

Spring 2026



We would like to say a very special thank you to Ms. Harner for the inspiration and to her students for their talent. It is those students who have provided the illustrations for this year's book.

Welcome to the 2026 edition of the Richard M. Teitelman's ***Fantasies of the Mind.***

Once again we have solicited original student writings to entertain you, and once again students have responded to the call. On the following pages you will find writings inspired by topics like love, seasons, and change. Students tackled the tasks of writing creatively as well as demonstrating the knowledge they have gained this year. The students who helped to compile these creative writings worked hard and found

their inspiration in many ways and in many classrooms throughout this school year. Good writing both entertains and provokes thought. We hope that you will read each of the entries in this literary magazine. Enjoy them. Take your time and **think** about each of the writings, and you may find more than what is written on the printed page.

No one ever said that writing is an easy thing to do. To share personal writing with others is always somewhat dangerous; one becomes vulnerable. We want to thank those students who took the time to write and had the courage to share their personal thoughts. You see, the writings were not originally for publication, but only *fantasies of the mind*.

Fall is a time of many things  
For some, just a changing of seasons  
A display of time passed  
No more significant  
than a penny on a sidewalk

For others, however,  
Fall is so much more  
Yes, it is a changing of seasons  
But it is also a changing of spirit  
Yes, it is a display of time passed  
But it is also  
a display of memories gone by Yes,  
it may hold the significance of a  
penny on a sidewalk  
But that penny is the heads-up penny  
that helped you  
Pass that quiz you were destined to fail  
all those years ago

Fall, though, doesn't discriminate  
It pays no mind to what it is,

what it means,  
or the significance it holds to you Fall,  
regardless of how you feel about it,  
bestows the same gifts unto us all  
Fall, in its lowering of temperatures,  
allows us to hold the ones we love close  
without overheating  
Fall, in the wake of summer, asserts  
a time of rest, respite, and reflection  
Fall, in its shedding of leaves,  
teaches acceptance that  
nothing stays the same forever Fall,  
in all its brevity, reminds us to  
cherish what we have now  
For it may only last three short months

By Dorothy Devine



I love fall  
Fall breeze makes the leaves dance in  
the trees  
Fall means movie marathons

Fall is beautiful like my parents' wedding  
Fall means carving pumpkins with family  
Fall means giving out candy  
Fall means jumping in the huge piles  
of leaves that crunch under me Fall  
means time with family  
Fall means going trick or treating  
Fall means the sun laying silently  
into the trees  
Fall means more to me  
Fall means more activities  
Fall means Halloween  
Fall means schools in session  
Fall means creativity  
Fall means Christmas is near  
Fall means Thanksgiving dinner  
with family  
Fall means the best time with my friends  
Fall means fun doesn't come to an end I  
love fall

By Bailey Eagan

Playoff baseball, football, and  
soccer You know what they are  
Fall sports  
Sports also merge  
Some are starting  
while some disappear from view

Playoff baseball it is crazy  
All the time you hear  
the boom and snap of the bat  
and the fssss of the ball landing  
in the catchers mitt  
You have people staying up till  
midnight You have series comebacks

Football is the best  
The crack of the pads makes me  
excited You have the NFL that is so fun

to watch You have peewee which is  
funny On Saturday I watch my brother  
On Sunday I watch the Eagles- yes I do

You hear the clank  
as the ball hits the crossbar  
You hear the coach yelling  
You hear players  
begging to get in the game  
The hardest position is center

mid  
Not  
only  
do  
I



Golden Leaves  
Falling

The World Littered with

Colors A Shimmering  
Landscape The Dead Sunset  
A Rich Fruit  
A Dull One  
Hanging in the Sky  
Laying in the Fields  
Pure Juiced Goodness  
Pulp and Seeds  
Floating in the Barrel  
Carved in the Night  
Covered by Caramel  
Lit by Candles  
A Great Pie  
A Great Pie  
The Growing Wind  
Calm or Aggressive  
A Major Part of Life  
But Just a Season

Matthew Gaddy



The screech of the refs whistle to start the game  
Or the butterflies flying around in your belly  
before the game  
Your coach finally calling you as a captain

Seeing that special someone in the stands  
That's what makes it special

The pop of the kicker kicking the ball He  
kicked it to you- its your time to shine  
You catch it and you make a move  
But you get stopped  
I'm going to make the most of it

Hearing your team get hype for you  
Coach calls your number  
You step into that smelly, wet huddle  
HUT the QB snaps the ball  
CRACK the line collides  
I'm going to make the most of it

By Fin Gonzalez

## **Halloween Movies Poem**

by Vienna Sergant

**Sally** is Jack's lover  
*in Nightmare Before Christmas*  
**Casper** the ghost is defined friendly  
**Astrid** is Lydia Deetz's daughter *in*  
*Beetlejuice*  
*Red blood drips from the vampire*  
*Barnabas Collins' mouth*  
*in Dark Shadows*  
**Yells** echo "Ahhhhh"  
*from the other side of the store*  
*in Goosebumps*

*Haunted Mansion* has ghost floating  
*around and through the big walls*  
"Ahhhhh" screams from the *Monster*  
*House* *startle the kids*  
Loud crashes "Bang" come from  
Walters house in *Hubie Halloween* Lydia  
Deetz is Beetlejuice's crush **Ophelia** is

secretly a pig with a pig nose in *Addams Family 2*

**Winifred** is a Sanderson sister in *Hocus Pocus*

**Egon Spengler's** family takes over the business in *Ghostbuster Afterlife* **Eerie** "screeches" came from Coraline's hidden area in her house

**Nightmares** kill people in their sleep in *Nightmare On Elm Street*

**Megan** is an AI robot that kills people when they mess with her or her family **Only** survivors live, locked up in a bunker safe from zombies in *Warm Bodies* **Victor Van**

**Dort** is engaged to the corpse **Emily** in *The Corpse Bride*

In *The House With a Clock In Its Walls* the main characters see very unsettling scenes across the street from them

**Ernest** is the ghost in *We Have A Ghost* **Spookly** is a square pumpkin who can't roll in a circle like the other pumpkins can



### **Elements of Fall by Payton Harron**

**That's Fall**

**People's favorite fall show,**

***Gilmore Girls* is most watched on  
*Netflix* While people who like the scare  
are watching *Scream***

**Everybody's favorite family is in town**

**Dun Dun Dun Dun *snap,snap***

**That's Fall**

**That's Fall**

**There are hayrides into the sunset**

**And the old scare crow dances in the  
breeze, as if it were a young child**

**Carved a face into a bare**

**pumpkin & it lit up**

**shining brighter than the moon**

**That's Fall**

**That's Fall**

**Spider webs cover houses all**

**around from town to town**

**Candles are lit in windows like burning  
torches The hot chocolate box is screaming  
from the cabinet, begging to come out And the  
ghost inflatable is dancing happily in the  
front yard**

**That's Fall**

**That's Fall**

**The green leaves wave goodbye**

**As the red, orange and yellow leaves say  
hello Which brings back those magical,  
wonderful times**

**with our friends & family**

**That's Fall**



**October Baseball by Zach Hearon**

**It's the highest stakes of the year**

Playoff Baseball has started  
Fans line up at the gate of the stadium  
While the players warm up  
Because now it is win or go home  
Ending a teams season in misery  
Baseball a sport with tons of history A  
perfectly placed pitch plows through  
the cold air  
Giving the batter a great scare  
For all but one it's the end of the line  
Baseball blooms in the spring,  
melts in the summer heat  
and ends in the fall  
11 teams seasons ends  
but one team stands tall  
The stadiums lights are brighter than ever  
The fans jumping with excitement or  
sitting silently in sadness  
You will hear the crack of the bat  
and the fans clap  
But your team only gets nine innings  
27 outs or you're out of luck  
My favorite time of the year is Fall.  
The leaves are pretty.  
Thanksgiving is almost here.  
That means it's time for basketball.

