

ILLINOIS  
INTER-AGENCY  
ATHLETIC  
ASSOCIATION  
CREATIVE WRITING BOOK



2022

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## *Moonbright*

*He shines like the morning sun, but hides his light. I see him like no one else does. I see him for who he truly is and he is beautiful. He is sweet like honey and as sharp as a dagger. He glows softly moonbright. I'll hold him close to my heart and be his shield. I will encourage him and tell him its alright. I'll ensure that he is safe from all harm. He is my heart song. He is the moon and I am his firefly and forever we will dance together in the dark.*

**By: Katie**

**Age: 17**

**Agency: One Hope United**



### It All Ends Eventually

We make promises like there's no tomorrow  
Like we'll never break them  
It's all pretty much a game  
That you have to be really good to play  
Everyday is new move and you eventually win a little and lose  
Tomorrow is a day never promised  
But is a day to look forward to  
You can live in doubt but do it with gratitude  
You can pout and pout but life will still be unfair  
I thought you loved me but you didn't really  
You left me and now I look silly  
Love is a game which is lame  
But thanks for the dead Lilly  
You always said together forever  
Though forever means never  
You said you could love me so I set the dove free  
Then you left me so the crows were set free  
I miss you and I hope you do too  
I'm attached to the thoughts of you like super glue  
I still love you but I doubt you do  
You said goodbye way to early  
Now our eyes are too pearly  
We miss you so much  
Your beautiful eyes  
You never lied  
You were set free  
But oh so miserably

***By: Ari***

***Age: 15***

***Agency: One Hope United***

The darkness in the night does not stand a chance against the millions of stars that dance in the sky. The simple beauty of the radiant light makes the dark swirl with sadness as it hides among the trees. One night a single star fell from the sky, cast out by the moon for calling the darkness beautiful, wanders into the trees, seeking out the darkness. "Hello are you there?" The star whispers, her voice soft like snow. The darkness peeks out from behind a bush, "Hello," he shyly whispers.

Her shy gasp can be heard floating softly along the breeze. Twirling the star turns to twinkle in the direction of the whisper. She blushes not sure what else to say. She stands there staring out into the distance towards the bush and the trees, unsure and unable to see him as he hides within the shadows. The shadows swirl as if alive and protecting those who seek their comfort, yet they shy away from her, dimmed as she is in order not to startle them. She realizes she is intruding now and continues to whisper softly in a voice of velvety snow drops, falling, lightly landing with the slightest of plops her words came, "I am sorry for intruding like this, I mean no harm. I am also sorry that I cannot dim my glow anymore. If you need to stay hidden, I understand, but please don't leave. I would like to talk with you if I may?"

He stays where he is comforted that she is looking in the wrong direction after his whispered greeting. It is unusual for one of them to be this close and so young. He normally only sees their kind in their last stages of life when they are no longer strong enough to stay in the sky. It is his job to comfort them in their last days, guiding them to their new adventure. Proving that there was nothing to fear in the darkness, that a friend was there all along. Even if only at the end. He would want someone to be there for him at the end, to guide him to the next adventure. That thought alone kept him on this journey. But here she was...this star that was not meant to be here. She shined so wonderfully, like a softly glowing fire before it becomes embers, too bright to come any closer to for his shadows whispered warning. He watched her turn this way and that trying and failing to pinpoint his location. She watched the shadows. How they moved and shied from her. She then chose to speak. Her voice like her light made him want to come closer, to see the wonder that she could only show him. But her words were so sad. The thought behind them, that she could shine brighter and was dulling herself for him was too much. He had to move. He had to speak. He needed her to know that this kindness she bestowed upon him did not go unnoticed.

He let out a whisper of thanks. Her beauty and kindness stunned him for the Moon had taught the stars that the darkness was evil, but this star was different. "Why did the moon cast you out?" He called to her. "Because I told the moon the darkness is beautiful." He let out a gasp, such a young star and she understands me he thought, slowly he unraveled some of the darkness showing only his face.

She was not prepared for that sight. The moon had always taught that darkness was to be feared, that it was ugly and cruel. But the face that appeared before her was nothing of the sort. Eyes that shown as bright and as pale as she could shine, sparkling like diamonds peered at her from a handsome but rugged face. A face that was worn with the years, and the things it had seen, but not so much so that it had lost its youthful wonder.

Beautiful she whispered softly looking at him with awe. Come closer he spoke she took a few steps forward. He reached out a hand towards her seeing if she would take it. He wanted to show her kindness and guide her through the dark. Gently she took his hand. It was like two worlds collided. A smile forms on each of their lips both knowing that it was meant to be.

***By: Katie***

***Age: 17***

***Agency: One Hope United***

### Under Construction

Men are putting up walls  
Across from my back window  
Nail by nail, the frame goes up  
And concrete is mixed and poured  
Into its cell blocks.

Each day the view I had  
Diminishes a little more  
Now above sidewalk level  
Ladders go **walk about**  
And the scaffolding grows

To the sound of the **devil** drill  
And the hammering of a flicker  
Studs go into place riveting  
Echoes and pipes begin to knock  
Forming the new latticework

The crane with its spider's lifetime  
Drop from the sky with a floor  
Foundations settling into place  
Each story goes up square by square  
I am looking at a blank face

***By: Aaliyah***

***Age: 17***

***Agency: One Hope United***

## Escape

How can it be  
That I am already dead  
But my body continues to breath  
My soul is telling me  
To please stop living  
Your very life's meaning  
Packed up and walked away  
For what reason  
Do you still strive on?

The echoes of what used to be  
Still ring in my head  
Still sting  
Still brings pain  
How can I escape the dark?  
When you, My Light itself  
Escaped from me?

