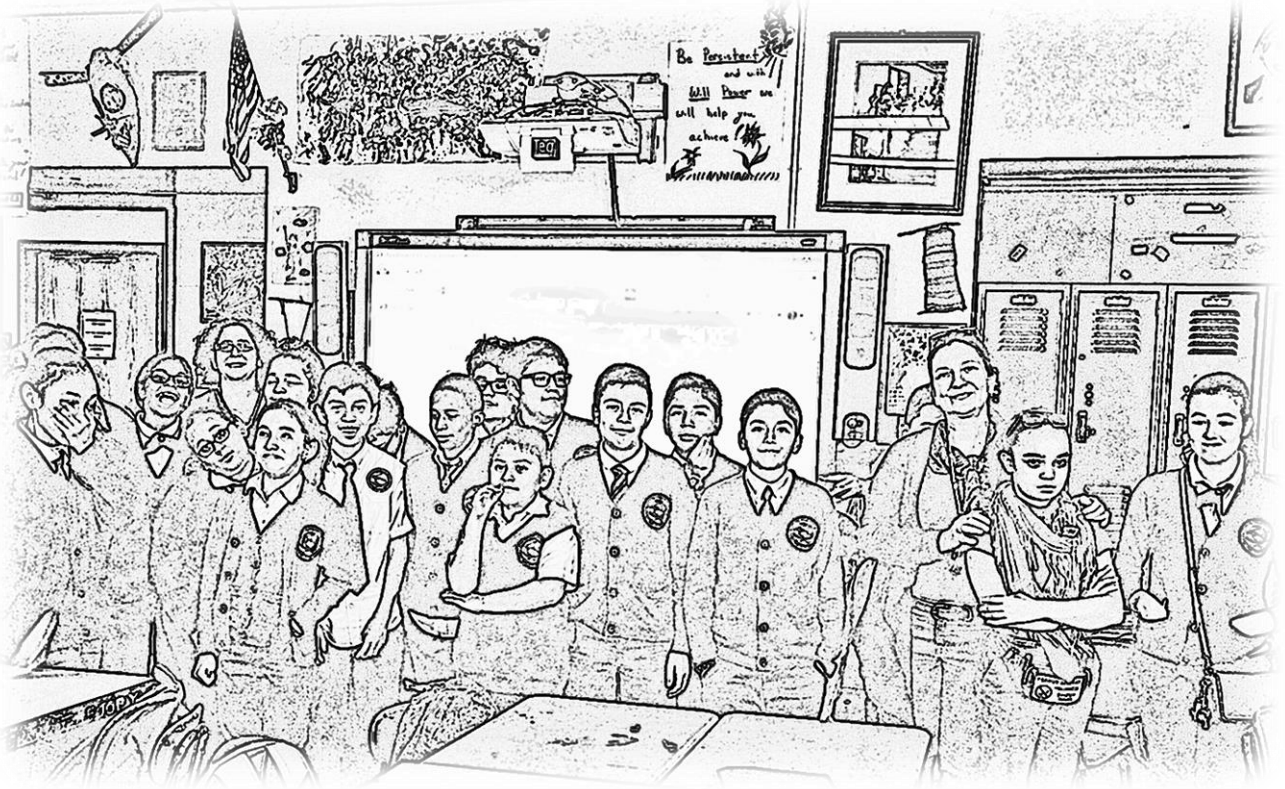


EVERYTHING IS LIQUID



poems and drawings

by the students of 620, 218X

Rafael Hernandez Dual Language School

Winter 2016-2017

JOANNA FUHRMAN, Poet-in-Residence

MARY AGRAMONTE, Art Teacher

Teachers & Writers Collaborative

TEACHERS & WRITERS COLLABORATIVE (T&W) partners with New York City schools and community-based organizations to offer dynamic creative writing programs led by professional writers. Since 1967, T&W has worked with more than 750,000 K-12 students and more than 25,000 teachers at schools throughout New York City; published more than 80 books and a magazine (www.teachersandwritersmagazine.org) about creative writing education; and provided free resources for students, teachers, and writers on our website (www.twc.org).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

This was a very special residency for me because Ms. Agramonte suggested we take the students to the Museum of Natural History and write poems and draw images inspired by the Northwestern mask exhibit. Her students had been studying masks from around the world, and we wanted to build on the work they had already done. I thought it would also be fun to take them to the adjacent North American mammal diorama room, too, and have them work on poems inspired by the animals.

You will see a range of types of poems in this collection. Some were written on the first day, when I introduced the students to the ideas of dream poetry and using metaphors to write about animals. In preparation, we read poetry from around the world, including poems by Nicanor Parra, Elliot Katz, Ted Hughes, Anthony Hecht, William Carlos Williams and Federico García Lorca. Other poems were written during and after our visit to the museum. The students always asked thoughtful questions, and I was happy to see them listening to the sound of the words in their own poems and using their language to create pictures with words.

