

# **HOW I WANT IT TO BE SAID**

**KAPPA X215**

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**6TH GRADE**



# T.O.C.

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# INTRO

**Wow, what a beautiful ride it's been!**

**For the past six months I've had the pleasure of working with 115 incredibly bright, creative, blossoming young humans who have truly blown my mind with their ideas and personality. Each and every one of them coming to the class and the page with their own unique perspective and experiences. I couldn't be more grateful.**

**Here you will find so much of what a growing young person feels on a daily basis: love, joy, anger, sadness, weirdness, silliness and more. You'll even witness a bit of magic, fictitious storytelling, and thoughts on what our future leaders want changed in their communities and the world. I hope you feel proud as you read. I hope they are proud of themselves, having brought their most honest and true selves to class each week.**

**I am grateful to Teachers & Writers Collaborative for giving me the opportunity to share space at Kappa X215. I am grateful to Ms. Warren and the Kappa community for welcoming me. I am grateful for Ms. Bell, Ms. Massena, & Ms. Tanoh for the work they do with our kids day in and day out. Last but not least, I am grateful for these young writers, the students, for letting me help them create some beautiful poetry—even if it was just a moment in time to express themselves. They're the real MVPs.**

**And thank you, too, the reader. For taking the time to listen to the voices of our young people. They have so much to say and so much light inside of them.**

**Open your heart and enjoy yourselves here.**

**With Love & Gratitude,  
*Candice***



## Enough

I am mystery / a riddle / gold / a ruby / bright / I am rock / hard and tough / I am clock  
/ taking my time / I am cake / so so sweet / I am emoji / expressing myself / I am flower  
/ pretty and colorful / I am sun / shining / my lights making the plants grow / I am  
mountain / reaching the sky /

&

We swing brave / we don't hate / we never fail / we motivate / we work hard / we play  
rough / we write bars /

We are enough

*Edwin, Kimora, Clad, Manuel, Sarahye, Noelia, Aileen, Ariona, Fernando, Fariah,  
Abraham, Boubacar, Thierno D., Gregory, Mathew, Amy, Marvin, Michael B., &  
Candice*





**I.**



**Express Yourself**

ANGEL P.

Emotions  
are feelings

Feelings  
are appealing

We show it  
the way we

Walk  
and talk

Don't be scared  
it's fair

**Poetry Should Protect**

MICHAEL B.

Poetry should protect people from cars  
should kick bars  
should stop arguing  
should buy a dog  
should put the gun down

## **Crazy Feelings**

MICHAEL B.

Glass noodles with onions  
My name is Mr. Paul Bunyan  
I'm always good at walking south  
White food goes right into my mouth

Glass noodles are so crazy  
Friends are just so lazy  
People always remember my name  
Everything is the good old same

## **Drifting**

MIGUELINA M.

Drifting through  
just like my mood

I wanted to yell  
After I fell

So I stopped  
And then popped

Then I was fine  
I started to get kind

I look at the floor  
And went for the door

I started to feel blue  
And I had no clue

My eyes felt like a pool  
I didn't feel cool

**Mom**

NAJAE M.

My mom is special  
Yes she is

She's the greatest person  
That ever lived

She feeds and loves me  
Yes she do

I love my mom  
The way she loves me too

**Memories of Food**

AMAZEN K.

It was all there, old flavors  
I know the beautiful soil,  
The sweet, the excellent. At  
The table, neither of us  
Said much of anything, but  
The food was hard to resist

I will never forget this  
Day or having my favorite food  
It felt like a dream come true  
Scallion and hot pepper pancakes,  
Chiles steamed shrimp  
The person that made the food  
With a apron makes the best  
Food, I would pay her  
For her great job of  
Her cooking. And in  
My opinion she should be  
A chef

## **The Best Meal Yet**

EDWIN R.

Sometimes I tried to make that meal  
For him. I added all the ingredients  
That mother used. I tried to make  
It perfect, but nothing was quite  
Right. Although the smell and color  
Was very strange, I hope he'll  
Be amazed.

Sometimes I tried to make that meal  
For him, but my way. I added  
Anything that smelled and tasted good,  
But nothing was quite as good as  
Mother. He wouldn't say much when  
We ate, but his smile and his  
Face knew that this was the best  
Meal yet.

