

The Jeremy Scheinfeld Publishing Center

a program of the



**nr fund**

New Rochelle Fund for  
Educational Excellence

presents

**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**

*Meri Hilton, Nancy Gordon Seif, Jodi Scheinfeld, Lauren Pekats, Richard Relkin*

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## **Board of Education President**

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*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!*

*To Principals Anthony Bambrola, John Barnes, Michael Hilderbrand, Franco J. Miele, Kimmerly Nieves, Melissa A. Passarelli, and Tawanda Robinson for their support of Poetry Out Loud 2020.*

## 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

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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*

## *Poetry Out Loud*

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*

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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 Laracuent  
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

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 Riviello*  
*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*

## **Never Give 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*