***By: Aaliyah***

***Age: 17***

***Agency: One Hope United***

## Grudge

“Holding a grudge doesn't make you stronger; It makes you bitter.  
Forgiving doesn't make you weak; it sets you free.”

You cannot just spite others for the distant past. Being this way will only lead you to depression and despair, wallowing in self-pity for what that person has done to you. No matter how many medications and “Happy pills” you take, it will always be at your door, knocking and waiting for you to notice. That is, of course, unless you forgive the person in question, and accept their wrongdoings. This doesn't mean forgetting that they hurt you, but rather letting it go. Holding a grudge against someone will only make you hate yourself for letting it happen, and will prevent you from living a full and happy life. You may never forget what they have done to you, but at the very least you can unburden yourself with their mistakes by forgiving them.

**By: Cade**

**Age:?**

**Agency: Salem**

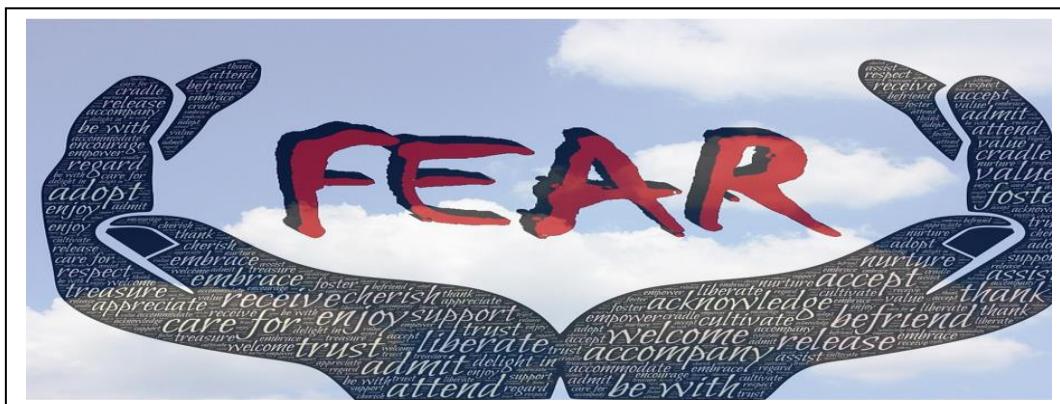
## Fear

Fear doesn't keep you from dying, it keeps you from living. I relate to this because I have an ongoing battle with anxiety. It handicaps me from doing a lot of activities. I get overwhelmed with the fear of getting hurt or ultimately dying. It is something that holds me back a lot, in almost all parts of the day.

**By: Nate**

**Age: ?**

**Agency: Salem**





### You Can Do Something

No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. Just because you can't fix the entire world in your lifetime, doesn't mean you can't do something to help. Nobody has the ability to do everything, even the renaissance men who were known to be apt in as many areas as possible, often fell short in many skills. Everyone has a talent or area that they're good at, so try to use those talents to actually do something to better the world. Don't get lazy, do something.

*By: Connor*

*Age: ?*

*Agency: Salem*





### Wolves

Wolves- the modern day velociraptor howling at the moon

Alpha leading its' pack, wish I was there too.

A pack to rely on, for when I'm playful or blue.

Smart predator comin' out on top, trying to keep the balance of my pack

Living in nature enjoying the breath of the wild

Trying to withstand the blow of pain I go through

Once I leave I don't feel accepted anymore

HOWL

***By: Caleb***

***Age: 13***

***Agency: Cunningham***

**Diamante Style poem**

Basketball  
Leader, Teamwork  
Energy, Sportsmanship, Win  
Aggressive, Brave, Bouncing, Kicks  
Defense, Offensive, Free Throw  
Baskets, Shooting  
Passing

*By: Gregory*

*Age: 19*

*Agency: Cunningham*



**Chocolate**  
**Delicious, Tasty,**  
**Caramel, Almond, Coconut**  
**Ice Cream, Cake, Reese's**  
**Rich, Creamy, Milky**  
**HERSHEY'S**

*By: Andrew*

*Age: 17*

*Agency: Cunningham*

**Mister Rock  
Rocks his Job  
Jepsen is a goofball**

***By: Zach***

***Age: 17***

***Agency: Cunningham***

### **The Average Black Girl**

**When I look up in the mirror  
I see a black girl.  
Who appears to be black, the color of dark almonds.  
When she talks, she sounds like a white chick**

**Is that wrong for me to talk white?  
But my skin is black?  
Is it wrong for white girls to talk hood?  
But who is it to decide whether it is ok?  
Can't we talk how we want to talk. Is it there a problem?  
Because Please  
Tell me I'm all here.  
To hear why it's not OK  
But unless you're perfect  
Then you can judge.  
I wish you would understand.**

***By: Birtukan***

***Age: 17***

***Agency: Cunningham***

### **Family Acrostic Poem**

Familiar face all around me  
At and all around my family  
tree Mom and dad are a  
part of me.

I shall not cry

Love shall not lie.

You and me shall always be a part of my family tree

***By: Caspin Age: 13 Agency: Cunningham***

### **Time Flies**

Intro: I'm watching as time passes by and I can't cry even 1 tear  
 I continue to get myself into a unrealistic world that's clear  
 I don't remember anything from when I was younger then seven  
 Eventually everyone passes and if you believe in it you'll go to heaven

***By: CJ Age: 14 Agency: Cunningham***

### **My stay here**

"Living a life that's upside down, I don't even believe that I'll be with someone at the town, might be a blaze but I'm the alpha, the ruler, also named a king so hand me my crown."