## **Food Forever**

HANNAH M.

And we had the food for days  
The sweet, the excellent taste  
Bowls of garlic  
With miso and tofu

I knew the old taste  
From the fresh spinach  
To the beautiful salt  
Couldn't believe  
I was living this life

## **I Need Help...Fast**

JENELLY L.

I wish I had paid more attention.  
All the bad things I've done to the kitchen  
Gave me so much tension.

I feel like a psychopath.  
Why am I feeling like this?  
My god look at all these photographs

These photographs make me feel guilty.  
It's all the photos of the harm I've done.  
Dang, I feel so filthy

I make a cake explosion  
Home alone  
With this overload.

## **After Her Death (Found Poem)**

SARAHYE L.

After her death father's  
Smile no longer existed.  
So I tried to make him  
Food knowing he could not resist it,  
The smell lead him to  
The feast which brought joy,  
But if I keep this up  
I'll be singing oh boy.

After her death a light was  
Now taken by the night,  
Now to me the sun does  
Not shine as bright,  
I keep on and act as if Dad  
And I would be alright,  
No one saw through my act  
And inside me is a never ending fight.

## **Memories of Friends**

MATHEW P.

After my friend's death  
Everybody was screaming, shouting,  
Making phone calls, and at  
School it was quiet in the halls.

When I got home we  
Were sobbing hard, and drifting  
Through the room like ghosts.

After, nothing  
Turned out right  
Not a color, not a smell.

Nothing felt right  
At all.

## **Above**

CLADANDRE S.

I am the one hanged up above / I stay there and move every second / I will always show  
you that time is on your side / I'm always alone and have no one to talk to / Everyday  
I'm so tired but can't stop moving / There's tales I'm the master of time and space / I am  
the one that stays



**My Name**  
MARVIN L.

At home my name means hard work  
On the beach my name means an ocean breeze  
In Buffalo it means friendship

**My Mother's Name**  
SOUADOU B.

Weird is my name  
It is easily mispronounced and spelled wrong  
My name is the color of sadness  
A lot of times wishing it was different  
All these different nicknames that I wish  
Would just disappear into thin air  
Say my name like I want it to be said  
Gladly the same as my mother's  
But no one says it correctly

## **Emotions**

KIMORA V.

I'm so mad  
Stop ruining my day  
All these ugly birds  
Go, go away  
Though rain stops  
Falling  
I see a little light  
All these emotions grow in my sight

My anger turns to madness  
My madness turns normal  
My normal turns to happiness  
The anger, less noticeable

## **The Small Puppy**

KIMORA V.

The small puppy is curious.  
The small puppy is never furious.  
Wanting to play in the snow  
Or maybe pee in the bushes.

## **My Name Means**

CINDY P.

My name means sweet and pretty  
means unique and kind

It represents me, my name  
Is short

And worth more than  
It sounds

## **iPhone**

AISSA T.

Why they keep dropping me  
Why they keep breaking me

I help them find things  
I help them shop online

I take their pictures  
I give them wifi

Still sometimes they scratch me  
And sometimes they take me to school

Sometimes I'm just  
too slow

**Sadness**

SARAHYE L.

The night comes  
The day goes  
Rain falls,  
The wind blows,  
People come, people go  
That's the flow of my world

The fire in me goes out  
All the happiness gone  
I'm just a hollow shell  
no spirit to belong

**Weakness**

CLADANDRE S.

He hops left and  
Right up and down

Scurries into a hole  
And flops right out

Drops as fast as  
A ball and pounces  
For it's prey

Nibbling it down  
Right to its roots

Then fades off  
In the freezing  
Winter

With its spots  
And white fur  
And blue

Fall to the  
Mats then drops  
Down slowly to bed

For its café  
Eyes a weakness  
To them all.

## **Father Time**

MANUEL A.

I'm all around  
I'm anyplace  
In a store  
Or in a maze  
I help to see  
Your lateness lack  
But just count on me  
And what I keep in track  
I come in many colors  
Or different odors  
I am a father  
That keeps you awake  
They call me father time  
And I shine.