It was an honor to work with such a talented group of young people and such an inspiring teacher!

P.S.: The title is from a poem by Jason Rodriguez

—Joanna Fuhrman, January 6, 2017

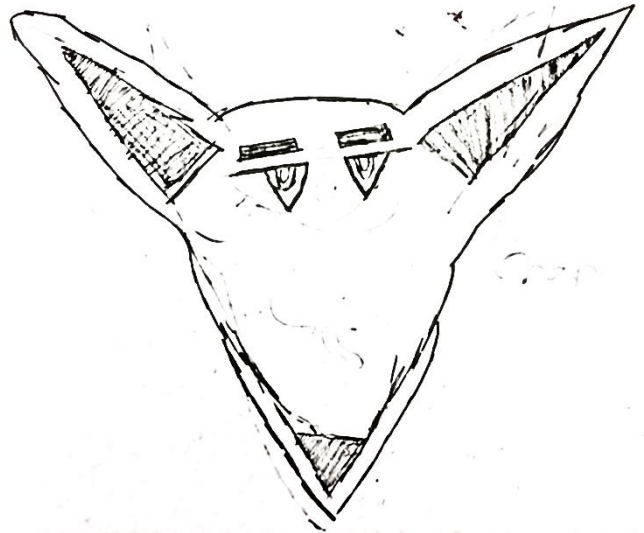
THE FOX

A fox is a red flash
A fierce warrior
in the night

A slick fellow
Eats little rabbits
Cousin of the wolf
and the dog

Can get out of
any trouble
like a slick smuggler
can see through the pitch
black darkness

Like a lightning bolt
Fast and agile
with blue water eyes
and red fire fur

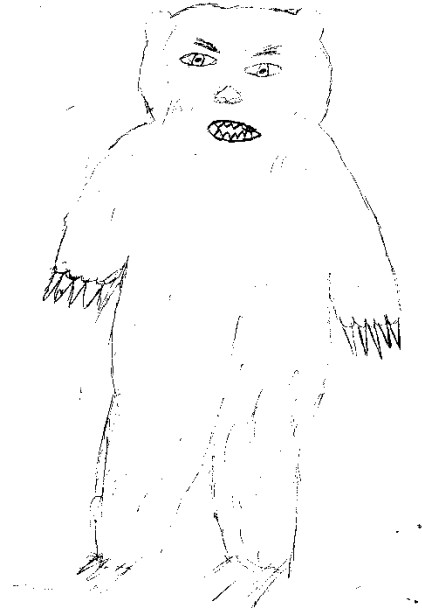


THE SOUND OF THE HOOT

I am hungry
give me a mouse
hoot, hoot
hoot, hoot
I am thirsty
give me water
hoot, hoot
hoot, hoot
I love this
mouse, it tastes like steak
hoot, hoot
hoot, hoot
I feel the wind in my
wings
hoot, hoot
hoot, hoot

VOICES IN MY HEAD

I hear voices in my head
I speak Portuguese
and they understand
They talk to me
I dream of death
Breathing so fast
Helping myself to get out of it
A woodpecker
Make it be a shrieker
Like a wolf howling



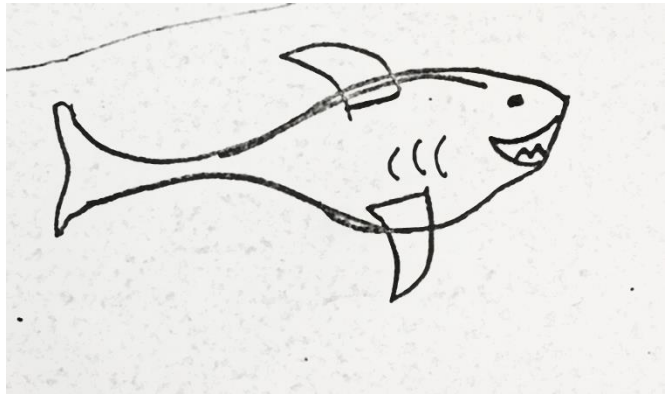
WOODPECKER

When I see a woodpecker I see their big beak
but it looks a little weak.
I see their wings
but it looks like big things.
They have wrestlers. Ahhhhhh.
Ummmmmm. # woodpecker ohh.
The best hopper.



SHARK

I am the best
I got leadership
Nobody betrays me
Because I am dangerous
I will never get affected
with my dangerous body
I am a wild animal
Nobody can stop me
I will make you bleed
with my dangerous teeth



DREAMS

I dreamed I was a goose
I dreamed there was no surface
I dreamed a fish can talk
I dreamed a butterfly walks
I dreamed I was in a computer
I dreamed I went to
the bottom of the ocean
I dreamed my shoes melted
I dreamed someone lifts a car
I dreamed everything was liquid

CARDINAL

The cardinal is as red as fire
Its claws are as sharp as knife blades
Its beak is as yellow as the sun
Its hair is as spiky as needles

FOX

I see the fox at the Natural History Museum

I ask him
“How did you get there?”