The weather gets cool.  
The wind picks up.  
Leaves start to fall to the ground.  
It is too cold for school.

We're almost off for Thanksgiving break.  
Fall is the best season.-I love November.  
But when the leaves fall  
That means it's time to rake.



By Ryan Bailey

Fall leaves dance with the wind

The weather is getting cooler

The leaves start to change color

Red, orange and yellow

what beautiful colors

The weather is getting cooler

What an amazing November Fall

Leaves walked along the road

Red, orange and yellow

what beautiful colors

Winter is coming fast

The air is getting cooler.

**By Merrick Wilson**

**November** – Melody Ramos

November blows with winds cold and gray,

The trees are bare, their leaves all blown

away.

Leaves crunch under boots along the ground,  
Smoke from the fireplace curls and floats  
around.

Gray clouds cover most of the sky,  
Geese fly south as they wave goodbye.

The river shines with the last bit of  
light, And early dusk brings in the  
night.

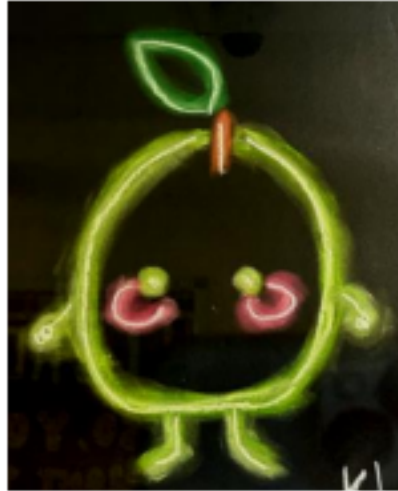
The smell of cider floats near and far,  
November hums beneath the evening  
star.

### ~My November Poem~

My favorite month is November  
You may ask why not December  
I love November because of Fall  
But truly I love it all  
I love the trees that dance around I love  
the leaves that cover up the ground Now I  
frown as I remember  
The ending sound of November The  
autumn winds have now silenced As  
the birds fly south for the winter I  
sigh as Fall comes to its end  
Hoping it will come soon again  
And winter now begins



By Layla Franceschi  
**T**urkey instead of  
**H**am  
**A**buela's mac and cheese but  
**N**ot her spinach  
**K**eeP the turkey leg  
**S**hove it in my mouth  
**G**ood..., very good food  
**I** like Thanksgiving's  
**V**ery yummy pumpkin pie  
**I** even like cheesecake  
**N**ot always the vegetables  
**G**ood food on the table



Family... we takes a picture together  
Only after the food  
Only after we're done eating  
Dinner with my family

By Byron Rafael Claudio

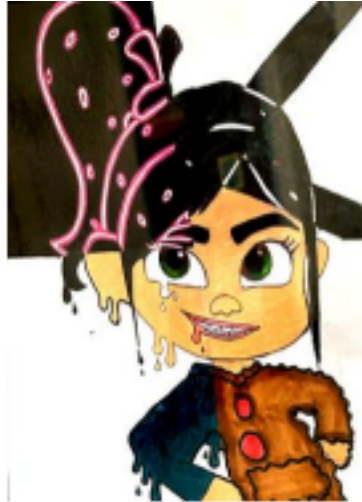
My favorite month is November  
The weather gets cooler like ice  
And the leaves get brighter  
I wish the days were lighter

My clothing changes  
I become cozy and warm  
Sitting around the fireplace like a hug  
With my warm fall drink in a mug

I'm going to eat on Thanksgiving day

1, 2, 3 I'm up for some pumpkin pie!  
When I'm done my belly is so full  
Makes me as warm as lambs wool

By Sophia Juarez



The leaves are falling and turning  
yellow, orange, and red.  
Happy thanksgiving to all your  
friends and family.  
Apple picking in your  
favorite fall sweater.  
Now it starts to get cold.  
Kids jumping into a pile of leaves.  
Seeing all your family at the  
dinner table.  
Grateful for your family and friends. I  
love looking outside and  
seeing the leaves fall.  
Very grateful for the food on the table.  
It's my favorite time of the year  
when my family gets together.  
Never a bad time to hang out  
with your friends and family.



**Giving gifts, thanks and love everyday. By**

Zoe Cardillo

“Bang” the door flies open  
and my family comes rushing in.  
My family fills my house  
as they drop the food  
on the kitchen counter.  
My grandma brings gravy  
My aunt brings mashed potatoes  
My cousins bring gifts  
We sit at the table.  
We talk about what we have  
done, Then we play cards.  
At about 6:30 we eat dinner  
But before we eat we pray.  
Then we watch a movie  
while the parents  
are cleaning up from dinner.  
When we are watching the movie  
My stomach hurts from eating so much  
food. At the end of the night

My family goes back home  
And we fall asleep.  
That is my Thanksgiving.

By Mark Becica

Wind is blowing  
Leaves are falling  
Birds are chirping  
Fall is calling

Sun rising up  
Sky full of clouds  
Leaves changing into fiery colors  
Wind howling so loud

**F**reezing temperatures  
**A**ir flowing through your hair  
**L**antern glowing bright  
**L**eaves falling everywhere



By Dean Cotter

No one is warm  
Overcoats worn as blankets  
Very, very windy  
Even as cold as ice

Many memories are made  
"Brrrrr", rips though you like a knife  
Everyday is short  
Remembering sweating in the summer  
Weather is constantly changing Every  
day gets colder  
As dark as night  
The sky is dark before 5 o'clock  
Hearing the crunch of the fallen leaves



Everyone's shivering  
Rarely ever outside

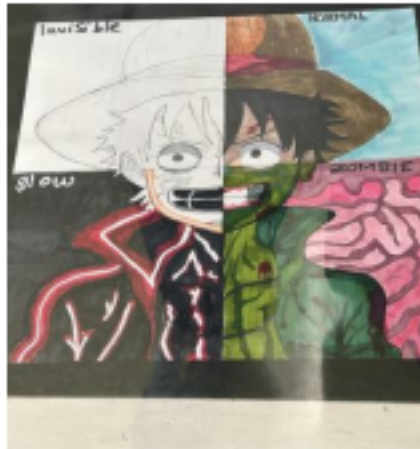
By Stella Erdman

The leaves fall from the sky,  
Walking down the street with a thick jacket  
to keep me warm  
The leaves beneath my feet go

CRUNCH! CRUNCH!  
The wind beats against my face  
    making my cheeks red  
Most trees around me have lost their leaves  
    and look dull  
The wind whistles in my ears,  
    making small whispers  
QUACK! I look up and see geese flying  
    in the sky to somewhere warmer  
Halloween decorations  
    are being taken down by neighbors  
The grass has lost its color,  
    the houses seem more quiet too  
The wind makes my hair go all crazy  
    while I walk down the sidewalk