## **Poetry Should Love**

MIGUELINA M.

poetry should wear a sharp eyeliner  
to attract  
all the boys that  
walk down the block

poetry should always hang out with friends  
to stay safe  
and laugh  
out loud

poetry should make her green juice everyday  
to stay healthy  
and fit

poetry should eat chocolate  
when she needs  
a break

poetry should love  
everyone that  
loves her  
back

## **From Old Times**

MANUEL A.

My name comes from cookie rainbow with whip cream  
It's the vanilla shake in a hamburger restaurant  
The magic in a wand with white and blue  
The water in a river, and rain in a cloud  
It's the name from old times, Manuel—Dominican.

## **Poetry Should Be Creative**

ALAN A.

poetry should be creative  
let your mind go wild  
experience and do  
things you like to do

poetry should be art  
everything is art  
it's all about you  
you see and create art

poetry should be music  
a style of music  
music lets your spirit free  
music gives inspiration

poetry should be action  
actions are decisions  
positive and negative  
your actions change the world

poetry should be inspiration  
you should be inspire  
let people inspire you  
inspiration is great

## **Poetry Should Live**

THIERNO B.

Poetry should hang out  
with me and my friends  
go out to the park  
and play

Poetry should love my mom  
because she  
loves us back

Poetry should have my mom cook  
because she cooks everything  
for my family

Poetry should make my teacher bring cookies  
when our class  
is good

Poetry should make my neighborhood safe  
because there  
are too many gangs

## **Poetry Should Tell Stories**

SOUADOU B.

Poetry should write stories  
make me feel things  
speak to me  
when I open a new book

Poetry should help us live  
take me out of anger  
end wars  
stop Donald Trump

Poetry should go to work every day  
make moolah  
follow her dreams  
all this week

Poetry should give me food  
make chocolate  
fall asleep  
after all that food

Poetry should grow flowers in my  
neighborhood  
stop the crimes  
make it a  
happy place

## **Poetry Should Live a Life**

EBRAHIM G.

Poetry should go to sleep  
Snooze all night  
catching Z's and  
resting away

Poetry should give people rides  
making the people  
go quicker to places  
and unharmed

Poetry should talk on the phone  
contacting people  
to make business  
and make friends

Poetry should receive a bike  
so it can do some  
riding around in  
parks or down the block

Poetry should be bigger  
so it doesn't have  
to walk so far  
or get crushed  
under boots

## **Poetry Should Live Life to its Fullest**

AMY T.

poetry should give electronics  
and provide free  
wifi

poetry should run into  
parents rooms  
and ask dumb  
questions

poetry should pray every day  
thanking  
Almighty God

poetry should make the teachers  
show movies  
24/7

poetry should teach dogs to take  
care of themselves

poetry should live  
life to its fullest  
for as long as it's  
around



## **Poetry Should Play Football & Love**

FERNANDO G.

poetry should guard  
others when  
they have the  
ball

poetry should see my  
friends practice for  
a game

poetry should be loving  
with kisses  
and hugs

poetry should give  
your girl things

## **Poetry Should Eat Food and Have Fun**

AMADOU S.

Poetry should ride on a skateboard  
that is  
expensive  
and has wheels

Poetry should say "I love you"  
because I  
love poems

Poetry should eat Chinese food  
with chicken  
and French  
fries

Poetry should take me on a trip to Cleveland  
to see LeBron James  
and Kyrie Irving

## **Poetry Should Live Here**

KEMANI B.

Poetry should play basketball  
wear basketball shorts  
do crossovers  
and jumpers

Poetry should protect me all time  
should take out the trash  
should buy me a video game  
should clean up streets

## **Poetry Should Do Everything**

NAJAE M.

Poetry should bounce  
like a ball  
around the court

Poetry should give me a high five  
because it makes  
me feel better

Poetry should do their work everyday  
so they can  
be smart

Poetry should buy me speakers  
so I can  
look good

Poetry should bring us  
peace

**Poetry Should Play**  
MATHEW P.

Poetry should bounce around the court  
shoot a jumper  
and do crossovers  
before halftime

Poetry should be protected by a shield  
and used when  
it's needed especially  
for safety

Poetry should be a passenger in a car  
should give to all  
should be clean and safe

**Poetry Should Clean the Streets**  
JENELLY L.

Poetry should dog down food  
eat what you like  
not care at all  
while eating the best things ever

Poetry should defend people  
so we can stay safe  
and not feel  
like we're in danger

Poetry should wash the dishes  
should give me money  
should clean the streets

### **Poetry Should Love**

CINDY P.