He answers
“I don’t know I just remember opening my eyes and being here.”

I ask him
“Are you smart?”

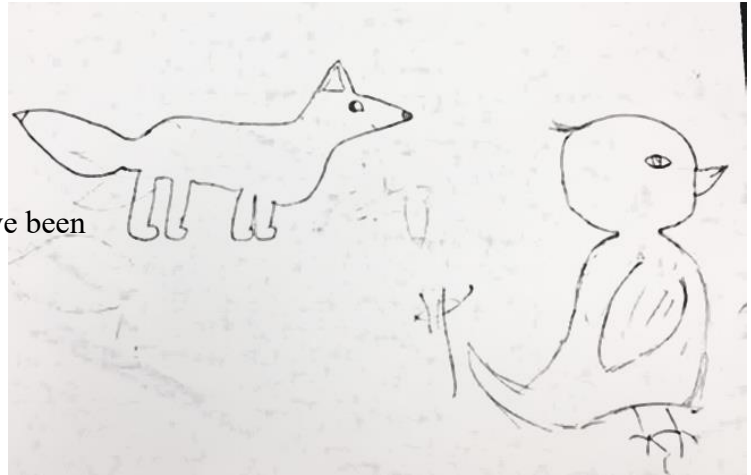
He answers
“I am smart, without my smartness I would not have been able to catch my predator the rabbit.”

I ask him
“Are you sad here?”

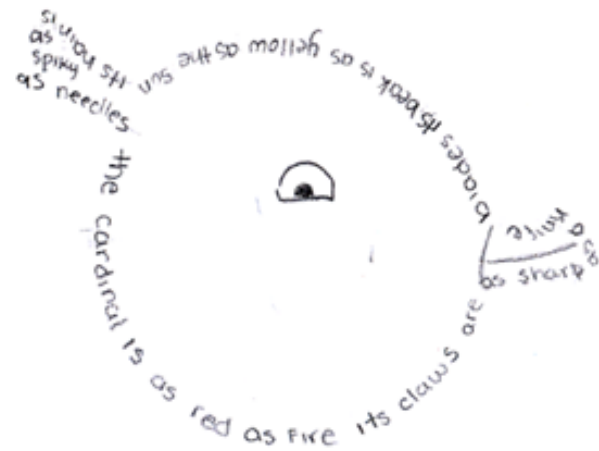
He answers
“Yes, I want to be able to go the wild where the sun is as yellow as a lemon and it is so lively.”

I ask
“Do you have friends?”

He answers,
“No, but I want to have a butterfly friend.
I want to see her fly gracefully to the sky.”



I want to have friends
I want to go to the land
I want to go to the land
There are new creatures
They're all afraid of me
but I still want to go to land
I want to have a great journey
and meet new animals
the lizard is as colorful as the rainbow
the butterflies fly gracefully
I want them to be my friends
The land is beautiful
I want to walk in the land
I want to breathe in the land
I want to have friends
I want to go to the land
the land is beautiful



WOLF

My cousin is
a fox, sneaky
and a good
liar. I'm a
wolf, strong
and fast. I'm
in a pack
with all my
friends. I'm
a wolf
strong and
fast.

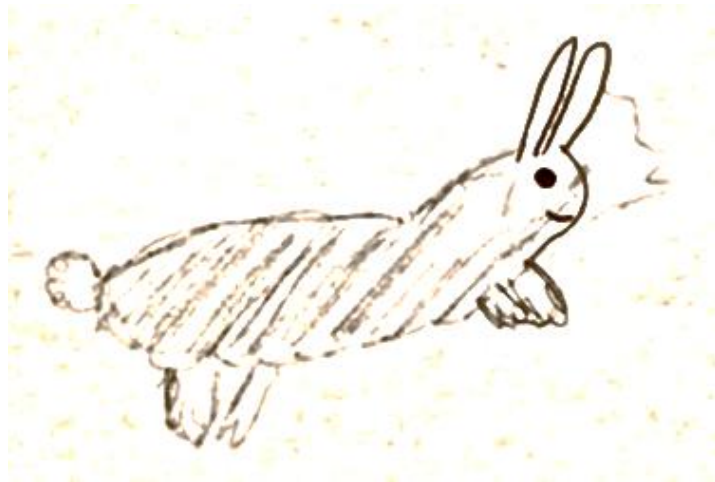
SHADOW

I eat souls
from vicious people
I wear the body
that puts me on
I roam around the
world eating souls
I live in an invisible
tower in the middle
of nowhere
my only friend is
the devil who is in your nightmare
I want to eat
everybody who is
bad
I am shadow
the soul eater



RABBITS

Rabbits are cute
Rabbits are fluffy like a fluffy
balloon
Rabbits are cute but may be evil
Rabbits could be mean but when they are
mad
Rabbits like to eat a lot of carrots
They like to look for food day
and night
Rabbits have whiskers like cats
They have a cute fluffy tail like
a cloud
Rabbits could be used for pets
and a friend
They are friendly but sometimes
dangerous
Rabbits are cute and they leap
like frogs
Rabbits can see in the
night
Why do rabbits eat carrots?
Why are they used for pets?