By Evie Gallagher

    November brings sweaters, clear skies  
        and families closer  
    November howls as the night falls  
    Night grew windy, rattling the doors  
    Nature dancing throughout the wind  
    Near neighbors start fires  
        roasting marshmallows  
    Now cracking- smoke appears in the air,  
        then disappears  
    Nuts and leaves cover the lawns  
        with beautiful colors  
    Nationwide, animals prepare for hibernation  
Notes of calm and happiness appear November  
    feels like a big hug, warm and cozy



Layla Guzzi

Thanksgiving day you are thankful for every thing

You are ready for dinner with turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce

People watching football

Family members coming over at different times

Your family cooking the turkey and other foods for hours

The sun is shining like a light bulb

It is cold like a snow day

When it comes to dinner you are all seated

You say what you are thankful for When everyone is done saying their thanks you get ready to eat

People get up for more food... when you are done you get dessert

Then when the day is over everyone goes home

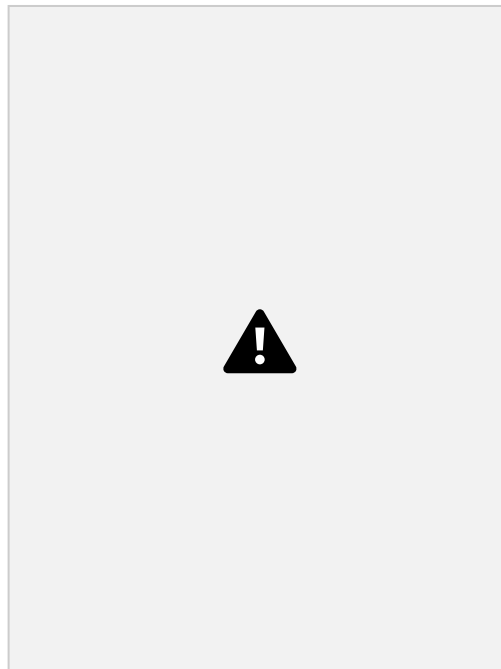
When you get to bed you are thankful for Thanksgiving

By Mason Melo

November always stays cold

Over the night  
Very colorful leaves  
Excellent sunsets  
Morning and night  
Brings the brightest best light  
Even when there is negative  
Remember all the positives  
Falling down freely from trees  
All down the streets  
Leaves are everywhere  
Like there is nowhere to walk

By Bella Ramos



Family dinners  
And birthday celebrations  
My Mimi understands me  
I love her a lot, we have fun together  
Laughter is loud, lighthearted, and  
filled with love  
You always have a good time

They are my family tree  
It is important to me  
My time spent with them shows  
that they support me  
Everyone is close

**By Marin Donahue**

Family time in the fall  
Always making creative colorful cards  
Making cards is as easy as smiling It's a  
great way to spend time with family  
Laughing loudly together - literally  
Yelling isn't aloud

Trips to the mall are like Christmas I  
loved Forever 21.  
My favorite thing to do is sit and talk.  
Everyone has interesting stories to tell.

By Emma Christman  
Family doesn't have to be perfect Like  
my family, I'd say it's pretty flawed  
Although we may seem  
as happy as daisies  
We haven't always been this way  
Every time we see our mom  
since she left  
its like a knife in the heart  
*STAB STAB STAB*  
Don't feel pity though,  
we've gotten used to it  
as we've grown older

Family doesn't have to be perfect  
And sometimes your family is as  
sweet as candy,,  
& sometimes sour salty like vinegar

**M**y family isn't like other families, and  
sometimes it isn't  
like a family at all  
I love my family as much  
as I love the color blue  
Looking back at all we've been through I  
think it's safe to say  
flawed families are the best  
families **Y**ou should never  
take your family for granted

By Nevaeh Hankins



New Year's bright morning  
Dreams take flight on hopeful  
wings Future starts to show

By Bella Ramos

Get good grades this year  
So I can go to high school  
So I can play sports

By Walker Reim

I want to be great  
It will take lots of effort

I'll put in the work

Fin Gonzalez

Goodbye my old self  
Change is coming for the  
good Memories will stay

Payton Harron

I want a year full  
Of friends and ice cream  
because They make me happy

Jake Razo

Goodbye 25

I take your lessons with me

I will remember

I am the New Year  
I am unique, silly and brave  
I am your favorite song stuck on repeat  
I am like a flower in the morning  
All the good music is coming with me  
All the bad vibes are staying behind  
All that you dream of will come true  
All that you hope for is brand new  
I am not frozen in the past  
I won't be stuck in my mistakes  
I am your opportunity to start new  
I am the New Year

By Lyla Francschi



Soft prayers whisper hope  
The lord we praise  
watches us The New Year  
is here

I need someone  
I should speak up  
I used to keep every emotion  
in I shouldn't keep all of this  
weight I won't carry this with  
me

By Alyssa Cassidy



Last year's in the past

Some things worked and some did

not Now it's all over

Alex Simpkins

I will miss you lots

I had so much fun last year

Sad to say goodbye

Nevaeh Hankins

I want a simple life  
I will do what I want

I plan on making my own way I  
would like to make my own  
money I am going to succeed

By Harmony Hamilton  
Being serious

Will help me focus on  
things An get better  
grades

Emily Matthews

2025

Last year was not good  
Bad grades and a bad  
mindset It was my worst  
year

2026

I will work harder  
I will be happier when  
My grades improve

By Mel Ramos  
I want to change my mindset

I will focus on the present  
I plan on paying attention to the  
“now” I would like to be less  
negative  
I am going to try my hardest

I need to let go of what is out of my  
reach I should focus on what I can  
affect

I used to linger on the “What if’s” of the  
future I shouldn’t lose myself in what has  
yet to come I won’t let the negativity get  
the best of me

I’d rather appreciate the gift that is the  
present I resolve to know my limits and  
not act invincible I intend to focus on  
attainable improvement I promise to  
recognize how lucky I am I hope to end  
this year as a better person

By Dorothy Devine  
I am the New Year  
I am change, new and  
growing I am a blank page  
I am like an open door

All the good that’s

possible All the bad is in  
the past

All that you dream of is  
possible All that you hope for  
can happen

I am not afraid  
I won't be held back  
I am your opportunity to  
transform I am the New Year



By Michael Sharp

New path opens wide

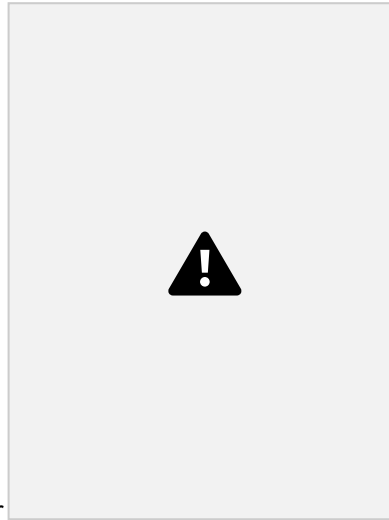
Dreams stretch out to meet the

sun Future starts today

I am the New Year  
I am hopeful , promising, fresh  
I am an unwritten book, representing a  
new start I am as fresh as morning dew