Poetry should eat the delicious pizza  
should have pepperoni  
cheese  
grease

should share it with family & friends  
should give us a big hug  
should wear bright red lipstick  
should call us sweet, cute names  
should prevent gun violence

### **Poetry Should Be Cool**

CESAR C.

Poetry should play with my friends  
should work every day  
should get food for me  
should love me  
cause I'm so cool

**II.**



**Ghost Head**  
ABRAHAM C.

He felt the heat in his  
Heart as it took its last  
Beat. My family drifting  
Away like a ghost head  
Down near a post

**Weird**  
MARIAH W.

I wish I had paid more attention.  
Nothing was quite right.  
I felt wrong. I felt weird.

**Hope**  
MARIAM C.

It was always the same, from that day  
I came back from Dubai, and my mother  
Prepared a special meal to welcome me home. I  
Found out that my mother had died, I  
Wish I had paid more attention

**You Already Know**  
THIERNO B.

Speeding down the lane  
About to dunk like Shaq  
You see my coming boy you better stay back  
Drifting through the locker rooms like a ghost  
Yeah already know I'm the goat  
Body slam you like the hulk  
Making it to the NBA  
You know I don't smoke

**Hope**

FARIAH I.

I wish I had paid more attention  
To my mother who told me no  
I wish I knew that was the caution  
Of an upcoming challenge

I remember those days,  
My mother prepared a certain meal  
To welcome me home

**Anyway**

ARIANGY D.L.

Great-grandma cooked a lot for my family  
When she passed away  
My family and I tried to cook her favorite meal  
I wish I had paid more attention to what she  
cooked  
But I made each dish anyway

**It Was All There**

DAISY S.

The tables brimming with plates  
Each plate has a different taste  
Different texture  
Each plate was unique  
It was all there



### **Always the Same**

FANTA S.

It was always the same  
Would I always have to go  
Through the lame?  
It was always the same  
Would I have to go to  
School every day?  
It was all there, waking up  
Going to school and sitting at  
The desk  
But nothing turned out quite  
Right. Tried to toughen out but  
never could

### **Goodbye**

ZAMAYA L.

After my aunt's death, when my  
Family and I were the  
Only ones left that she  
Had, I was drifting through  
Houses and rooms like a  
Zombie, sometimes my  
Family tried to make me  
Feel better. But nothing  
Turned out quite right,  
She was on my mind  
Every step of the way,  
Every minute, every second  
And every hour

### **For Dad**

SEKOUOMAR D.

I could already see the exact arrangement  
I knew the beautiful salt the sweet the excellent taste  
I sometimes tried to make it for Dad  
I made each dish for him  
Taking as much care as a could

## **Saturdays**

OLIVER C.

My mother prepared a  
Certain meal to welcome me  
Home after a long Saturday  
At the basketball court.  
It's always fun to come home  
to excellent taste. My mom  
Is always the best chef.

## **All of Us**

SORY K.

After her death it was just me,  
My dad, my mom, and sister. Left  
In the house drifting through  
The room like ghosts. I sometimes  
Tried to make home cooked meals  
For us. It was more than enough  
For all

## **Gone**

AHMED D.

After she leaves the house  
When my mother and I are the  
Only ones left in the house, drifting  
Through the rooms like ghosts, you  
Can hear a penny drop. Without  
Her keeping the house lively and  
Running, everything is just dark  
And depressing. You never miss  
Something much, until it's actually  
Gone

### **The Lost**

ALEXANDER C.

From the day I  
Was planning to visit  
My great-grandma. Few  
Days later we received  
News that we lost her.  
All my family members  
Drift from room to room  
Like ghosts. Other hide  
In the shadows

### **Something**

ESCARLENE M.

Every time I'd go on a trip my mother always  
made a meal to welcome me home. Some of the  
time I would get tired of the same thing over  
and over but I was thankful because she  
welcomed me with something.