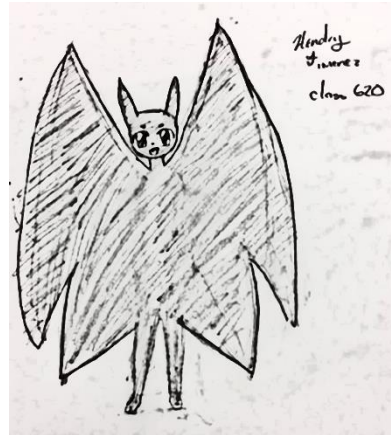
BAT

A bat is a black star
Appears in the night
But not in the day
But it's always there

A bat is a doll
So creepy and mysterious
So scary in the night
And still in the day

A bat is a knife
Its sharp teeth
Biting every person it sees

A bat is a mouse
Very sneaky
And very quiet.



MT. LION

“Mr. Mountain! Mr. Mountain!” I yell “Where are you?”
“Stop coming here” Mr. Mountain muttered.
“It’s just that I need something from you.”

Mr. Mountain hissed at me with his cold eyes darting at me.
I just sat next to him..
His ears perked when I brought meat.
His teeth were pointy.
He looked at me as if he would bite my arm off.

I gave the meat to him
He devoured it immediately
He said “I still feel hungry”
“You have a delicious aroma”
He licked his teeth
and I saw my reflection
He chuckled evilly
while I was running away.



ROMONA HAQUE

MERCY

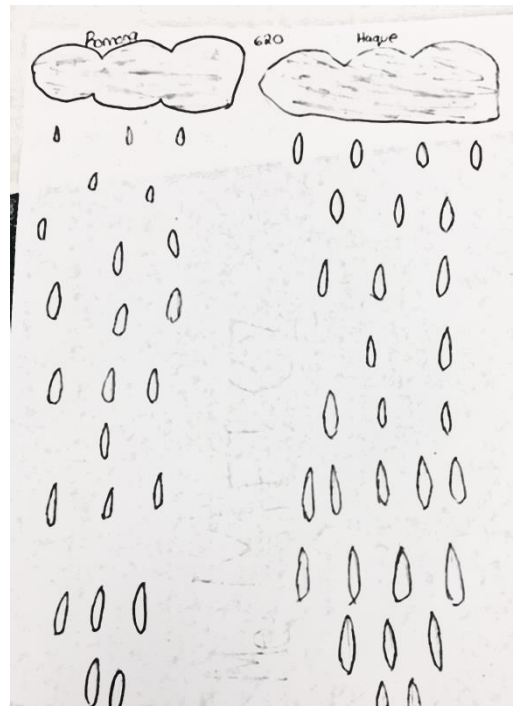
I hear noises down the hall
I smell dust
I dream of falling down the sky.

I want to tell the world,
Be happy of what you have
I'm looking at my friends and family
I dream of falling down the sky.

I want to go to Heaven
I want to look at what my friends are doing
My secret is I have a disease
I dream of falling down the sky

I move by my body
I am a tiger
Who scratches people
If I moved it would be like a chair
I dream of falling down the sky.

Oh mercy, help me
I'm afraid of death
I dream of falling down
I dream of falling down the sky.



LIFE THROUGH MAGIC

A butterfly is on the wind flying through its magical winds.

Why do you have so many colors that change forms?

Butterfly, butterfly, where are you? Can I see you coming through me?

Tell me how many colors do you have? You are like tangerines,
very pretty.

You are as wonderful as the sun when it rises.

You are as special as a charm you are as awesome
As a feather walking through you.

*I am a butterfly whose wings were not free until the magical fairy came to me
and lit me with flames from Greece.*

Navigation is the key to the wind

so scream we

*are free
we live*



DREAMS ARE REALITY

I dream of a butterfly laying its eggs
I dream of a clean habitat
I dream of fresh flowers turning white
I dream of a rainbow
I dream of a dinosaur on the attack
I dream of a person with funny hair
I dream of a person smelling perfume
I dream of people dirty of blood
I dream of lights turning off and on
I dream of soft and calm music
I dream 1,000 of people hearing bird sounds
I dream of a person with hairy claws
I dream of a botanical garden
I dream of a creature crawling up and down
I dream of a spirit of god
I dream of a margarita cocktail floating through me
I dream of three claws blocking me
I dream of six butterflies like me
I dream of the tooth fairy screaming at me
I dream of Canada down the street

THE BUSY BEE

The busy bee is a businessman.
He works every day for the rest of his life.
Every day he does nothing but make honey.
Poor little guy never earns money.

