

**Finding Freedom:
An Every Day Mood**

An Anthology of Poetry
by the
Tenth-Grade Students
of the
John Jay High School for Law
K462

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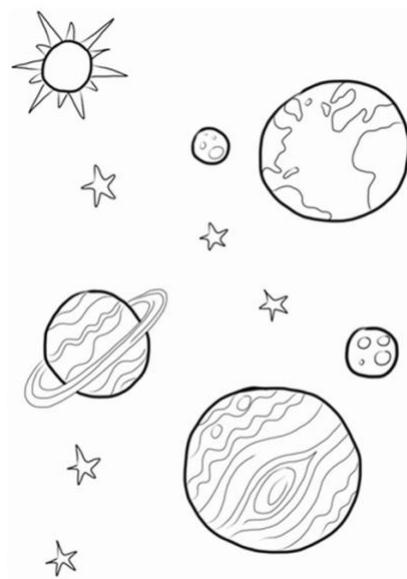
Introduction

It's been a pleasure to work with students at John Jay High School of Law. For this residency we had a thematic focus on oppression and liberation, exploring the voices of those who have been oppressed while also exploring spaces of liberation. We read and discussed the exhilarating and thought-provoking work of a diverse range of poets such as Frank O'Hara, Langston Hughes, Jericho Brown, Gwendolyn Brooks, Natalie Diaz, danez smith, Frank Stanford, Ruth Stone, Pablo Neruda, and Sjohnna McCray. Through lunes, odes, manifestos and free verse, as well as a concentrated focus on metaphor and theme, we examined the power of wordsmiths to make change. We discovered that a road to liberation can be paved with words – we can create the change we want to see in the world, and in fact, we must. We can make the world more meaningful, more beautiful, and more just by, for a start, using our imaginations and being brave.

I want to thank Principal Glauner, Assistant Principal Shtyrkalo and Mr. Joyce for welcoming me into your school to work with your students. I also want to thank Mr. Strong and Ms. Chairman.

Lastly, thank you and congratulations to all of the participating students. I'm very pleased with the work you created during our time together. We began every class session with a call and response. "I have a voice, my voice is powerful, my voice can change the world!" More than ever, I have faith that your voices can change the world for the better.

Amina Henry



**1st Period
Manifesto**

Nothing is easy. Don't be afraid to say your opinion.

Have fun, but work hard!

Don't let the system control you. Be your own person.

We believe that nobody has the answer for everything.

We believe the world is unfair and unjust.

We also believe that we are evolving for the better.

The world is full of different opportunities.

We don't know if the U.S. is the land of the free.

We want to live in an equal and fair world. We want to live in a world of clean air.

We will put our differences aside and speak out.

We will treat everyone equally.

We will do little things in the hopes of changing big things.

**2nd Period
Manifesto**

Racism is still present. The justice system is unfair.

Life is a game – you have to go through things to get to the next level.

We believe in equality.

We believe the world is messed up – kids dying, pollution, global warming, violence, racism, guns, hate, fear.

We want to live in a world of peace and happiness.

We want a world of equality and power.

Equal privileges for everyone!

We will protest.

We will treat people the way we want to be treated, with respect and kindness.

Listen more.

Respect more.

Smile more.

4th Period Manifesto

Here's what we know: the world is not perfect, or fair. There are bad people in it – and good people, too.

The government keeps secrets.

We want to live in a world with no:

Murder

Diseases

Crimes

Injustice

Poverty

Hunger

War

We want peace and justice.

We reject homophobia.

We embrace being nice.

We embrace peace.

Always do what you believe in.

Educate yourself.

Choose the right path.

March.

5th Period Manifesto

This is what we know for sure: Things are better than in the past, but we still have work to do.

White people have more privileges than others, still.

Police brutality exists, still.

War, still.

Violence, still.

Most people below the poverty line are minorities.

We want a world without:

Racism

Gentrification

Violence

Sexism

Famine

Judgement

We want sensitivity, empathy, fair and understanding justice, open hearts and open minds.

We pledge to be aware.

Be kind.

Be patient.

Be understanding.

Be strong.

**7th Period
Manifesto**

This is what we know: We have more rights than in the past, but discrimination and inequality remains.

People of color pay a greater price for mistakes.

Racism exists. Sexism exists.

We've come a long way. We believe there's less discrimination. People of all colors can be friends. Not everyone believes this, but we do.

We want a world where no one is judged by looks. And no police brutality.

We believe in empathy.

We believe everyone's life has value.

Be social.

Invest in communities.

Interact with everyone.

Move on from whatever holds you back.