All the good is yet to come  
All the bad is far away  
All that your dream of is waiting for you All that  
you hope for is everything to turn out all right

I am not the shadow but the light that gives  
shape I won't be the quiet echo folded into  
rhyme I am your opportunity to shine brighter  
than a candle I am the New Year



By Samantha Kaiser

I am the New Year

I am young, short and calm

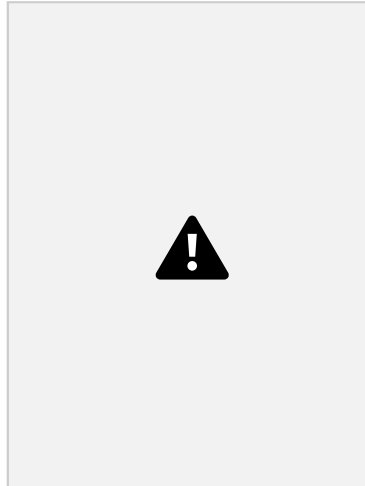
I am a flame in the sky

I am like a star

All the good moments last  
All the bad fades away  
All that you dream of shines  
ahead All that you hope for is  
near

I am not the past  
I won't be held by old fears  
I am your opportunity to  
change I am the New Year

By Merrick Wilson



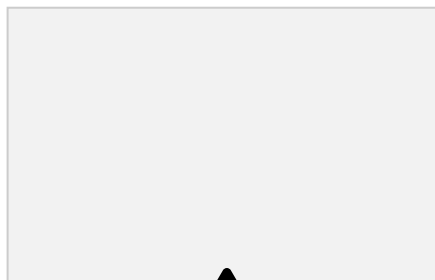
I was as fast as a cheetah  
I did sports  
I tried new things  
I am an athlete

I wanted to be the best  
I sought acceptance  
I felt tired  
I am an athlete

I will be stronger  
I will do track  
I will try more  
opportunities I am an  
athlete

I want to be faster and stronger  
I will seek out more running  
events I will feel proud of  
myself

I am  
an



## athlete

By Evie Gallagher

I was brave

I did a backhand spring

I tried to do a backflip

I am smart

I wanted to get a pet snake

I sought more time in nature

I felt an increased sense of gratitude

I am becoming more present and

mindful I will be more confident

I will do my best to listen more

I will try to believe in myself

more I am going to try harder

I will want you to be more

patient I will seek honest

feedback



I will feel proud of my  
progress I am happy

By Dean Colter



## A tribute to some of our favorite things....

### **Boxing** By Nathaniel Maldonado

Oh boxing what would I do without you I  
love the blood, sweat, and tears I love the  
adrenalin pumping in my blood I love the  
trust, Respect and accountability I love the  
way you make me feel.

Oh boxing what fun we have  
I love the punches to my face  
I love the sweat down my spine  
I love those big red bloody noses  
I love you so much I hate you

Oh boxing the memories we create  
I love the movies  
I love the shows  
I love the sparing  
I love the punches I throw.

### **Volleyball** By Mel Ramos

Volleyball, the bright thunder in a  
painted court,  
you are the drumbeat in a hollow

gym,  
the sharp clap of palms,  
the sudden hush before a serve.

You rise in clean white arcs, a small  
moon launched by hope and wrists,  
spinning light between outstretched  
hands  
and gravity's patient pull.

You teach the body how to fly,  
brief, fearless, unashamed  
to trust the floor will take us back  
and teammates lift us up again.

In every rally, you will write a  
promise:  
touch, lift, strike  
a rhythm of earth and air,  
where even the smallest player can  
touch the sky.

You are sweat and laughter tangled  
Oh, to clean  
To get away from screens  
To give every surface a pretty sheen To reap  
the rewards of upkeeping a room To sweep  
the floor with my favorite broom

Oh, to clean  
To renew my room and mind and self To  
arrange my animals with care and hugs To  
organize my brain  
along with the books on my shelf To  
enjoy the smell of vacuumed rugs

Oh, to clean  
To sink into such a welcoming ritual  
To forget the now, the when, and all  
To sip my coffee and calm my nerves

To wipe away my worries  
as I wipe away dirt

Oh, to clean  
To rest after and know my worth  
To breathe in the cleanly scent  
To revel in my soul rebirthed  
To give the day a happy end

By Dorothy Devine

**An Ode to Books** by Payton Harron

The pages I turn  
The words disappear  
The characters I learn  
For they have a story  
Their journey I yearn

New love and heart break  
To many emotions  
I love for goodness sake  
Their lives can be brutal  
But the risk is worth it to take

Lost in time  
With a book in my hand  
From the cover to the spine  
The characters have secrets  
All the knowledge is mine

I feel the crisp air  
I wouldn't change a thing  
I sit cozy in my chair  
As thoughts fill my mind  
Two books go together like a pair



## An Ode to Basketball

By Ryan Bailey

I love basketball  
I wish we played in the  
fall When I play for the  
team I get in the game

While I dribble up the court  
My teammates show  
support When I go for the  
layup Everyone stands up

When I play I feel  
free I love to shoot  
the 3

When I drive to the  
rim I blow right by him

I throw on my jersey  
Time to suit up  
I get on the court  
And I'm told to play up

Coach Selby teaches us a  
lot Soon the season is over  
I'll take my last couple shots  
Then up to high school

## An Ode to my Phone

by Emma Christman

I am attached to my phone  
It makes me feel better  
It distracts me when I need it  
Its a black android  
With a black case  
It fits in my hand just right  
I'm on it every night

My phone lets me do a lot of  
things I use my calculator  
I have a app for fractions  
I have a calendar for events  
Texting helps me stay in touch with  
people I use my phone everyday  
But sometimes I just want to play

My phone can also be used for fun  
It can help with stress  
I call every night because texting is  
exhausting At night I play games like Block  
Blast I listen to music on my phone  
Without it my life would be dry  
But some time at night I have to say goodbye

## An Ode to the Beach

by Marin Donahue

Oh, how I love the sound of the  
waves crashing  
The sound of laughter and  
music fill my ears  
The awful, yet somewhat  
comforting sound of seagulls  
screeching I will forever love the  
beach  
The sound of my friends & I  
laughing fills the air.

Ahhh... The feeling of a fresh  
tan/burn after a long day at the  
beach

Not having to worry about  
    when an assignment is due  
    or grades  
I've never felt so stress free  
The warm rays of sun beam  
    down on me  
I wake up from the best nap of my life.

Chairs, towels, & people fill the  
beach I look out at the ocean  
What a beautiful sight  
The vision of my friends  
    fill me with delight  
The many different kinds of  
    shells I find  
    make me happy.  
Oh, how I love the beach  
I look around and see little kids  
    building sand castles  
The warm summer breeze hits my  
skin My hair gets lighter; that's a win  
All these things make the beach  
    one of my favorite places.



An Ode to  
Dance by Zoe  
Cardillo

O dance,  
Heartbeat of  
the studio.  
The music  
echoes through  
the  
hallways.  
We live in  
shoes with  
holes.

The snap of a tight ponytail  
Pulled back before class starts.



You are in tap,  
The metal striking the floor.  
You are in jazz,  
Sharp and bright, all  
confidence and fire.  
You are in hip-pop,  
Power in every pulse.  
You are in contemporary,  
You are soft one moment  
then sharp the next.  
You are in ballet,  
You are graceful and soft.