But unlike human businessmen
Who work all day, and go home to rest.
The cycle once again begins.
The busy bee has fun
And does his busy bee dance.

I AM A MASK

I am a mask
But it hasn't always been that way
I was once a normal human, though always full of rage
Once I was alive.
I was a fierce warrior
You can see it in my face
But one day I was petrified
Put under a spell

My face is stuck in a scowl
Oh, how I wish I could howl
But I will be stuck like this forever
Watched by all these people, and never escape



COYOTE

I am related to a sound alarm
The only time I holler is on a full moon
I can't be seen at night
I can't even be heard
I am a spy in the dark

WHO AM I?

I'm as stiff as a statue
My only position is straight
I can't look any way else
Only the way I'm placed

I'm as stiff as a statue
Move me if you dare
It's just a new position
I will still only stare

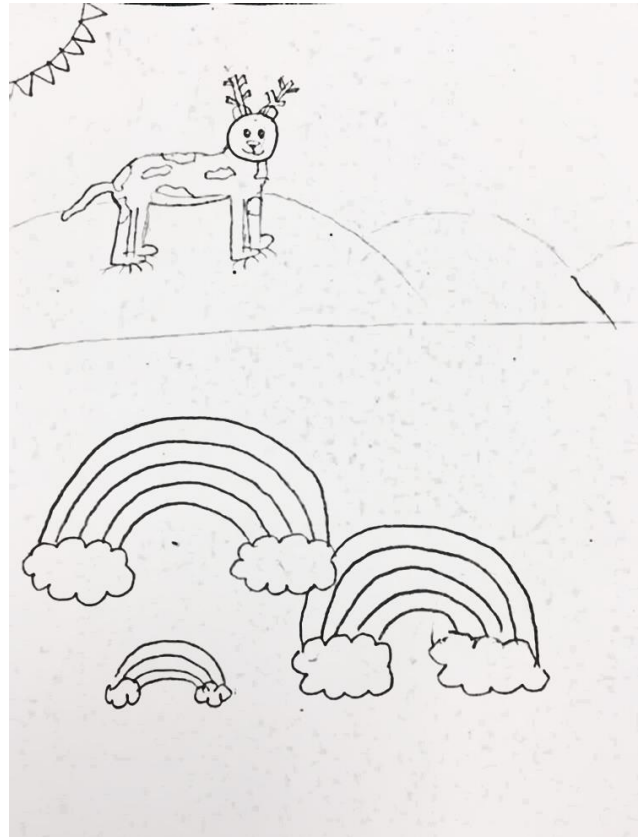
I'm as stiff as a statue
I still have nowhere to go

I just sit here
I can't stretch
Unlike the pictures on the wall
I am three dimensional.
Who am I?



IDREAM

I dream of passing through a big lion
I dream of running in the air
I dream of climbing a tall mountain
I dream of animals with very long hair
I dream of birds talking to monkeys
I dream of jaguars eating bananas
I dream of raining money
I dream of many rainbows
I dream of water in the sky
I dream of crossing a very long distance bridge



THE MULE DEER

The mule deer
has horns
just like
a bull
The mule deer
has ears
just like
a cat
The mule deer
has small eyes
just like
a monkey
The mule deer
Has four legs
just like
an elephant
The mule deer
has a thin tail
just like a
giraffe's tail
The mule deer
Has a little smile
Just like a
little pile

EARTHQUAKE

I can hear the earth rumble
as I tumble
I find myself running out
of my power
I can hear the earth rumble

I always dream that I'm safe
but when I awake I'm not
I have a power that I can't escape
I can make the earth rumble
but no one can escape
I can hear the earth rumble

I have a power that I can't control
you don't know
So hear me rumble!

When I quake my earthly shake
I hear steps of the dance
They can't fly in the sky

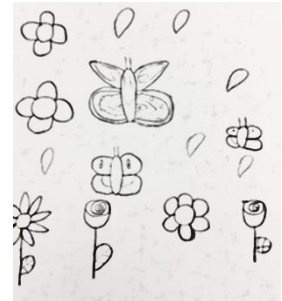
I can hear the earth rumble
As my friends tumble
I try to stop my earthly shake
If I die it's because of my
earthquake
I hear the earth rumble
its nightly tumble

I can't escape my fear unless I'm dead
I can run as swift as wind
I hear the earth rumble
I fall down the hall
I make the earth shake its nightly rumble
It makes me sad that people die
as I fall
I can hear the earth rumble