### **Surprised**

STEVEN M.

Drifting through the room  
Like a ghost when I  
Was crying and sad, sometimes  
Happy or excited  
Or sometimes surprised  
With my mom, with  
My dad, with my sister  
With me, with my cousin  
With auntie,  
With step dad, or with  
Future me.

## **To Real to Be True**

GREGORY C.

I wish I had paid more attention.  
Instead I was irresponsible and hectic.  
I should've known it was out of love  
But I thought that's just what  
A mother does. Tantrums when I  
Don't get my way but  
Later I realized it was  
To keep me safe.

## **Struggle Stitches**

JEDACIA G.

I got stitches so it made it hard to write  
Who heard about the door that ate my finger,  
and how  
The stitches crawled through my skin, and how  
the Band-aid  
Laughed when I struggled

## **Summer**

OUMOU F.

I'm from Sheridan but I moved because the block was bad / We were all the same but  
had beef with others / Someone would always get shot / In summer we open the water  
pumps and get water / We race to the grass park and whoever wins gets candy / Since  
they closed the other park gates / We still climb them just to use the swings

## **Where I'm From**

AISATOU J.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade I go to Kappa  
In NYC I live  
In the Bronx

I wake up  
At 5:30 am and go to  
School at 6:29

## **Always Forgot Their Names**

FAIRAH I.

Used to live in a place  
Where loving the moment was everything  
Used to be fulfilled  
With green grass and flower  
Staying with my friend  
And making fun of others  
On my weekend  
Walking with my cousins  
Laughing with my whole heartily  
AAH! Scream at my brother's joke  
And later send my brother's friend  
Away for irritating me  
OOF! Murmured myself  
And later angry on my brother  
For eating a whole chocolate bar by himself  
Enjoying playing and gossiping with  
Random people  
And random kids  
But always forget names  
There's a lot  
But I can't share more

**Right Here**

SETU S.

The sun is rising through / the sun shines in and brightens up your face / could actually give you a sunburn / don't get too close / sun shines like the dive / don't be afraid / I'll be right here

**Another Day**

BOUBACAR D.

The speed of lightning  
sprinting through the woods  
Looking for prey  
Hiding in the shed  
Camouflaged, ready to strike  
Catches his prey  
And runs away  
But comes again  
Another day

**Different**

NAIDELIN P.

I am someone  
Someone different from others  
Sometimes loud  
Sometimes shy  
Come from  
the bottom  
of North America

**Good Boy**  
NAIDELIN P.

His hair is like a puffy wig  
Dancing in the air like nobody's  
Watching  
In the kitchen jumping all around  
then flash he runs like a cheetah  
hunts and protects  
Us calling for food and saying  
*good boy*

**Water is Life**  
FARIAH I.

Water is running  
Love to humming  
It wants to share  
But it is rare  
Once it's gone  
So is everyone

**I Am From**  
MAMADOU B.

I'm made of African blood. Made of three different languages. From New York, born and raised here. Had a lot of memories past. Live in an apartment building with one of the best families in the world. I'm made up of jollof rice and dibio. I'm from where hair is always braided.

**Life**

ALEXANDER C.

Life is fun or bad  
in my world  
mostly bad sometimes  
title me: dog lover  
sometimes prince of risk  
gamer and lonely

I'm a lost boy

**The Bronx**

FANTA S.

Grew up in a city called  
The Bronx  
Amazing kids  
Hanging out on the street  
Getting themselves in a  
Whole lot of trouble  
Good kids gone bad  
Do they still have  
The good in them  
Maybe  
Who knows



**I'm From**  
ZAMAYA L.

I'm from  
The peach state  
Playing double dutch.