O dance,  
Early morning before recitals,  
Costumes glittering under hot  
lights, Teachers counting  
“Five, Six, Seven, Eight,”  
As if those numbers built the world

You are the nervous breath  
Before comp,  
The proud smile of a company member  
Who finally nails the perfect turn She  
practiced a hundred times over again.  
Your friends whispering backstage, Hands  
squeezed tight before the music starts,  
Smiling through a mistake,  
Celebrating every turn or jump.

O dance,  
You are more than steps.  
You are dedication in worn-out  
shoes, Discipline in every sore  
muscle.  
Dance brings joy to the world.

**I unlock my phone to text and browse.  
I swipe the touchscreen**

**with my thumb  
to see who's up and acting dumb.**

**I scroll around to see new apps,  
a notification of a call.  
It's my Nana on the line,  
her sweet hello makes my day shine.**

**I used the camera when I click on chat  
take a video.**

**I like it like that.  
I tapped the microphone to say oh no  
the speakers plays music , nice and low.**

**I use the charger when the battery gets low  
power back up  
and tell my haters,  
GO!**

### **Cianna Bruno**

An ode to volleyball  
Doing warmups everyday to make us strong  
Voices coming from every corner working  
together Some saying "move faster"  
Coach walking around giving tips  
Playing with friends with the volleyball Spiking  
the ball, hearing it smack against my hand  
Serving the ball, getting an ace each time  
Blocking hits that cross over the net  
The sound of sneakers across the court

An ode to volleyball  
All wearing the same jersey  
All wearing sky blue  
The pressure hit hard for all  
My number on my jersey- number  
nine Scoring 5 times out of all the  
games  
24 to 24 passing the winning ball over the  
net Whistle echoes throughout the court

The referee threw his hands in the air  
for "game over"  
People  
from our



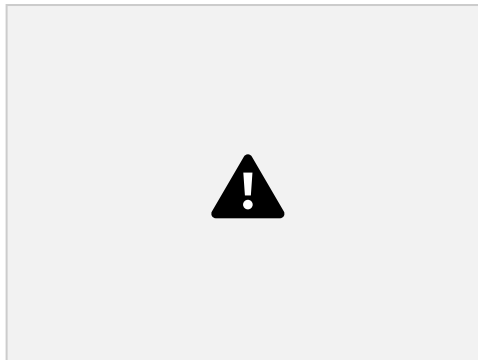
school cheer at the win By Merrick

Wilson

### **An Ode to Dogs by Dean Cotter**

A wagging greeting from the front door,  
A love that's never a chore  
From the brave German Shepherd To  
the Dalmatian with spots for all The  
French Bulldog with the funny face  
Zooming around all over the place I pat  
the velvet of a wet snout  
The happiest tail when we head out A  
click of the collar- a jingle so sweet  
Matching the rhythm of four furry feet  
They flop in a dog bed to sleep in the sun  
Or wear dog clothes just for fun

A click at the water and food bowls edge  
Waiting for treats by the kitchen ledge They  
sprint for a ball with a spirit so bright A  
bark, a howl, a song in the night A playful  
growl during a game of tug Then falling  
asleep on the living room rug To keep them  
spoiled and feeling like gold Buy squeaky  
toys, leashes, and treats by the fold



### **Bowling by Walker Reim**

1234 you strike me down to get a better score,

That's why I love bowling more and more.  
The lights glow bright above my head,  
Shining on the lane that stretches ahead.

The floor is smooth, the wood so clean,  
The shiniest lanes I've ever seen.  
I grab my 9 pound ball so tight,  
It feels just perfect in my sight.

I line my feet up on the mark,  
The alley's loud but my focus is sharp.  
The lights reflect off the polished lane,  
As I breathe in slowly to calm my  
brain.

I swing the ball and let it roll,  
Watching it glide toward my goal.  
It starts out straight, then makes its move,  
That perfect curve in a smooth groove.

It hooks just right toward the side,  
Crashing through pins I can't even hide.  
The sound explodes — a perfect crack,  
White pins flying and falling back.

Frame by frame, I love the game,  
Chasing strikes and building my name.

**Dance** by Alyssa Cassidy

In dance I do plenty of moves and styles. My  
favorites are Jazz, tap, ballet, point, hiphop,  
Latin, Broadway, and lyrical.

My top favorite is company, a mix of every  
style! My favorite moves are jete's, leaps, splits,  
calypsos, stags and firebirds

My least favorites are botma, tilts,  
tiltjumps and pirouettes.

My favorite thing is acting,  
dancing with strong facial expressions,  
telling a story with your actions and face. But  
because of time at dance  
my homework is in giant piles.

There are plenty of things I need.  
Like glitter and sometimes beads.  
And mistakes to learn from.  
My favorite thing about corrections is using  
them. The corrections help me dance better and  
feel better.  
8 counts of steps keep a rhythm.  
Sometimes my shoes make my ankles bleed.

Dancing always makes me feel.  
Sometimes I feel very happy and  
healed. Other times it makes me sad.  
Being on stage makes me nervous.  
Also, being in ballet makes me calm.  
The stretching brings a lot of pain.  
But when I get back to school things get real.

### **An Ode to Basketball** by CJ Eisenmann

Coach teaches us to play  
Do drill over and over  
Gets us better  
Run up and down the court  
Practice every day

Get to work on  
your game  
Coach is  
supportive  
Coach is tough  
Coach has made  
us better  
Not every  
practice  
is the same

Warming up to  
get ready  
More pressure  
than practice  
Tip off



Shooting threes  
My game is steady

Putting on my uniform  
My jersey is the number  
three  
Family cheering in the stands  
Coach yelling during game to motivate  
you Hitting a lot of threes... its like a storm

# Surfing

Foot on the pedal  
Then sand on my toes  
Wax on my board  
A feeling no one knows

Sprint to the waves  
A rush from the cold  
The season just started  
My surfboard I hold

My wave's about to set  
I paddle as hard as I can  
Everyone's watching  
On my board while I stand

My passion for surfing emblazing  
I am one with the wave  
It feels amazing  
To the wave, I am a slave



I surf to the shore  
Excitement and fun  
I always keep surfing  
From sunset till sun.

By Lawson Rennie

**Summer** by Nevaeh Hankins

Summer is always fun  
I mean who doesn't love the sun?  
Sitting in your bathing suit Eating  
all the cold fruit

Tanning at the waterpark  
Watching the bonfire spark  
Playing catch with a ball  
Sitting underneath a waterfall

Sunscreen everywhere  
Finally some fresh air  
Hanging out with my friends  
I hope summer never ends!

Hanging around in the dark  
Or sitting down at the park  
Hanging from trees  
We look like monkeys!

