn Medina
Grade 6
Isaac E. Young Middle School
Neuer Gie Up

Although at times life may seem tough
You have to promise that you won’t ever give up

Life will throw its harder hits
But sometimes all it takes is grit

At the time in your life when you’ve had enough
You have to promise that you won’t ever give up

And I know at times it’s very hard
Sometimes you have to let down your guard

At the end of the day I know you’ll see
The amazing person I knew you could be

Molly Matthews
Grade 6
Albert Leonard Middle School
You Can Change the World

You are beautiful, you are caring, you can change the world
   So just stop fighting

Instead start to dream, see what might happen
   If you open your heart and take some action

   The world is changed every day
   And it’s done by you and me

   So look around you,
   I have a feeling you’ll see

Charlotte Matthews
   Grade 3
Webster Elementary School
Yellow Pencil

So much potential
In this little pencil
Sitting on a desk
All alone
With nothing to do yet.
Dead stiff.
What wonderful things I can do with you,
Little yellow pencil!

Clementine Sweeney
Grade 4
Davis Elementary School