"I'm living life that's full of fear, everybody got a sneer, the day I'm leaving is so near, why am I full of tears, everybody raise a glass and say cheers to a new year"(x2)

"Got to keep a hold of my blade, call me the ace of spades, don't need to see me fade, ain't from the underworld the U.S is were I was made" have to say I feel uncared, all my thoughts are being blared, you can call me the kings of the flare, at this point it's wear and tear, don't go look at my eyes, you might feel terrified, I can't say I tried, I've been feeling stuck, can't say I got luck."

***By: CJ Age: 14 Agency: Cunningham***

**Original Rap**

Polo g, the solo g, the original from the streets.  
 He got bars but I got beats.  
 We're gonna see who's got it better, you or me.  
 Oh and one more thing remember me when you spit the b's.

***By: Isaiah Age: 14 Agency: Cunningham***

**Original Rap #2**

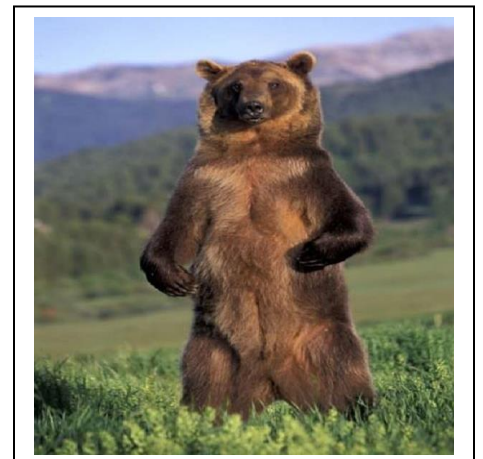
Spiritual, critical  
 I am so invincible  
 I am spitting all these bars  
 and know I'm going lyrical.  
 When I rap I have a desire.  
 When I speak I inspire  
 You know me, I'm retired.  
 This rap's on sale  
 and I'm the buyer.  
 And then I spit fire.

***By: Isaiah Age: 14 Agency: Cunningham***

**Juggling Bear Haiku**

I once had a bear  
 who liked to juggle sweet pears  
 then he would eat  
 them

***By: Isaiah Age: 14 Agency: Cunningham***



### **Boom Shake Bang - Original Slam Poetry**

Boom shake bang I am the man who makes it happen  
 I am the man who makes the booms, boom as in thunder, boom as in fighting and crying. I am the man who makes the shakes, shakes as in tremors, shakes as in God clapping his hands that shake the earth. Bang Bang! I am the man who pulls the trigger of the gun shooting you down the earth, pulling you back to the real world, back to the world that we live in, back to the discord of life, back to the stress and finally back to the booming voices telling you that you will never be something great. But there is hope in life, hope in the discord, hope in the evil, hope in the hard life you live in. Hope that you might be something greater than what you have been told. I am the man who proves you wrong, in life the man who does great things while you waste away. I am the man who makes the booms the shakes the bangs in life cause I am better than the man who raised me, Boom Shake Bang.

***By: Paxten Age: 13 Agency: Cunningham***

### **Diamante Style Poem**

Minecraft  
 Infinite Sandbox  
 Coding, Chemistry, Engineering  
 Building Big TnT Cannons  
 Everything Goes Boom  
 Kamikazee Dog  
 Sandbox

***By: Jonathan Age: 15 Agency: Cunningham***



DARKNESS IS SCARY  
WONDERING ABOUT MY  
LIFE  
DARK CHANGES TO LIGHT

*By: Andrew Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham*

## The Blue Lion

There was a blue lion in a zoo  
Whose feet were sleepily blue  
He liked coloring his feet blue  
And he played basketball  
That blue lion in the Zoo



*By: Greg Age: 19 Agency: Cunningham*

### Free verse

Chicken is wonderful  
I love it  
Lemon pepper ketchup  
Coma in a sack

*By: Davante Age: 16 Agency: Cunningham*



**Acrostic**

Funny and cute

Always silly and hyper

Loving and caring

Over the years the center of my heart

Niece

***By: Davante Age: 16 Agency: Cunningham***

**A poem**

I was lost and all alone

I was so hungry I could eat a whole cow

My head is banging as if I was at a gun range

And BOOM! Another bomb goes off!

Honest, innocent people became shredded cheese

POW! A third bomb goes off...the sound rings

Loudly as if you can hear from the top of Mount Everest

***By: Cordaro Age: 16 Agency: Cunningham***

I Told myself if I want to be the change as a black citizen in america I have to make the difference myself before I can count on others

when people see a black citizen adult or kid they say or even think he don't have father as bad as I want to hit them I dont cause its the truth so deep down I tell myself am I mad at the fact that they making hurtful jokes or the fact I don't have a father that ain't no lie

when they see a black citizen they say he a child of anger or he a hood rat as I clinch my fist and want to say yuh what about to fit in with the others but I don't so I tell myself deep down we are none of these things but then I think I can speak for myself so as black citizen I'm going to make that change I'm going to show them I can be great ima show them no matter where you come from great things can be accomplished no matter what.