Sorry to say, that's it, that's all  
Summer was really a ball  
Summer is always fun  
Oh, how I'll miss the sun

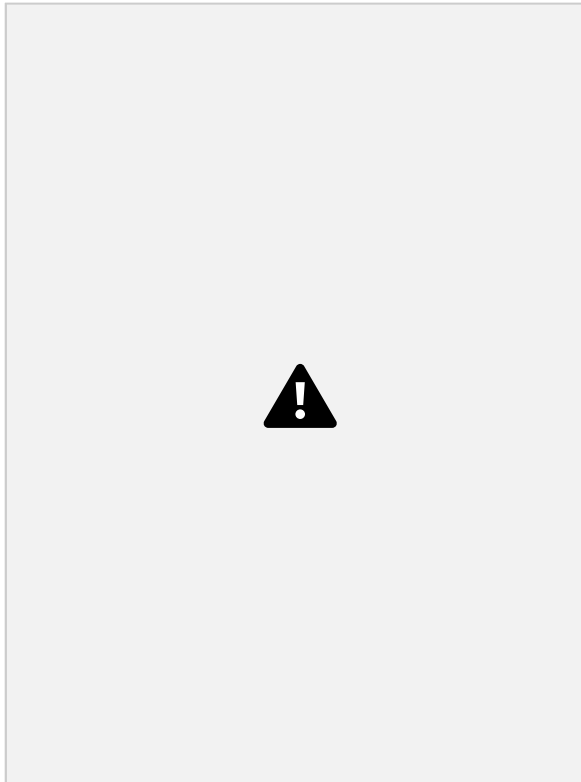
Lacrosse, you are my favorite game, When I  
hear your name, I feel a flame A stick in my  
hands, the ball in the net, You are the best  
thing I have done yet

On the field under the bright blue sky, I run so  
fast, I feel I can fly. My heart beats loud, my  
legs move strong, With you, lacrosse, I feel I  
belong.

The whistle blows, the crowd may cheer, But  
it's your fast pace I hold dear. The sound of  
sticks and the quick sprint, Every play is a

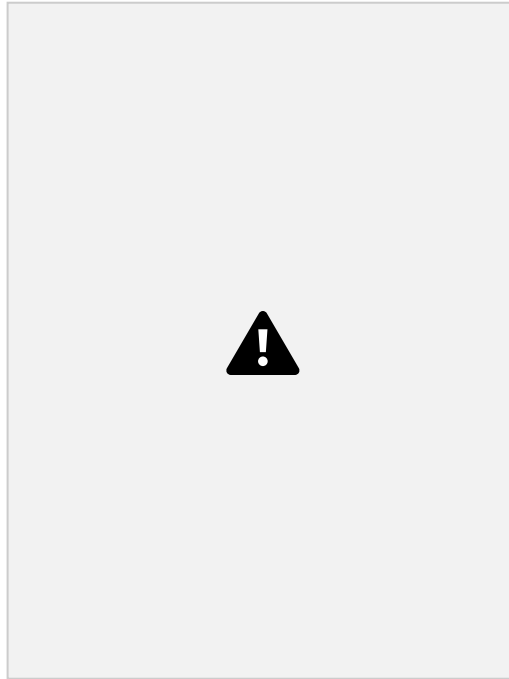
special hint.

By Haddie Watson



**Ode to the Weekend** By Kory Macomber

Oh my weekend, my weekend,  
my beautiful weekend.  
You come once weekly my great friend.  
You leave me Sunday  
But always come back Friday.  
I always miss you when it's Monday.  
But I know you'll be back one day. It  
has to be soon. I know it's close. When  
it's the right day my body knows. I go to  
bed at night.  
Waiting for you to be in my sight.



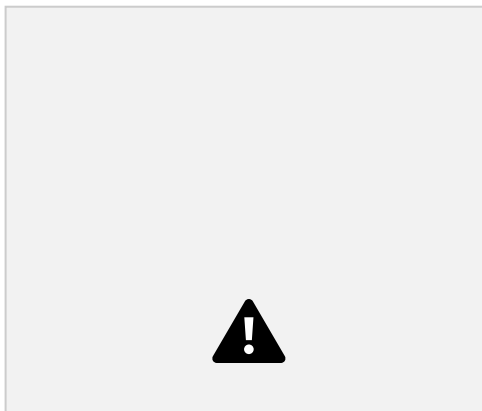
## My Room

My bedroom waits at the end of the day  
An amazing place where my thoughts can stay  
The bed feels so good beneath my spine  
A steady comfort to be mine  
With blankets pulled up tight  
And a pillow that feels so right  
Very comfortable I always rest  
My perfect room knows me best  
The TV's hum and tune  
Calming my thoughts way to soon  
In my room peace begins to grow  
The time moves quite slow  
The air is warm my worries cease  
My room is a place for peace  
My time alone, my safe place where I feel  
free for everything I do

My room

feels like

love, that's



always true Emily Matthews

## **Ode to Sleep** by Evan Volpe

Naps are great  
Long or short, what a fate  
The peace and quiet  
I want to try it.  
The needed break  
I don't want to be awake.  
You give me the energy to face my day  
In bed, I wish I could stay.  
I wish it was a sport.  
You are the best time.

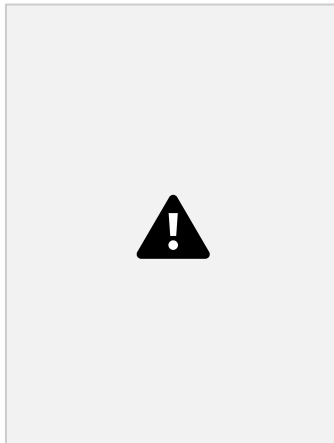
Oh, night time sleep  
You don't let me hear a peep.  
After a long day  
Wish I could just come home and lay.  
When it is dark outside  
I get under the covers and hide.  
Rest mode on  
You let me sleep till dawn.  
Time to  
reflect  
Prepare  
for  
the day  
ahead



## An Ode to Summer by Beau Westcott

In the summer I am always outside  
    playing games like seek and hide.  
I also enjoy the warm bike rides.  
Outside in the warm wearing my shorts  
Running around and playing all kinds of sports.  
The sun beams on my face.  
I got so sunburned that I left that place.  
In the summer I go hiking.  
My dad looks at me and says  
    I can tell this fits your liking.  
I love going fishing in the summer.  
It makes the summer not a bummer.  
The best part is you don't need to stay  
    entertained on your phones.  
Instead, you get on your bike & dodge street cones.  
There is no school.  
Instead of doing work you're swimming in a pool.  
Hop on your bike, go get some ice cream, Take  
one bite and you feel the summer theme. I love to  
hang out with cousins so much The amount of fun  
they bring has a special touch.

That is my love for  
    summer.