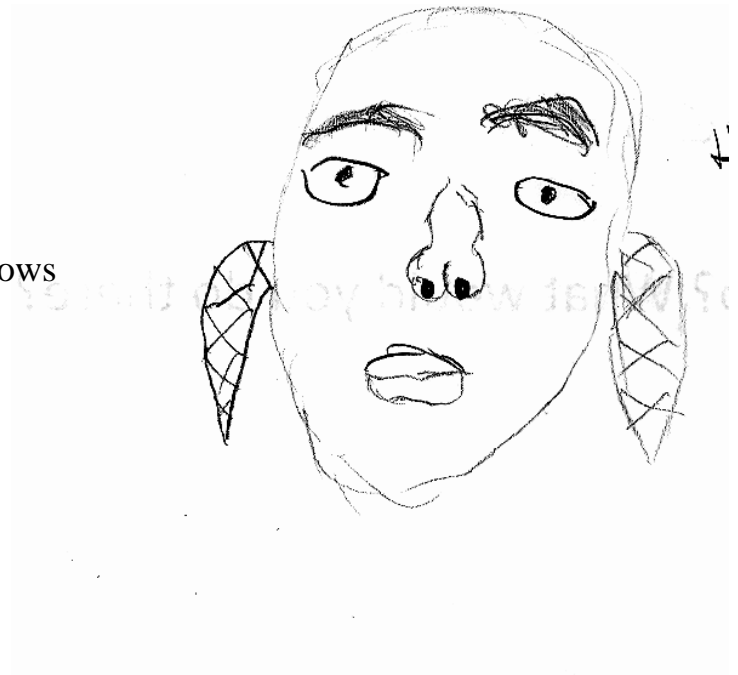
BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies always fly in the sky
with a smile on their flights.
Butterflies always fly in
the sky with their pies and rice.
Even though they seem nice
They still fear the deer.
Butterflies fear the rhymes
in the sky. But they cry in
their own sky. Even though they
have a big smile during their flights
to a different sky.



MY MASK

My mask has critical eyebrows
They are busy as a bush
I think they need wax
They may be different than other eyebrows
but it's special for my tribe
I fly with the birds like the wind
I run in the air
But sometimes I just get
scared of myself



MY MIND

I dream of sledding down a rainbow
I dream of flying in the sky with my pet birds
I dream of eating a juicy plate of chicken soup of supper
I dream of swimming in a pool of popcorn
I dream of my family and me being angels of heaven
I dream of soaring in a caramel sky

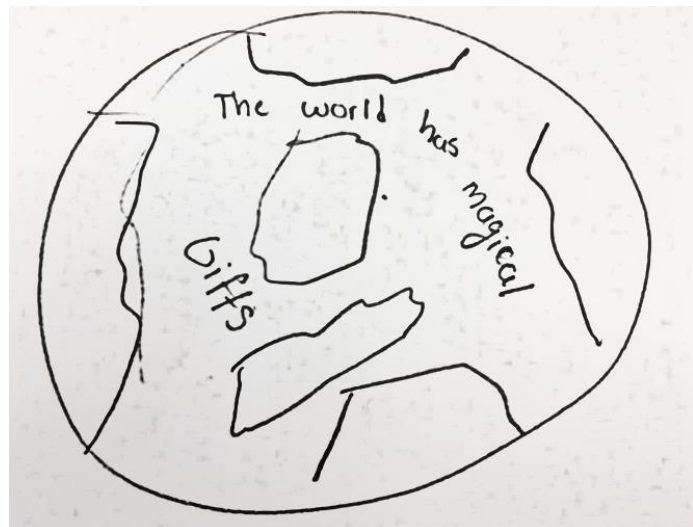


THE WORLD HAS MAGICAL GIFTS

The world has magical gifts
and awesome experiences.
The simplest things are the most beautiful.
The world has magical gifts.

The world has magical gifts
and I have experienced them all
from riding on a dolphin
to destroying the mountain.

The waves are my favorite sound
as my buddy is from there.
We listen and chill near the ocean
we like to call home.



SHARK

I ask the shark

“Can see you see me?”

“Can you smell me? I wonder if you
can feel me. I wonder if there is a
volcano under the ocean.”

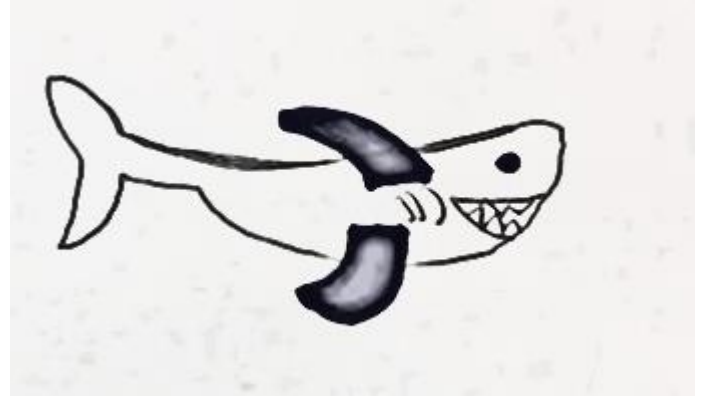
I ask one more time

“Where are you?” I wonder where are we?
I see you now. I can hear you.
I smell you.