As bad as I wanted to be able to protect my family I did not cause that was our way out as bad as I wanted to go make money not the right I did not because that was our way out

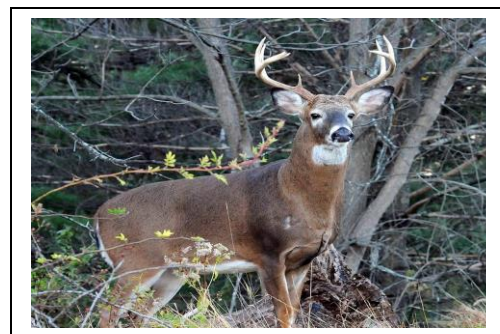
As bad as I wanted to say F the police I don't because that was my way out I can be able to walk down the street in the rain with a hood up to be able to walk in a store and not be followed to be able to go to school and have friends to be able to go on field trips to be able to be successful I made that change I broke stereotypes and when i'm older my children will take my place and show the world that a black citizen can do the same as anyone else in America.....be that change

***By: Cordaro Age: 16 Agency: Cunningham***

Hunting is fun  
It is relaxing  
But is it not cruel  
I would say no  
Because how would we get our food  
It lets you save money

How did we survive back then?  
Hunting of course

Hunting is fun  
I like hunting because it is fun and its a natural thing.  
If not us then predators  
So hunting is fun.



***By: Zac Age: 15 Agency: Cunningham***

Ghosts attack New York  
Home are the Ghostbusters  
Oh we're having fun  
Siren sounds  
The Ghostbusters are needed  
Busts ghosts  
United States love Ghostbusters  
Safe is New York  
The Ghostbusters save New York  
Everyone loves the Ghostbusters  
Rough times are ahead  
States love the Ghostbusters



***By: Zach Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***



## Fools

*Rich girl is with doofus*

*Orphan boy is alone.*

*Foreign girl falls in love with doofus.*

*Doofus cheats on rich girl with foreign girl.*

*Rich girl goes with orphan boy.*

*Doofus brings foreign girl home.*

*Rich girl gets jealous of foreign girl.*

*Rich girl goes back to doofus.*

*Nerd consoles foreign girl.*

*Orphan boy slowly goes blind from self abuse.*

***By: D-Myah Age: 16 Agency: Cunningham***

A fat cat sat on my lap that fat cat was heavy.  
The cat fell off my lap and just laid on his belly

***By: John Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***

I don't know what to say but it should be fun today  
I went to a café told poems all day  
I only did this on Friday

***By: John Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***



Volleyball  
spiking, running  
Fun, supportive, happy  
Love, kind, helpful, caring  
Smart, teams, games  
Medals, win  
Sportsmanship

***By: Cassidy Age: 18 Agency: Cunningham***

Summer  
Swimming, biking  
Playing, games, friends, love, kind  
Soccer, tennis, really hot, sweat  
Active, sports

***By: Cassidy Age: 18 Agency: Cunningham***

School is so much fun  
I love my teachers the best  
School is the best day

***By: Cassidy Age: 18 Agency: Cunningham***

Darkness in the room  
Lone figure in the shadows  
Creatures surround us

I spread my wings far  
Looking into the distance  
Then I fly higher

***By: Max Age: 16 Agency: Cunningham***

Football is so fun  
 Throw the ball in the endzone  
 In the game I scored

***By: Michael Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***



Gears of War is school  
 It takes some concentration  
 It is the best game

***By: Michael Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***

There was an owl in the barn  
 He made a nest with yarn  
 The owl said " hoo"  
 A ghost replied " boo"  
 And then the owl yelled darn

***By: Michael Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***



There was and old witch  
 That had a itch  
 She grabbed a broom  
 And faced her doom  
 Then crashed into a ditch

***By: Michael Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***

*I got a burden on my shoulder  
 Man life getting colder each day I'm getting older  
 I got to keep my head in the game  
 Unless I wanna stay the same  
 But each time I try and change to make me a better me  
 I get shamed for not being who others want to see me be  
 I want to believe I can be the change on this earth where I feel cursed  
 If I immerse myself in these verse I jot down  
 To get my point around  
 My point that I'm going to turn nothing into something  
 And spit bars like they did in 1990 something  
 And you all can doubt me but I guarantee  
 That I'll be the last thing you see*

**By: Alex Age: 16 Agency: Cunningham**

*A.P*

*Hi my name is Ayden  
 I'm a independent young man  
 That takes in a lot from what people tell me  
 I love many of people  
 Also I'm very fortunate to be on this Earth  
 I think differently than most people do  
 I'm a very energetic and a very happy person 90% of the time  
 I'm a athletic person who loves & knows a lot about sports  
 I'm a very faithful person & I'm a very strong Christian  
 Family is very important to me  
 Also going to church, praying to God, & reading my Bible  
 My favorite # is 4 & color is orange  
**By: Ayden Age: 16 Agency: Cunningham***

## The way you shine

Heyyyy a a a every time the moon come out it make me think of you because you shine brighter than the stars around the moon ya

You make me happy, you make me smile I don't know what to do ya I thought I Lose I feeling for you now you got me sitting here feeling like i can do anything like

I could be a god

I could be a god

I COULD BE A GOD ya I don't know what to do with these feelings I have for you we could do anything or be could be anything you want I just need to know how you feel about me because not knowing is hurting inside because I have these feelings I don't know what to do with

So can we be something or not I just want to know why you keep me hanging it's because I might not be the one you want Ya if you give me a chance I would take it ya we could find out together

I be right here

I be right here

I BE RIGHT HEREEEE waiting for you to give it one chance not two baby girl I promise you I do my best not to screw up

hey hey hey HEY HEY HEY I be right there to pick you up when feel down ya ya ya you open me back up my heart now I don't know what to do i've never felt this way before I use to be die in side ya way you open me back up and I like the way I feel and don't at the same time hoo

Ho

So can you please tell me what you want can you stop messing around with me it hurts so bad I've been hurt so many times and my heart keeps breaking so how do you really feel about me ya ay ya ya ya oh oh oh.

***By: Yarnell Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***



Anxiety, you inspire me to write.  
 How I hate the way you grow, bark and bite,  
 Invading my mind day and through the night,  
 Always dreaming about the worst that can happen.