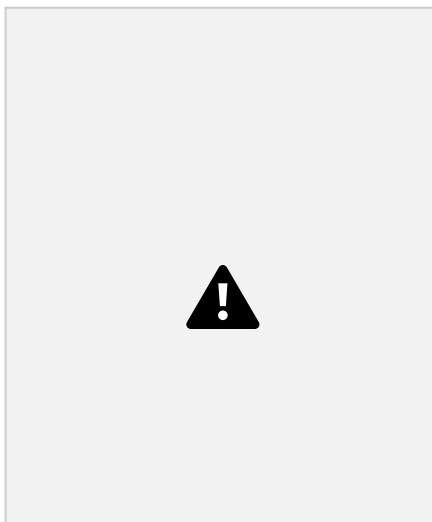


Summertime Love Poem  
By Chase Fitzmaurice

Oh sweet summer  
We take our boat out on the ocean  
Drop the lines for fishing and be super  
quiet The beach is warm on our toes  
Waves role in very steadily  
We surf and smile in the bright sun's heat

We fold the pizza slices  
Ice cream drips as we walk  
Fries are shared as gulls eat  
Summer snacks make the day full  
We tap our toes to the seaside beat

We ride our bike all day  
Laughing loud with all of our friends  
Talking fast as we race down the  
street Time slows never rushed  
The night moves on with a steady beat



Tonight the  
Philadelphia Phillies  
take the field  
Baseballs are flying  
under the stadium  
lights Crowds are  
screaming as loud as  
they can Summer air

and snacks that can't get any better The whole  
city feels like a treat  
Oh summer time you bring me joy  
You make me feel like a care free boy  
Walking outside in the light  
Everything feels warm and right

No pressure because all homework is  
done And now I am working so  
I am counting up that sum  
Feeling freer than birds in flight  
Living easy from morning till night

Waking up bright and early with dew on the  
ground Perfect crisp air all around  
Catching that pass and I score  
Shirt off, sprinting, always wanting more

Practice ends and I take a breath  
The day has barely started  
and I might not go further in depth  
Riding my bike through every street  
The sun's hot rays giving me a beat

Sitting back getting that perfect tan  
Cooling off in the water I ran  
Paddling out through waves so brave  
I finally caught my perfect wave

High up on the life guard stand I stay  
Watching the sky slowly fade to gray  
The sun dips low and all colors blend  
It gets sad as the day comes to an end

By Fin Gonzalez

## An Ode to Softball

By Samantha Kaiser

What an unexpected feeling in my  
heart It started so young,  
just a girl with a dream  
Long nights of practice beneath the skies  
Every hard lesson shapping my heart

Chasing that fast-pitch dream after dream  
Training alone when the field lights  
would glow  
Learning each rule, every signal and  
sign The crack of the bat, sharp and  
clear Crowds in the stands  
I could suddenly hear

Sliding through dust, trusting my swing  
Working through doubt, through sweat,  
and through pain

Stepping up to the plate, I'm ready to play  
Giving my all with every strong swing My  
team behind me, we're finding our flow in  
the game

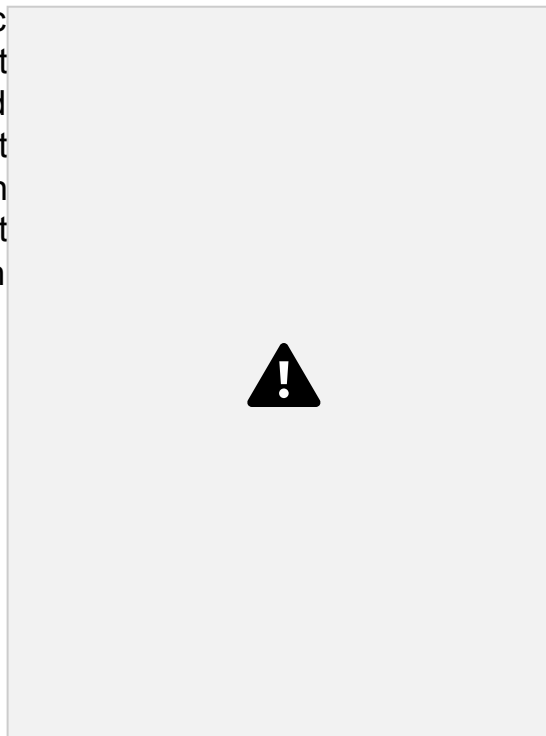
The sc  
t

Round  
t

The ch  
t

Feet h

Thank



**Track** by Evie Gallagher

Get ready for the race  
Keep up with the pace  
Or, get to throwing  
The distance starts growing

New places and faces  
Ignore them and climb up the paces  
So many exercises  
With many different shoe sizes  
Celebrate with your teammates  
A new future awaits

I run with such grace  
Such little stress with lots of space  
I go to new events  
I meet a lot of new friends  
After I'm done, I get a lot of food  
So much food, it's all too good! I  
get so much energy  
It's like I have no enemy  
I look at the crowd, they're all so loud  
I see my parents looking so proud

**Summertime Foods** by Vienna Sargent

Delicious foods on the boardwalk  
The Curly's line is around the corner I can  
smell the frying oil while walking by I think  
of the hot fries and melty cheese sauce

I sip on my lemonade  
with the sugar crunching as I talk  
The sweet and cold beverage is cooling the heat  
I sit on the bench setting down my fries &  
cheese But one fry jumps out of my bucket  
onto the ground

The seagulls fly around like hawks  
Swooping down and pecking at the  
fry One flicks the fry into its mouth  
while flying away  
I cover the bucket with a napkin &  
shoo away the rest

They all fly away & one left with a loud  
squawk To continue eating I must quick pull  
them out I finish up the fries, dreading to

throw away the half empty sauce  
I hear Kohr Brothers calling my name

I went to walk over but I would almost  
balk I have to decide what flavor  
Mint chip was the go to  
It dripped down my wrist as I walked in the sun  
My iPad shines so brightly  
It glows with happy light  
The screen feels smooth  
to me So clear and nice to  
see It works both day and  
night

You ring me games to  
play And videos  
everyday  
I draw and tap the  
screen The colors bright  
and clean You help me  
pass the day

You help me write my  
notes And study quotes  
and quotes I do my  
homework fast And finish  
every task  
You help me reach my goals

You help with work and  
fun You help when days  
begun At home you stay  
But you help me every  
day My iPad– number  
one

By Alex Simpkins



RMT students were given the challenge  
of finding a positive and creative way  
to express their feelings  
through both writing and art.

Anxiety

The constant feeling that something will go  
wrong The knot in my stomach  
I don't do what my heart desires  
I fear they will judge

Thoughts race in my head  
I've missed out on so many  
opportunities So afraid of things  
That

always end up going right

By Marin  
"Anxiety"

Donahue  
by Finn Gonzalez

Sometimes I feel like I can't

**breathe  
Like the  
last breath  
will  
happen  
right now,  
and then I  
Don't  
Know  
If I can  
You ask  
questions**



**even take one more breath  
me more  
I don't**

**have the answers You want me to make a decision;  
but I don't want to make a choice  
There it goes again  
No  
More  
Breath  
Oh...you go with more questions on my  
future; You as me again about my past**

**choices  
The  
Breath  
Goes  
Again**



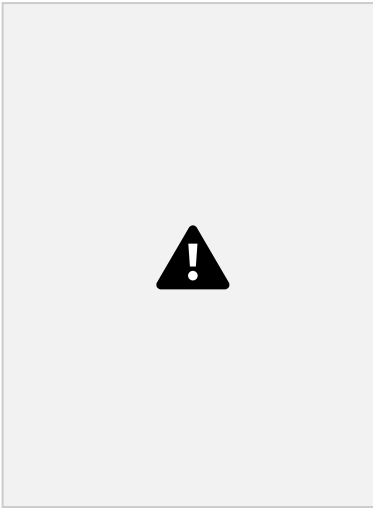
When you count on  
something And it does not  
happen

The thoughts explode in my  
head While I'm in my bed

When I hear distractions  
I stop my actions  
Can't even focus  
Then I feel a mess

A feeling that overwhelms the  
soul It feels out of my control  
When my plans and dreams fall  
apart There is no hope in my heart