Naphtali Actie

Ode to PS4

O lively PS4, the first thing I look for when I come through the door
As good as a million dollars
Dust all over
Still beautiful as any flower
Honeybees go flying over
A flower that will never wilt
A sun that doesn't set
The brightest thing in the darkness
Made out of invaluable white gold
A holy door, a utopia
Made out of basketball courts
And a map bigger than any other
With weapons all over
What makes you fun?
We will never understand where you come from
Somewhere beyond here at last

Markayla Adams

Trump's Era

Cop searching woman
Pink, blue shirt, gray suit
The baby's crying

USA cop car
Mommy's getting searched, baby crying
Separation is possible

Mom's probably nervous
Baby might not see mom
We're not welcomed

Castaway

On a river
Family depressed on a rock
On a river

Momma's thinking hard
On a rock, stuck her
Need an idea

Trees and rivers
Rocks sit under my family
Stuck here long

Butterfly

I am a butterfly
I have blue wings
I flap around the flower
Truly unbothered
Sometimes the humans swat me
Away
Disturbing my eternal peace
But I just keep going throughout
My day
Because it doesn't bother me

Daydream

I've left Earth
The sky is blue
Under my feet is green
I hear sweet melodies like Mariah Carey
I smell pepperoni pizza
I'm no longer affected by the things that worry
me so much

I've left slavery and World War II
And all the people of the world
I miss my momma, though.
This new place is a diamond in the rough.

Ode to My Hair

O luxurious hair!
You are so special
You are so beautiful with your longevity

How fast you grow
The times you get a trim
Thank you for pulling through every time

You are as straight as a pole
Also as round as a cloud
Whoosh, the sound I imagine
As I whip you with my hand

Thank you for making me pretty
Setting me apart from most females my age
Who wear extensions
For making me unique
Thank you
You are the road to beauty

Without you, I'd be bald headed
I'd have a big round head
I'd lose my pride
I'm have nothing to be proud of
No self-esteem, nothing
So thank you

Kindness Manifesto

Here's what we know: school sets us for our adult life. We cannot run away from our adult life. Neither can we escape school. Therefore, treat those with respect who are:
darker than you, lighter than you, smaller than you, bigger than you, smarter than you, less fortunate than you, unique to you, weird to you, ugly to you, stupid to you, weak to you, stronger than you, those without new shoes, those who bully others, those who talk behind your back, and the boy who laughed at your hair.

Be kind to everyone. Make school a pleasant experience for all

Kevin Aguilar

I Am A Boy

I am a boy who goes to school
I am a boy who brings chicken to school
I am a boy who is Hispanic
I am a boy who shares
I am a boy who shares the dream with others
I am a boy who is very considerate
I am a boy whose name is Kevin
I don't know who I am
I don't know what my purpose is
I don't know where I am
This is not my America
This is not my true dream
This is not the way
I don't know what America is

Lost

Lost in despair
The reflection in the water
Surrounded by trees

Families stay together
On top of the rocks
The mid tone

Gone to Another Place

I've left Earth in search of a better world. The new world has advanced technology. I've included the history of the birth of the universe and keep all information accessible to everyone. Everyone is free to do what they want. Everyone will have a farm, no taxes, just re-growing. Everyone lives equally with no ruler among everyone. The farm is the way to eat and technology can be used to make agriculture easy. There are no weapons of any kind. This new place is the flip side of a coin.

Ode to Sandwich

O sandwich
You are so special
Your precious pickles
Your tasty tomatoes
Your brave bread and your awesome ham
With the taste from the Pepsi next to you
Without you, I would starve

Sabrina Alexander

Police Work

A baby crying
A police car behind her
Face turning red

Arm on car
Standing in a straight line
Getting searched steadily

Dirty green shoes
Cop wearing pretty shiny watch
Wearing blue gloves

Lazy Day

Pregnant lady sitting
Character posters on the wall
Fan blowing man

Man lying down
Wearing blue shorts, watching something
Remote in hand

Blue butterflies everywhere
People wondering what's happening next
Calmly waiting, wondering

Anger and Friendship

Anger is a ghost with an opening
Letting other little shadows in
Friendship is getting your wings
Sewn on by bears

Loyalty

I've left Earth. No smells of bums, no fake people hiding behind the robe of your "friend". No rigged presidential elections or wars with millions of people's blood spilled. The way people are is infuriating, I would like to be alone, all by myself.

Ode to Money

You come and go every day
I look forward to seeing you every day
Green and frail but very valuable
You're with me everywhere I go
I never want to lose you
Without you, my world is empty
Sharing you is annoying
I can't get enough of you
Without you, I'd be like SpongeBob without his pineapple
So thank you

Dejah Alleyne

Possibilities of Life

A child with a child

Could it be her baby?

Or could she be trying to find a better life with her sibling?

Stress, stress, stress

Wondering where her next meal could be

Coming from

What happened?