Let me compare you to a demon?  
 You are more clever, powerful and scary.  
 Full storms attack me all year,  
 And autumn is not so near.

How do I hate you? Let me count the ways.  
 I hate your big attitude and the pain you cause.  
 How your personality fills my days with haze.  
 My hate for you is unlimited.

Now I must away with a pesky heart,  
 Remember my great words whilst we're apart.

***By: Serenity Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***

### **Mistakes**

Mistakes  
 Regrettable, stupid  
 Failing, misunderstanding, blaming  
 I could never believe it  
 Misunderstanding, blaming, failing  
 Confronted with the problems  
 What's the verdict, who's going to pay for my mistakes  
 Well that's easy, I am  
 Mistakes  
 Why do we make them  
 All I can do is hope my kid won't make the same mistakes  
 Mistakes

***By: Serenity Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***



### **Ode to My Voice: A Sonnet**

My kind voice, you inspire me to write.  
 I love the way you speak, moving and loud,  
 Invading my mind day and through the night,  
 Always dreaming about the possible things to fight.

Let me compare you to a person with no voice?  
 You are more mighty, living and gracious.  
 Good words hide the hurtful words of time, And time  
 has a strong advantage.

How do I love you? Let me count the ways. I love  
 your sound and personality.  
 Thinking of your able strength fills my days. My love  
 for you is never ending.

Now I must away with a stable heart,  
 Remember my right words whilst we're apart.

***By: Serenity Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***

### **Love me Just Because**

Just because I am a motherless child does not mean you can't  
 love me, So love me just because  
 Just because I am not your spitting image of a girl does not mean  
 you can't love me, So love me just because  
 Just because I am not the best thing that could ever happen to  
 you does not mean that you can't love me, So love me just because  
 Just because I need you love me just because  
 Just because I want you in my life love me just because  
 Just because I deserve a better future and I know you can help  
 love me just because  
 Love me just because I would do the same for you  
 Love me just because I will and always will remember you  
 Love me just because

***By: Serenity Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***

## **Her Torment**

She couldn't stop thinking about the upcoming  
It was just so risky and unknown  
Never had she known anything so forthcoming

That morning, she was shocked by the shortcoming  
She had to calm herself with a song  
She couldn't stop thinking about the upcoming

Later, She was surprised by an opportunity  
She thought the situation had become rather own  
Never had she known anything so forthcoming

Mother said, the upcoming wasn't that becoming  
Said it was time to start thinking about a new unknown  
She couldn't stop thinking about the upcoming

She took action like a growing girl  
The upcoming was like a toxic tv show  
Never had she known anything so forthcoming

She always worried demise was incoming  
Her mind turned into a brick  
She couldn't stop thinking about the upcoming  
Never had she known anything so forthcoming

***By: Serenity Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***

I heard a loud POP and it was the slam of a door  
 My heart was a basketball and I could hear and feel each and every heavy  
 bounce The question was why it wouldn't stop

When the ball began to disappear, at that moment I heard a SCREAM and the POP  
 of a gunshot. I looked out my window and my eyes were surprised by the sight of  
 my best friend on the ground covered in a puddle of blood that was spread out  
 for everyone to see. I close my eyes.

THUMP, THUMP, THUMP, faster and faster like my heart, that's a basketball  
 trying to run a marathon. I run outside and start to cry but to my surprise the ball  
 goes away when my brain begins to realize it had just shown me somebody's  
 worst fear, as to who that is I'll never know.

**By: Serenity Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham**

### **What is Kindness and Gratitude**

Kindness is the ability to be friendly; generous and considerate

Kindness is a kind act

You will know if you've been kind when someone says

"It is your kindness I'll never forget."

Gratitude is the ability to be thankful; to show appreciation for

And return kindness

Gratitude is a form of kindness that lets someone know you care

You'll know you've shown gratitude when someone says

Thank you.

Kindness and gratitude

Are not the same thing but similar and now you know.

It is not mandatory but it is just a human trait we all should give and  
 receive.

Kindness and gratitude

Do the right thing and in return

You shall see

You will be simply pleased.

Kindness and Gratitude

**By: Serenity Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham**

## No Guilt

There is no guilt when they make me cry

There is no guilt when they cause me pain

There is no guilt when they don't believe in me

NO GUILT

There is no guilt, they have no soul

They don't know what it feels like to have no home

NO GUILT

There is no guilt when they laugh at me behind my back

There is no guilt when they make mistakes which makes me think they're afraid

There is no guilt as they watch me crumble slowly to the ground and struggle

NO GUILT

They should be ashamed

Will they continue on making me feel like anything I do is wrong

No guilt no guilt no oh oh guilt

And I just wanna leave, spread my wings, and be free

In a world with empathy and sympathy cause they feel no guilt

No guilt, there's never guilt

Maybe someday they'll say I feel guilt and then they'll be set free

They need some help, No guilt.

***By: Serenity Age: 17 Agency: Cunningham***

The following 3 pieces were written after showing "Facing the Giants." The "Giants" in the movie are a football team, but also a metaphor for the "Giants" we face in life such as trouble at home, work, and our own personal lives. After showing the movie clients were asked some discussion questions and to write about what they learned from the movie. These are the results.



A leader is someone who is positive, but strict when needed. There are also negative leaders who are too strict and take things too far. A good leader can hear their followers and make a change. Leaders don't go by their own choices, but can make the right, and hard choices. They know right from wrong and always try and do right, not perfect or not ever making mistakes, because they do and that's part of not being perfect. Being a leader, is to have a heart, one that cares for others that need it and those who don't. So, all in all, being a great leader comes from God, God himself.