The Big Shark is near. We better hide.

It came. I see it.

“It got me. Shark, you better hide.”



FOX

A fox is as sneaky as a ninja
A fox is as bright as tulip
Its tail is as puffy as a pillow
A fox is faster than a human
Would you be a fox?

THE SONG OF THE ROCK FISH

Trying to hide
Can't find a way out
To escape this
Disgusting squid's black ink
It seems to follow me
Till the ends of the world
Try to hide behind
The blubber mouths
But it finds me
Try to swim away
But like the time
I try to save my friends
I'm too slow
Squid's black ink finds me anywhere
And everywhere

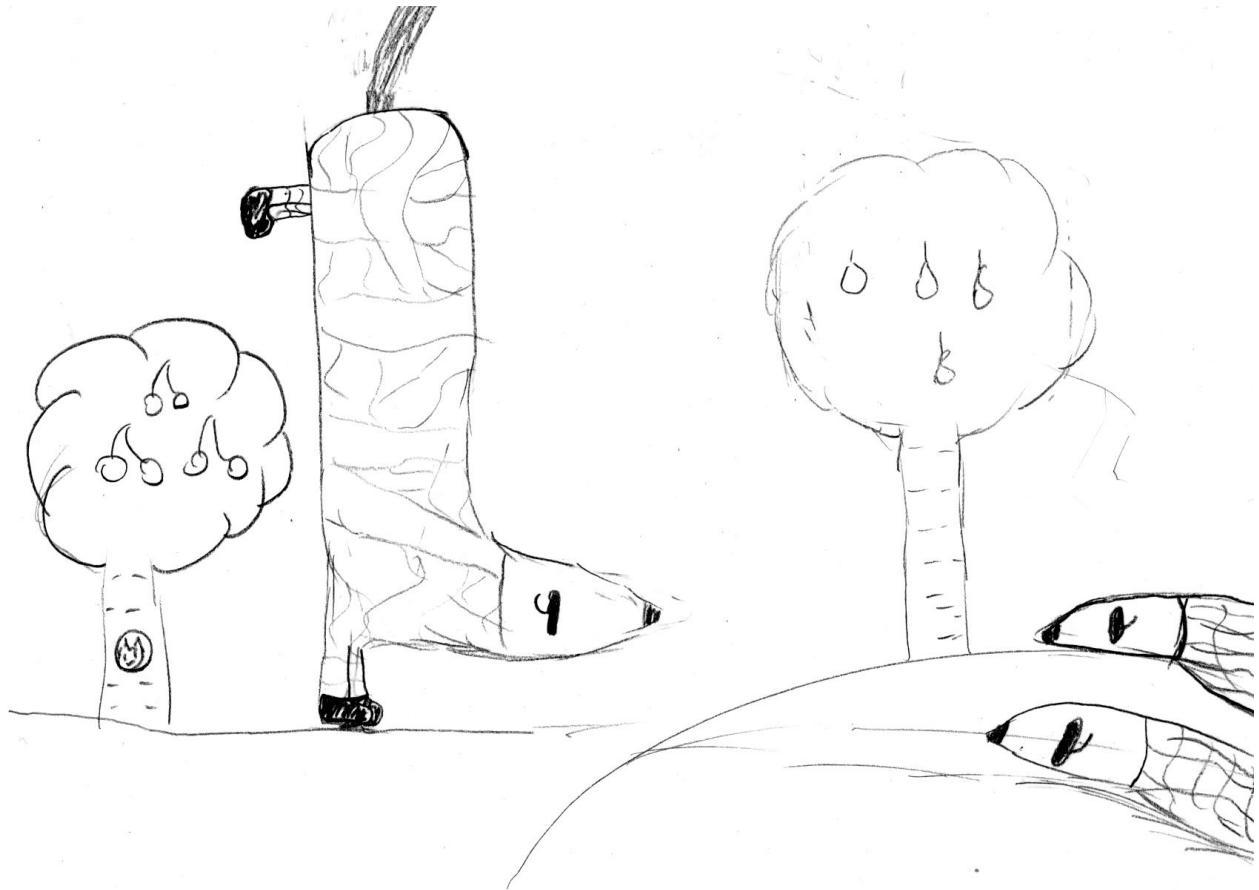
THE SPOTTED SKUNK

I'm related to a statue
Stiff like a statue can't bend at all

Standing in one place forever
Legs start to fall asleep
But no worries my legs are
Stuck to the ground my
Position doesn't change
Not even if you throw a
Bowling ball at my feet

Two feet in the air
The other two stuck to
The ground for all eternity
My tail stands up
Doesn't even move in the wind

All this just to
Impress two skunks
Who don't even talk
Can't this all be over with



THE DEMON

I am a magical demon. I drink
blood and devour flesh. I fear
fear. I'm a magical person because
I am the master of all bad
things. I live in everyone
and all I want is infinite
power. I come out every night
and I'm useless in the day.