I'm from  
living with Ma  
while Daddy  
Lives with family  
in the city

I'm from the country  
Where you become  
The first child and  
Get bitten on and  
Have to hit your face

**My Neighborhood**  
ARIANGY D.L.

I'm from Bronx.  
My neighborhood is  
gossip  
arguments  
drugs

Also there's good people  
people that respect and love who have  
fun  
happiness  
parties

**Shadow**  
AHMED D.

Behind him  
flows a red  
streak dashing  
through the winds  
where darkness  
creeps

His shadow  
too slow  
to keep up

**Nikki**  
ESCARLENE M.

Boom boom  
Pieces falling down the roof  
Nikki looked  
Nikki barked and barked  
woof woof

He was terrified  
Nikki saw it  
The big black door  
Jumped over  
Nikki was hurt

Broke his leg  
My mother  
Couldn't find him  
Running outside  
10 minutes later

Found him  
Took him to the vet  
Nobody knows  
If he is alive

**III.**



## **Poetry Should Comfort**

KHADIJATOU B.

Poetry should eat chicken wings  
n have hot sauce  
or bbq  
maybe ketchup

Poetry should hold my hand  
when I'm scared  
n when it's  
too dark

Poetry should shovel the sidewalk  
when there is  
a lot of snow  
blocking your way

Poetry should go to the store  
and share lunch  
with me

## **Poetry Should Help**

ALBERT P.

poetry should go to the park once in awhile  
play frisbee or ball  
grill steak  
run through the fields of grass

poetry should help when trouble happens  
should do chores and mop the house  
should go to school or work  
should recycle garbage  
all around

## **Poetry Should Live**

MARIAM B.

Poetry should ride a bike  
so it could get  
some exercises to get rid  
of its big tummy

Poetry should hug their mom and dad  
to feel safe  
and capture  
every single  
moment

Poetry should shovel out  
their car and take care  
of herself  
to grow up

Poetry should wake up early  
in the morning  
to go to  
school for six hours

Poetry shouldn't be scared  
every second they walk out  
of the house

Poetry should be proud and safe  
Poetry should be somebody  
Someday

## **Poetry Should Make Me Happy**

ZETA M.

Poetry should live  
it should breathe  
n it should  
just stay alive

poetry should protect people  
should talk  
should lay down  
should make me happy

## **Poetry Should Be My Advisor**

AISHAH B.

Poetry should do gymnastics  
do backflips  
cheer with me  
swinging pom-poms

Poetry should hug you  
make you feel safe  
feel loved  
a-million-men-and-women strong

Poetry should tell me  
the answer is not  
about violence nor victory

Poetry should eat pizza  
first the crust  
then the cheese  
finally peeling off the toppings

Poetry should fill up empty hearts  
feel sympathetic  
stop tears  
never forget each other

## **Poetry Should Have Fun**

KAYLA J.

Poetry should play games  
on every system  
n tire them out  
with headphones on  
their head

Poetry should help guide them  
through the dark into night  
get them to college  
n home by night

Poetry should teach the kids  
to express themselves  
without lids, study  
and work as hard as they can

Poetry should go for walks  
take their dogs for runs  
don't leave until they're done

### **Poetry Should Live It's Life**

MERCEDES S.

Poetry should eat pizza  
eat the pepperonis off first  
then eat it until it reaches  
the golden crust

Poetry should be there for me when I get hurt  
like if I fall  
will be able to  
put a Band-Aid on me  
and help me back up

Poetry should cook for me  
while I'm sick it  
can cook for me  
like soup so i can  
feel better

Poetry should go to the park  
push me on the  
swings and go on  
the slides with  
me

Poetry should buy me pizza  
so I can be  
happy and make  
me smile

### **Poetry Should Have a Life**

RICHARD T.

Poetry shouldn't walk at night  
because it's cold and dark

Poetry should go to sleep  
because every day the next day is big

Poetry should go to school  
because it needs its education

Poetry should have fun  
and take a break



## **Poetry Should Be Nonviolent**

FATIMAH W.

Poetry should sing  
to keep calm  
when you're mad

Poetry should give me a hug  
to make me  
feel safe

Poetry should cook  
like my mom  
making delicious  
food every day

Poetry should go to school  
every day  
to get educated

Poetry should be nonviolent  
to help us all  
live in peace

## **Poetry Should Remember**

NATASHA H.

Poetry should watch Netflix  
watch its favorite shows  
remember to put it on your favorite list

Poetry should sleep with me  
when I'm scared at night

Poetry should go to work  
should go to school  
should bring cookies to my door

## **Poetry Should Do Anything**

YULIANA B.