***By: Adam Age: 15 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

I believe that if you believe in Jesus Christ you can have a life that will be what God chose for you and I believe if you trust in Him He will show you and lead you to a good place and you will know it is good because you know what happens in life that God has chosen that for you for a good reason and that you just have to believe then you will find why He had that happened in your life and the reason it happened. If you try your hardest then you will get rewarded. And when you get rewarded you do not take advantage of what God gives you, you praise Him and honor Him I believe you can do anything as long as you believe you should believe in God and your life will change as long as you believe nothing is impossible

***By: Katy Age: 14 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

To continuously think about God, to praise God with failure or success, to think about death before I do anything stupid

***By: Tim Age: 17 Agency: Kemmerer Village***



Sportsmanship is AMAZING! Guys so like do sports. It's fun you know right. So if you're on a team you have to be nice and yea that's good. Don't do bad and be weird and stuff because people don't like that. And if you're nice and honest you will win! Yay for you! You're the best I believe in you man. For real for real go do sports and stuff. Believe me man do it. Please I hope you do what you're going to do! You're amazing bro.

***By: Kae Age: 14 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

I think the basic of having good sportsmanship with your team is to be positive. It is a very good thing to be positive because if you need to have positivity in your life then be on a team. Usually teams are supposed to be and have good sportsmanship. They can be positive because if you are on a team then you more than likely will be positively spoken to or being shown how to be positive. You can also be a positive/good sportsmanship by not being or saying things that put your teammates down. You can spread positivity by not saying things that hurt others feelings. Se be a good person even when people aren't doing their best. Don't be that person that tries to get others to bully those who can't do what you can do. Be the person who makes others feel good about themselves.

***By: Adam Age: 15 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

### **A Time I Showed Good Sportsmanship**

I was at the track meet and we were doing the events and races and then after the races were over then they had the girls do their race and then the girls raced for the 400 meter relay race the boys were ready but one of the boys teams did not have 4 people to run and so they needed one more person to race with them and I said even though I was tired and ready to go I was going to step up and volunteer to help them so they could race because I thought it would not be fair if they did not get to race even though I was very tired I stepped up and volunteered to run again even though I did not have to and that is a time I showed good sportsmanship

***By: Katy Age: 14 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

I beat myself up  
Because I know my talent  
I know I could be better  
Therefore the reasons valid  
It's not that I am feeling worthless  
I am just disappointed  
Because I know I'm blessed  
Like I have been anointed  
We should encourage others  
Because they can be great  
They just need inspired  
To do what it takes  
See, we all have issues  
See, we all have pain  
Sometimes we need an outlet  
Just to keep us sane  
I think the definition of sportsmanship is corny  
Talk is cheap its honestly it's a thing we're all affording  
Sportsmanship is pushing through the pain because you want to  
And making sure that doing this is something that your team does do

***By: Tim Age: 17 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

Good sportsmanship has affected me by people doing it to me, and me teaching it to other people throughout my life. It has also affected me by peers helping me out when I struggle. That has showed me that by showing good sportsmanship gets you good sportsmanship of any kind. The next time people are feeling discouraged or down in sports of any kind sportsmanship is the best thing to show to a person on a sport or sports team when they do not have the courage or inspiration to do something. Being here at KV has taught me a lot about being a good sport that I can teach other kids. That is what I call a good sport.

***By: Chase Age: 15 Agency: Kemmerer Village***





I have decided to write about how I relate to the “Don’t Bother’s.” The Don’t Bother’s are a group of misfit kids who were given a chance to be better. I can relate to that a lot. I’m not the average teenager or whatever you want to call me. I had a hard childhood. People treat me differently because of the things I have no control over. In kindergarten I used to get bullied a lot because I lived with my aunt and cousins. When I first started I had told everyone I was in foster care. That’s when they started bullying me. I then realized that most people don’t like it when other people are different. I then became known as the kid who was never at school I started not caring about what I did. I started not caring about what people thought. I tried to join the soccer team at my school but the coach wouldn’t let me join. As some of you might know I love soccer. I remember telling my older siblings and cousins about it and they said not to quit. My older cousin Donnie stopped doing so many things at school to find time to play soccer with me. I remember going to the park every Saturday and playing soccer. Every time we went I got better and better. I remember being so happy. I started going to school again. My grades got better. I was being a better person. I was happier. Then I got taken away and it all fell apart. But that’s beyond the point. The point is that with a little extra help I kept trying. I kept doing the thing I loved for as long as I could. I know what it’s like to be depressed and turned down. Don’t let it ruin you. Keep your head up.

***By: Arianna Age: 13 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

### **“What Sportsmanship Means to Me”**

Sportsmanship isn’t only a good asset, but it’s a life essential. Some people say that you need to learn how to be kind to everyone, this isn’t true. Sportsmanship is something you already have in yourself. There isn’t a way to learn to be kind it’s a choice – you do or you don’t. To be honest, kindness is sportsmanship, meaning that every time you’re kind to someone - you are showing sportsmanship. That could be to your friends, parents, and even your opponents. If everyone was kind the world would be a better place. But the truth is that if everyone was always kind to one another the world wouldn’t have to the guts to stick up for themselves and they would allow everything to get to get blown off their shoulders – does that mean we shouldn’t try to be kind though, because honestly, we can only control ourselves. This is what sportsmanship means to me – and 110% is the effort we should putting into make ourselves better people, and a better society as a whole.