Where are your parents?

Probably wanting to give up

Dark place

With garbage and fences around

School

Frustration is sitting in this class and not being able to leave

Full of different personalities, it resembles a zoo

Feeling like I need to get out!

Manifesto

We all know this is a white man's world, where they have a head start and we're left behind, but we always find a way. I want us all as black people to come together, read, and understand what's going on and find ways to beat the white man's system. We need to stand up as one and know our worth. We definitely want to put an end to an unfair government, racism, gentrification, poverty and unnecessary war. We want a world with peace, love and justice. Until them, we'll be strong and march on!

Happy Place

I've left Earth and left behind everything. People, pet peeves, things I hate or dislike. More like EVERYTHING. This new place is everything positive in a nutshell. My favorite foods, colors, hobbies. A world of peace and happiness. Air smells like warm homemade cookies. Beautiful warmth with a slightly cold breeze. Nice and sunny. No crime. No troubles. Just me and my loved ones. Literally nothing to worry about, but myself.

Ode to Sleep

O sweet sleep

So beautiful and mystical

O how I love your peacefulness

Allowing me to lay so comfortable

And imagine myself in a different world

I can do everything I don't in the real world and constantly be happy

Without you, I'd be drained and grumpy

Thanks for being you!

Shaniqua Alleyne

I Am Beyonce

I am the queen but not of the country

But my hive

I am a mother of three who sings all over the world

To provide for me and my family

I live, sleep, breathe music because it's a part of me

Scared

Crying little child

Tire marks on the floor

Very dark sky

A scared child

Woman's hand on the car

Legs spread apart

Gray police uniform

Three pairs of different feet

White police car

The Feature of the World

Faith is people in the ocean waving and hollering for help

Beauty is the burning ship next to the setting sun

Wisdom is like the cross risen to the sky

Chaos are the flying creatures surrounding a horse

Ode to Bed

O bed! You're all I think about

The plumpness of your body helps one sleep at night

The counting of the sheep is what I dream about

When the sun comes up, I know it's almost time to

Depart from the comfiness

The Beautiful Calm River

Dear Older Self,

This scenery reminds me of your beautiful face.

The calm water represents your most days mood.

Michael Aminov

Change Our Ways

I believe the world is terrible

All we do is take
We take land
We take lives
We even take
Jobs

Anger

Anger is
A lot of
Black
And
smoke

Justin Andrew

Meek Mills

my father was shot and murdered when I was five years old and it left me traumatized. being in and out of prison making my mama cry. i was just trying to put food on my plate and survive. while trying not to get murdered and become a homicide. police pulled me over for popping a wheelie, they lied and said i drew on a cop, i didn't, but no one believed me

Protest

An angry crowd
Black man screaming at police
Is this justice?

Someone is screaming
The police look very serious
Only one person

Police shield, armor
Black lives matter angry protesters
Labeled as threats

Jaheim Antoine

Dream Dream Dream

I am a dreamer
I am the young black man that wants to be in the NBA
I am the young Hispanic that wants to be in the MLB
I am the young dreamer that can never be
I can be this dreamer if America lets it be
These are the dreams that never sleep

The Struggle

Sun is down
The highway over people's heads
While they shower

Adults are thinking
Kids are doing the cleaning
Babies are sleeping

Out in nature
Not for fun happy times
Struggle is real

Energy

Energy is peoples
Dancing
Energy is birds chirping
And flying

Love

Love is black girls double ditching
On the Golden Gate bridge

Letter to Me

The real world is not all it's cracked up to be. Don't rush your young life. Your time will come.

A Whole New World

I've left Earth
Not only seeking a new world
But to find a new life
To leave behind horrible people
Killer and drug dealers
To leave behind massacres
The slavery and inequality
This new place is
A world where everyone is free
A place where everyone loves basketball
It is free to do whatever you want
It feels like you are walking on clouds
The sun is always shining and birds are
Always singing

Ode to Basketball

O basketball
You are so strong and bouncy
You are like my girlfriend
My heart and soul
And when I shoot my shot I never miss
You are my motivation
My way to the top
When I'm with you, we are in our own world
Without you, I don't know
What I would do

Over the Horizon

Dear Big Brother Jay,
I'm in Republica Dominicana. The sunset is beautiful here. The ocean hits the shore and coconuts fall from trees. I remember one day walking home from the park with you. It was the first time I ever beat you one on one. I was so happy. You remind me of the coconuts falling here, like when I dropped you.