DREAMING

I dream of sliding down a rainbow
I dream of becoming superman
I dream of having colored birds
I dream of having multiple cats
I dream of having so much money
I dream I live in a triangle house



Dreaming

I
dream
of sliding
down a rainbow
I dream of becoming
superman I dream of having
colored birds I dream of having multiple
cats I dream of having so much money
I dream of living in a triangle house

THIS BUFFALO IS AS FAKE

“What are you talking
About?”

“Never say that I know
I’m real.””



The Mask

I am a mask
I don't eat or sleep
I only stare
at you
at them
at IT
I wish
I could close
my eyes
I've seen too much
but so little
Just close
and I'll open it again
I promise

DREAMS

I dream of a cat and a dog
I dream of a little girl
I dream of a struggling family
I dream of a happy little boy
I dream of a lonely mother
I dream of the world falling
I dream of a moon and the sun
I dream of a butterfly
I dream of a shadow
I dream of a dream



MOOSE

“Hey moose, you lucky goose, sitting on a forest log.”

“Yes, I’m a moose but not a goose for they are small and puny,
and I am big and strong better, than a hog.”

“Moo moo don’t be mad.”

“No, no, no for I am not a cow.”

“Okay May, let’s go for a walk through the forest path.”

May and Moose go for a walk.

“Wow, a cow.”

“I mean, I’m not a cow. I may be big, but don’t make me frown.”

“Oh no, don’t be sad. I say there’s cow over there.”

“How now, that’s okay, but there’s a cow on the way.”

“Howdy Cowdy”

“Cowdy Howdy?”

“Bye?”



SHRIK

I am a native princess
I live in trees

I run around with the monkeys
I fell into a volcano
What a pity!

Now my face is all burnt and black
so I live underwater
away from all the others
I don't see my friends
They all fear me

I wear red clothes and eat seaweed
It's salty and good
especially with algae

I am a native princess
Even though I can't see
There's beauty inside of me

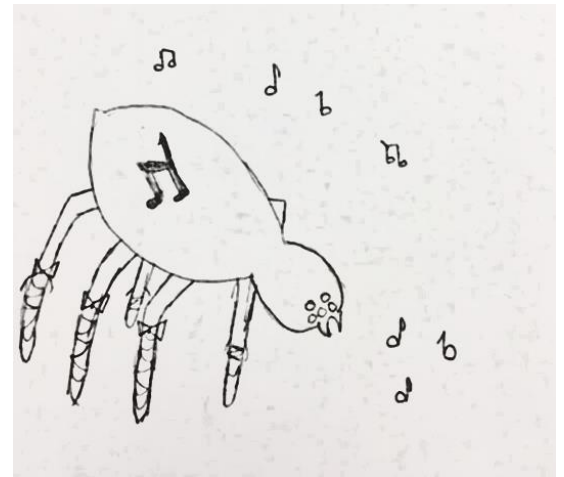


THE SPIDER

The spider is a needle.
The spider goes into your arm.
The spider poisons you in your sleep.
The poison runs through your veins.
The poison slowly takes over your blood until you die.
Your body slowly falls into a black hole and you land
in fire where everyone is waiting for you. The people
are standing still while he put his fingers together.

THE BALLET MESS

My lungs will fill and then they'll deflate.
I dream of something great.
My ballet rehearsals are coming soon.
I dream of breaking my feet on pointe,
blood oozing out of my feet.
My friends all died with me while dancing.



I dream of having a Lamborghini.
I dream of having millions of dollars in the bank.
I dream of seeing movies that haven't come out.
I dream of not having homework.
I dream of being an adult.
I dream of having only hundreds on a report card.
I dream I am best at soccer.
I dream of going to heaven and seeing my grandparents.
I dream of flying to the sky.
I dream I give my parents everything they want.
I dream of being in America.



WHAT IS THERE TO REMEMBER?

I can't remember
what am I doing
in this town?

I can't remember
to put the gun down.

I can't remember
not at all
not at all.

I can't remember
why am I in this
room.

I can't remember.
I can't listen
to this tune.

I can't remember
It's quiet, and I have
this sound.



AROUND

We run around the world
around
around.

We go and go until we don't stop
around
around.

Run, run little monkey
you deserve to be free.
Go ahead run until your feet start to sleep
around
around.



BEAR

I'm a bear
I have small eyes
I'm big and tall
and I have hair everywhere
You can't be scared,
but I don't really care.

Hello, it's me again.
Did you miss me?
Well, it's time to play?
So hey,
I'll be back so don't
fall on the track
until I'm back.



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