***By: Jeremy Age: 13 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

What does good sportsmanship mean to me? What even is sportsmanship? By dictionary definition, sportsmanship is “fair and generous behavior or treatment of others, especially in a sports contest.” To me, it is so much more than that. To dumb it down, good sportsmanship (at least to me) is being a good team player, even to those who aren’t actually on your team.

Often times, you’ll hear a coach or a member of a sports team say, “It’s not about winning, it’s about having fun.” And, let’s be honest, everyone wants to win. No one necessarily wants to lose. However, what most people don’t realize, is that frequently teams don’t function properly is because they play too hard and aren’t focused on the best part of being a team – the time you spend together. Okay, I know that sounds cliché – but it’s so true.

Once, one of my recreational staff here at Kemmerer Village (shout out to Miss Amy) told me that sometimes, you just gotta celebrate the small victories, even if you don’t win. When I started playing softball here, I couldn’t even catch the ball. My small victory is that, with the help of my teammates (and awesome coaches), now I can catch the ball.

Even though I was absolutely horrible and had very obviously never played softball a day in my life – there were still willing to help me, even though I’m sure I frustrated every single one of them plenty of times. That’s good sportsmanship.

***By: Lacey Age: 16 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

### **The Game of Life**

Sportsmanship is easy if you try. But first understand that life is the bigger sport. Everyone in the world plays it. Some are better at it than others. But it’s not right to be unpleasant to people who are worse or better at it than you. Life is just like every other sport. Everyone has equal opportunity. Effort is important in getting what you want. If you don’t try to get money, you have no right to complain. Attitude decides a lot what happens to you. Be positive and positive things will happen to you. Being negative invites bad vibes and often pain. Being a good sport in life is like congratulating winners or being kind to losers in any other sport. If someone has more than you, don’t be mad at them. Be mad at yourself for not putting in more effort. If someone is struggling, help them out. Who knows, it might come back to you some day. But the same is true if you laugh at them or mistreat them. Sportsmanship may seem stupid when you’re playing baseball, but in the game of life, it’ll bring you home in big ways.

***By: Christian Age: 16 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

### How the IIAA Helped Me

The IIAA has helped me with my sportsmanship because when I first got here I just was so about bragging about if we won and it has taught me to put sportsmanship first before winning and to help others win, not just yourself. That is how the IIAA has helped me.

***By: Katy Age: 14 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

### Don't Run Away

Don't run away from the truth

I'm not giving up on you

Normally I couldn't

Turn your head

That's why I had to write this instead

Let's be friends

Start out slow get to know you beyond your flow

You're more than meets the eye girl

You practically fly

Way back knew my name

The truth what I bring

Her beauty crazy

I watch her from the crowd

Her voice is so amazing

She make her mama proud

Your voice is in my heart

It's like she never left

This is more than a crush

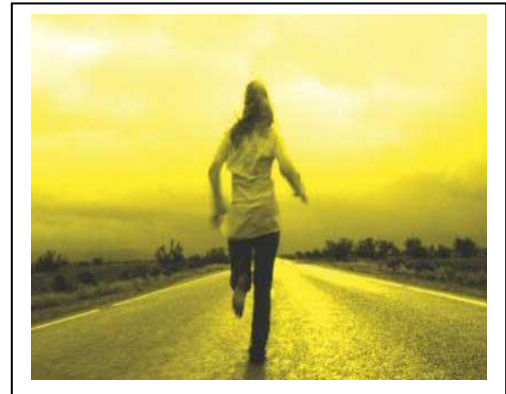
Baby I'll make you mine

I'm not given up

Don't run away

Don't run away from the truth

***By: Max Age: 13 Agency: Kemmerer Village***



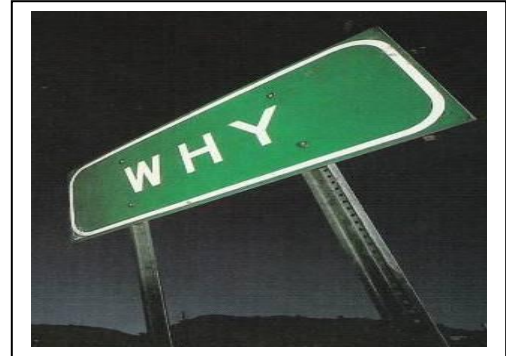
**This Question Is Why**

Why are you always pushing, pushing, pushing  
 And always pulling, pulling, pulling  
 Why does it have to keep moving, moving, moving  
 When I want it still  
 Why do you keep whining, whining, whining  
 Can't you see that I'm trying, trying, trying to do my best  
 But somehow I will make it through  
 There is something pulling me away from you  
 Cuz all that ever happens is me getting left behind  
 But that's not gonna happen this time  
 I'll be gone before you know oh oh it  
 I won't try to hurt you even though you deserve it  
 I try so hard to prove myself when there's nothing to prove  
 I just have to be myself and trust that it's good enough  
 Why do I always get hurt whenever I try to find my worth  
 I won't let myself get hurt this time  
 Yeah that's not gonna happen this time  
 I'm not letting it happen this time

***By: Arianna Age: 13 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

Why'd you leave me alone with nowhere, nowhere to go  
 As I hold on to hope that you will come back to me  
 But I know deep down inside that you've left for good this time  
 There's no way that I can hide the pain you have caused me  
 And I have tried the best I can to live the life that I understand

***By: Arianna Age: 13 Agency: Kemmerer Village***



## I Need You

I'm sitting here all alone missing you  
'Cause you've gone to a place I cannot follow  
I'm stuck here trying to find who I am  
But when you died I lost too many parts of me  
I need you by my side 'cause I cannot hide  
All the wounds that have been reopened by thinking of you  
I miss you and I need you  
I need to find who I am but I just can't understand why you're gone  
Because nothing can be undone  
I need you more than ever  
More than the ocean  
More than the sky  
More than air  
Or the wind passing by