Poetry should run through a meadow of flowers  
feel the breeze  
and smell them  
feel free

Poetry should hug me tight  
squeeze me to death  
feel to protect me  
warmth

Poetry should cook great food  
so delicious I cry  
lick every taste of it  
taste the sweetness

Poetry should open the gate  
be nice  
always polite

Poetry should be a shelter  
should make sure the orphans  
feel secure  
feel nice

## **Poetry Should Be Outside**

JORDANY C.

Poetry should play basketball  
should go to the park  
should buy me  
the latest sneakers

**Poetry Should Live Right**  
AHRIAN G.

Poetry should play video games  
should get a  
custom controller

Poetry should lay on a pillow  
fluffy like marshmallows  
soft like clouds  
blue like the sky

Poetry should cook  
pots with garlic inside  
onions that go on the saltfish  
put on the stove

Poetry should walk  
with sneakers  
that are cool  
jeans that are maroon

Poetry should make me seafood  
lobster  
crab &  
shrimp

**Poetry Should Play and Eat**  
LEANDER R.

Poetry should play baseball  
and run the bases

Poetry should talk about something  
while watching sports

Poetry should cook food  
and use the best pots

Poetry should play PS4  
playing all the games it comes with

Poetry should bring me something sweet  
and still eat healthy food

**Poetry Should Not be Petty**  
RUBEN C.

Poetry should stick with me  
when I'm  
feeling down  
and hold me close

Poetry should play  
more kindly  
with my friends

Poetry should play  
with me  
and be fair

Poetry should go to school  
and care  
about its  
education

Poetry should stop the violence  
and be more  
kind to one  
another

**Poetry Should Live a Kid's Life**  
JOSE G.

Poetry should play Xbox One  
and play  
2K17 having  
a blast

Poetry should be able to  
defend you  
from harm

Poetry should go to school  
and then  
teach

Poetry should go to school  
and learn

Poetry should  
have fun

### **Poetry Should Feel Good**

AFSANA K.

Poetry should make my building better  
clean the trash  
put heaters on

Poetry should eat candy  
flavor-filled goodness  
juicy, delicious  
so you smile

Poetry should love me  
hug me, and give me  
chocolates

Poetry should have fun  
go on rollercoasters  
and play games

Poetry should make food, mhm  
delicious burgers  
going to all the restaurants

### **Poetry Should Love**

DAVID M.

Poetry should cheer me up  
should protect me  
should play games  
should go to the market for me  
should cook  
Poetry should love



# IV.





**Lonely Zebra**  
JAINABOU T.

Running around all alone eating grass in the savanna /  
it's hot / colors are black and white / while looking  
for friends / can't find one / birds flying around /  
too much noise getting around / can't sleep / waking  
up in the morning brushing my teeth with some sticks /  
that are nasty / I feel bad for myself / can't find a friend  
to play with me

**Snot Balloons (Erasure Poem)**  
SERENITY E.

Dude  
Imagine snot balloons  
Ducks probably hold  
Records.

**The Make-up Poetry (Erasure Poem)**  
Rayden Perez

I           Andrew  
          imagine  
Duck 5,631  
Seeds  
                  Charlotte Lee holds the  
                  And  
                  The most sunflower

**Erasure Poem**

JUSTIN B.

Andrew

Found  
Rubber ducks

On

Sunflowers

**Most Balloons (Erasure Poem)**

AISHA Z.

Andrew

Blowing up the

Most balloons

imagine how

Weird

**Poetry Should Do Things**

RAYDEN P.

Poetry should go outside

Poetry should be a security guard

Poetry should read and write

Poetry should have a mom

**Poetry Should Color**

AISHA Z.

Poetry should color  
color pencil  
crayon

Poetry should pray  
five times a day

**Poetry Should Pet Cats**

JUSTIN B.

Poetry should pet cats  
should  
pet them through their  
warm fur

Poetry should grab you  
should  
grab and  
protect you

Poetry should get cats  
should  
play with them  
too



**V.**



## **Poetry Should Be Around**

JOSEPH R.