By Bella Ramos



The classroom buzzes like a  
hive Too loud for thoughts to  
stay alive Chairs scrape hard  
against the floor Backpacks  
drop beside the door

Whispers turn to sudden shouts  
Someone laughs and someone  
pouts Pencils tap in uneven  
beats  
Restless hands and restless feet

I try to focus on my page  
But noise keeps breaking out its  
cage Each tiny sound feels twice  
as strong Like I've been trapped  
in it too long

I press my hands against my  
ears Wishing silence would  
appear  
Just one small movement, calm and  
clear So I can think without the  
cheer

It's not that I don't like my  
class Or want the minutes  
rushing past I just need quiet  
in my head  
Not all this noise and words

instead By Samantha Kaiser

I walk into school not ready for what the day  
has to give me  
I make a list on a sticky note and put it on  
my Chromebook  
One, two, three, and four goals for the day  
Four boxes to go with them  
Finding my way to my first class  
People screaming and yelling in the  
hallways I get this pounding feeling in my  
head *I don't let my emotions control me*  
Check number one  
I sit down and get out my books  
The teacher starts talking  
But so are other students  
I calm myself down and take a deep breath  
*I can't let my emotions control me* Check  
number two  
A few hours go by  
It is the period before lunch  
My stomach starts to rumble  
I can feel it starting to mumble  
I start to panic  
What if I pass out?  
What if I throw up?  
What if...What if... What if...  
But absolutely not  
*I won't let my emotions control me*  
Check number three  
One more to go  
I walk into lunch with my friends

More screaming, more yelling  
Except ten times worse  
I start humming  
Trying to distract myself  
with what's around me  
I look at what people are  
eating Why is it so loud  
Why is the ground shaking  
It feels like the world is  
crumbling But no, no, no  
*I will not let my emotions control  
me* I take four deep breaths

And then finally  
Check number four.

By Molly Richards



Dedication.

Suddenly, my pencil began moving across the paper, drawing sketches until I see something that I like.

Perfect picture, pacing pencil.

The lead smudging like painting a canvas.

The smell of dinner drifting into my room.

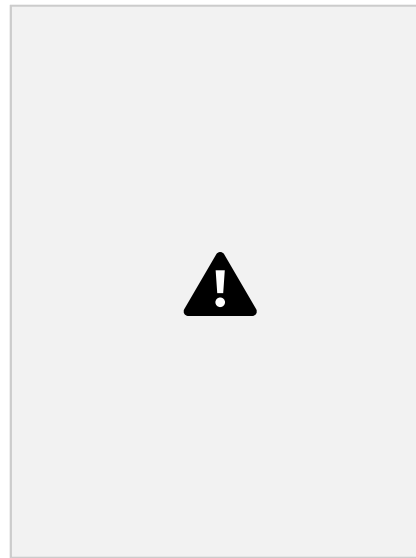
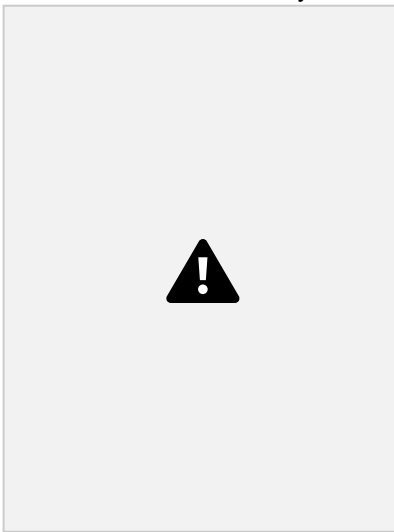
“Your food is getting cold!” My dad yelled from the kitchen. Time was like a running cheetah.

Despite the tension, I kept drawing very quickly.

Bam! I finished.

I left my room to eat my food, like boom!

By Kloe Lambert



Sunset.

Suddenly, as the golden sun surrendered to the horizon, the dolphins danced alongside the boat, celebrating the end of the day with playful leaps.

Darkness drifts deeply down.

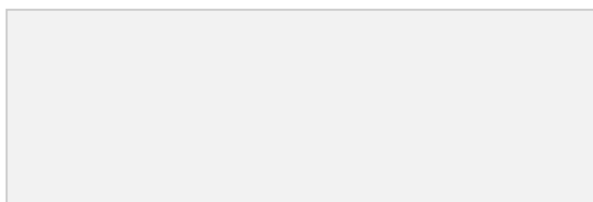
The night drew near silence, like a blind dolphin gliding through dark water.

As the waves clash against the dolphin, you smell the salty ocean air.

The dolphin screeches, “Look how calm the night looks.” Velvet star blanket.

Despite the blinding darkness or deep ocean, the dolphins engaged in a playful, silent,

Clash! The waves



smashed.

Deep in the night, the ocean light guides a dolphin's

flight. By Aaliyah Mitchell

## **Poems Written in Response to Reading the Novel To Be a Slave**

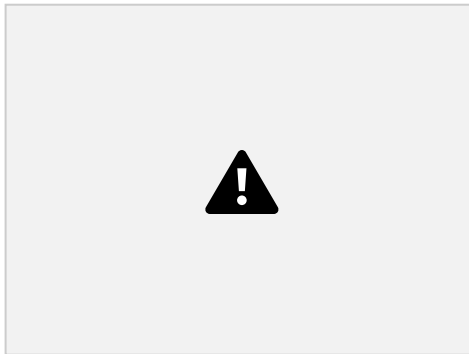
I am a middle school teacher  
teaching about slavery  
I wonder if I will be able to  
do this subject justice  
I hear students murmur their reactions  
as we read  
I see the emotion on their faces  
I want them to feel this pain  
in order to understand it  
I am a middle school teacher  
teaching about slavery

I pretend to fully understand- but I  
don't I can't  
I feel anger, sadness, confusion, guilt I  
touch the cover of Julius Lester's book I  
worry whether I have said enough I cry  
reading tales of ex-slaves suffering I am  
a middle school teacher  
teaching about slavery  
I understand that reading a book  
isn't the same as  
living the experience  
I say we need to learn from the  
past I dream of a time when all  
people treat each other better  
I try to help them  
connect the past to *their* present I

hope lessons taught through this book  
stick with them  
I am a middle school teacher  
teaching about slavery

By Mrs. Dolinsky

**F**earful as much as feared  
**R**aged with regret  
**U**nworthy of power  
**S**till hopeful at heart  
**T**ired of separation  
**R**eady to fight but too scared to let it  
show **A**ttempts at insurrection they  
long for **T**oo scared to go through  
with  
**I** am not worthy  
**O**n and on they would say  
**N**egro slaves and white masters will  
collide 1 day Lyla Franceschi



I am an African who was enslaved I  
wonder where the white men are taking  
me I hear the groans of others  
I see darkness engulfing light  
I want to stand up freely  
I am an African who was enslaved  
  
I pretend that this life will all get

better I feel inferior to the men  
above  
I touch the chains bound to my feet and  
wrists I worry I will die in this ship  
I cry about leaving my tribe  
I am an African who was enslaved

I understand that others will die  
I say nothing to others  
I dream that I will see my family  
again I try to keep hope tucked in  
my mind I hope that I will make it  
out of here I am an African who  
was enslaved

By Emily Worthington