***By: Arianna Age: 13 Agency: Kemmerer Village***



## **Why Forget**

We used to run

We used to play

We used to jump everyday

Now that we're grown we're expected to be focused on the future

On what's gonna be

But I can't forget all those days when we used to go outside and play

All those days made me who I am so why forget what made me today

So I'm sitting here remembering who I am

It's so confusing

I'm trying to understand

But I'm lost in the world

I need to focus on keeping memories alive

Because what would my life be without the memories of you and me s

But I can't forget all those days when we used to go outside and play

All those days made me who I am

So why forget what made me today

Why forget what made me today

***By: Arianna Age: 13 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

**I Need To Go**

I'm sorry I can't stay  
Want to go back to yesterday  
When the world was younger and so were we  
When we were kinder and loved each other  
I need to go back home  
I need to run back to open arms  
I need to heal from all my scars  
'Cause home is a place that I know I belong

***By: Arianna Age: 13 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

A gorgeous array of what was yesterday  
Wish I could go back  
But I know I can't  
I need to try to get somewhere  
To have a goal  
To have a plan  
Now I can't go back to how it was  
I felt so trapped  
Needing room to breathe  
'Cause these chains are gone and I'm heading home  
No longer contained  
Going home to you

***By: Arianna Age: 13 Agency: Kemmerer Village***

## The Woman I Saw in the Night

By: Anthony, Circle Academy Vermilion, Grade 7

The silver night in the blue sky,  
Living truthfully in the diamond's eye,  
Stuck together needing warmth I  
Walk through the cold weather,  
A woman's cry she was singing a  
La la bye, she sang like an angel,  
I can feel her calling me  
In the night so I kept walking  
To get a glimpse of the woman's  
Face as I saw her, she was  
Beautiful

Sent from heaven then she rose  
To the sky,  
A bright light hit me between the  
Eyes  
As I rose top the gates, I felt love  
Once again,  
My soul was crowned within,  
As I saw the dark and light once  
Again.





## The Waves of Cuba

By: Augustus, Circle Academy Vermilion, Grade 9

The waves splash  
Against the shores  
Of Cuba, they  
Splish and splash  
Everywhere you look,  
Boats they come and  
Go but are  
More careful than  
Ever, the waves  
Come and go  
But will never  
Leave me,  
They reek of a salty  
Smell, but they  
Splash at your  
Feet with a  
Wonderful feel



## LOST

By: Joel, Circle Academy Vermilion, Grade 8

Click, click, click, where could it be

It is so far from me

How could that be

Just, only if I could see

Where might it be

Is my phone lying to me?

I will call my honeybee

## About the Girl

By: Ke'Marion, Circle Academy Vermilion, Grade 8

Aiyana looks like a flower

As she turns towards the sun

She radiates in the shine

With a beauty that takes your breath away

Her eyes glow as she looks deep into my soul

I be having weaknesses...

In my chest, in knees, and in my heart.

I hope this angel and I will never be apart



# THE RECTOULS

By: Isaiah, Circle Academy Vermilion, Grade ?

The Rectouls were the most famous basketball team in the country. They won over, over, over, over, over, over, over and over again. They had a 8 win streak. Everyone loved watching them.

Last time They'd played against the Chicago Bulls. But the Chicago Bulls didn't stand a chance when the tournament came up. Everyone was nervous and mad, because of the tournament. But then someone came into the locker room and everyone was so shocked as to who it was that their jaws dropped to the floor with surprise.

IT WAS JOHN STOCKTON THEIR FAVORITE BASKETBALL PLAYER!!! Everyone crowded around him. Someone asked 'why are u here'? John said "That noun of your business ok what matters is that you try your best." One of the rectouls said "Thanks John you're the best pip talker".

Everyone was motivated and ready. They were sitting in the locker room waiting for the game to start. Finally the game started. They were ready to beat indy 600,000,000,000,000.

They were in the last quarter and this will be a tiebreaker. They had 15 seconds on the clock. They grabbed the ball, dribbled it across the court, Then he shot but didn't score, then he fell from the hoop and got hurt. He went to the hospital and he broke his leg. Then he cries because he lost and the pain. Then he throws the biggest fit in the world. He threw stuff at the doctors and punched them too. After that he gone to jail.

## THE END

## THE RECTOULS BECAME SORE LOSER'S

# The Dream

By Logan, Circle Academy Vermilion, Grade ?

One day there was a little girl going to bed. She was wearing pink pajamas. She loved unicorns. Before she went to bed she drank a warm glass of milk. Then she put on unicorn music and she put five stuffed animals around her.

Then she drifted off to sleep. After so many hours she started to dream. In the dream she was in Candyland. She saw something in the distance. It had a big horn. Then she realized it was a unicorn.

She ran to it. It disappeared then she fell. Something pushed her and it felt pokey. She said "maybe it was the unicorn." Then she saw the unicorn and she started to pet it. Now she is her best friend.

When she said you are my friend the unicorn turned green. That means when the unicorn feels some kind of way, the unicorn turns a color. The colors are green, blue, red and yellow.

The color red means the unicorn is mad. The color yellow means the unicorn is frustrated. The color blue means the unicorn is sad. The color green means the unicorn is happy. The unicorn is feeling happy.

Then the unicorn started to disappear. The little girl said "don't leave me!" The little girl woke up. Then she started to cry. Then something knocked on the door. The little girl opened the door. It was the unicorn and she was so happy. She hugged the unicorn then the unicorn flew off.

The End.