Poetry should stay with you  
so you'll be safe  
and to calm  
you down

Poetry should wash dishes  
at night  
to make the  
plates clean

Poetry should play outside  
and add or  
subtract numbers  
they have trouble with

Poetry should bring games  
so you  
don't  
get bored

## **Important People**

ELIZABETH Z.

They are there for you  
Never give up  
Stay since day one

They care  
Having the best times  
Never the last

## **Rose Petals**

HEYLIX T.

I notice someone  
I notice I know someone  
That looks like rose petals  
That is an important person in my life.

## **Rules to Live By**

DONTAE L.

What are rules to live by:  
Never stop having fun  
Live life silly  
Long live silly  
Don't stop laughing

## **Grow**

NOELIA C.

I realized that  
You can learn something new every day.  
If you listen,  
You need to write with your  
Audience in mind.  
We are all reaching for our  
Goals.  
But to do that you need to know  
That you can learn something  
New every day. If you listen,  
We are all reaching for our  
Goals.  
To reach our goals we can  
Circle parts of text you don't  
Know.  
And then your thoughts will  
Grow.



**Connecting**  
LUISANGEL E.

Characters. A person,  
Animal, or supernatural being  
That performs an action in  
A story, novel or play, if you  
Want to connect details you  
Have to have a claim.

**While I Was Reading**  
SCARLET C.

While I was reading I noticed I could imagine  
what the author explained in my head.

While I was reading I had noticed that there  
was a lot of conversation going on.

While I was reading I noticed the author put a  
lot of personal feelings.

While I was reading I felt like I was in the book.

## **Poetry Should Be Thankful**

HASSANATOU D.

poetry should be using my phone  
texting people  
talking on the phone  
listening to music

poetry should say I love you  
giving hugs  
giving kisses  
taking care of you

poetry should come back from work  
opening the door  
saying hi  
sitting on the couch

poetry should make my neighborhood peaceful  
no fighting  
no arguing  
have nature

## **Poetry Should Have Fun**

NOELIA C.

poetry should go to the beach  
swim, scream  
laugh, splash

poetry should say everything will be okay  
to keep you safe  
and secure

poetry should get ready for school  
so poetry can learn  
and become smart

poetry should give gifts to people  
with its kindness  
and love

poetry should recycle  
help our environment  
and keep nature  
safe

## **Poetry Should Skateboard**

LUISANGEL E.

poetry should be walking  
with friends  
to not feel  
alone

poetry should always  
see cars  
driving out-  
side

poetry should always go on  
fieldtrips  
in school

poetry should ride on  
wheels and  
do tricks  
and roll  
around

poetry should always be safe  
stop pollution  
to breathe  
clean air

## **Poetry Should Grow Up**

MICHAEL C.

Poetry should run  
up and down the street  
from  
other kids

Poetry should protect you  
should put on makeup  
should learn  
should buy stuff it wants

## **Poetry Should Have Fun**

DESTINY J.

poetry should jump rope  
in shorts  
with more than one person  
so it's fun

poetry should cook food  
something good  
to taste

poetry should give us projects  
not homework  
that's no fun

poetry should recycle  
save  
our environment  
make it clean

## **Poetry Should Jump Rope**

MISCHA T.

Poetry should jump rope  
should hold your hand  
when you're scared n' lost

Poetry should put on jewelry  
like perfect diamond earrings  
and white pearls

Poetry should walk to school  
when you're alone  
and there's someone following you

Poetry should clean up the neighborhood  
walking down  
the street

**Poetry Should Go to the Store**

DONTAE L.

Poetry should  
play PS4 and learn  
how to game

Poetry should  
hide me

Poetry should  
work

Poetry should  
go to the store  
or bring stores closer

**Poetry Should Be There**

LANA J.

Poetry should do art  
paint the walls  
in the house colors  
splashed everywhere

Poetry should be there  
sit by the door  
and wait and  
cuddle when you  
cry

Poetry should wake up for work  
should go to school  
should make sure those kids are safe

**Poetry Should Think Outside the Box**  
ARIANA K.

Poetry should chew bubble gum  
slap around your mouth  
blow bubbles  
make a chewing sound

Poetry should do art  
paint outside the lines  
have many colors  
go crazy and paint

Poetry should put makeup on  
have fun with it  
be creative  
think outside the box