Theresa Ayres

Postcard

Sand between my toes
Crystal blue waters as far as
The eyes can see
There's room in a hammock for
You and me
A little throwback R&B?
Or even an old-fashioned home-cooked meal from grandma?
Please
I wish, I wish, and wish you could spend more time with me
This is such a beautiful place, what a sight to see
I bet you would've loved it, Dominicana
It even has your favorite coconut trees

Alphioumar (Alpha) Bah

gone
Looks at sky
Wondering what went wrong here
Help on way

Death is here
No one can save me
Just take me

While you look
I have already gone away
Save yourself, go

Democracy

Democracy is like a man painting a picture
Without fear of arrest
Without democracy, that would be oppression
Why shall we oppress each other instead of
Striving for peace?
Why shall we cause fear instead of friendships?
Chaos runs in this society that we call a democracy;
It is this society that represents freedom
When will the people rebel and how long?
Cause the beauty of democracy is the
Strength and courage is builds in people

My New Place

My new place, it's brand new
Without the sin and scars of the past
Today this ends, cause I'm forgiving
What I've done for my new place

Dear Santo Domingo

Thanks for having me over there, bro.
I still remember the smell of culture and differences in the air.
The soothing sound of car horns and yelling mothers.
Remember when we went to that crazy hotel?

Justin Balhouse

Ode to Summer

O Summer

You are so bright and fun

The greatest season of them all

Time to sit back and relax until sunset calls

The time of the year to go for a swim and relax

O summer, you are so beautiful and sunny

With you the only other thing I need is money

Summer, your sun and breeze makes me think wow and

You're so yummy

Summer, without you my life would be so bummy

O summer, I wish you'd come again fast and not leave my side

Because I like how it's so sunny

Postcard

Dear Mom,

I am in the Dominican Republic and the sound of the leaves swaying on the trees is relaxing. The sound of the water and breeze is soothing. The nice smooth sand between my toes. I am on this nice sandy beach at sunrise with nice palm trees. I lay on my hammock. This reminds me of when we were in Hawaii surfing. The scenery is just so nice and relaxing. A nice glass of lemonade for the heat while I kick back and relax on this beach. I am living the life on paradise.

See you soon, when I get back.

Delano Ballantyne

Imprisoned Freedom

Sign political prisoners
Imprisoned sister whom should be
Freed. Free us.

Black Empowerment

Black empowerment logo
Women's liberation rally faces
Black faces everywhere.

Sight

Trees, shoes, faces
Afro, glasses, teeth
A smile, happy

New Life

I've left Earth. I've left behind liars, criminals and sinning. I'm in search of honesty, loyalty and royalty.

Ode to Hair

O hair
You are so beautiful
Without you, there's no beauty in me
Black, smooth, soft hair
Without you, I'm flustered
Lost and ugly

Where Is Here?

I don't wanna be here
Success is here?
Here, why am I there?
I have a fear that if I'm not here
I will be there
Or will I end up nowhere?
But I'm here
So does that mean I'm there?

Joshua Baptiste

Lost Boy

A colored wall
Doesn't know where to go
A confused boy

Black on wall
Graffiti paints on the walls
In one direction

There are numbers
It looks like an equation
Equation of life

Sparks Become Fire

Tension in air
Everyone is on the edge
Sparks become fire

Shields at ready
The soldiers hold them steady
Protest for rights

Fight for rights
They all want to fight
Going toward light

Red Seeing Red

Anger is a red tower reflecting the sun
On its surface
A tower under pressure
To collapse

I Left Earth

I've left Earth, far away. Never again see the city at night or the countryside day.
But this was the only way. Considering the condition the world is in today. The price my ancestors had to pay. Imperialists taking Africans from their homes because they said they couldn't stay. Human nature to constantly destroy. Violence, suffering, happiness and pain, the things this world portrays.

I've left Earth, far away. Never again see the city at night or in the day. But this was the only way. Considering the condition to world is in today. The price my ancestors had to pay. Imperialist taking Africans from their home because they said they couldn't stay.

Neon City

The light reflects on the water
Light that is dim in the day
The light that is bright at night
A city that doesn't sleep
Cars passing through the street
The water looks so clean
It looks like a star on every tower
Reminds me of the time I was in the city
So much light inside me and out
A light everywhere you go

Gabrielle Bardouille

Ms. Vivian

I am brave

I am an independent black woman
Who doesn't care what anyone has to say
I sleep at night and pray
To wake up in the morning
I thank God I got to see
My kid grow up and get married
I'm proud to see the steps of my
Brothers and sisters becoming free
I am proud to be me
But when God calls for me
I will actually be free

America

I am an American teenage girl who lives in Brooklyn
I am the debatable girl who loves pizza
And the sound of the rain
I am a future lawyer
Who helps people with their rights
I am the girl to get
Good grades
To make my parents proud

Ode to My Honey

O Honey, you are so sweet
Yet so fluffy
With your grey hair and sleepy eyes
With your cute, small, chocolate paws
With your sad look when I leave
You are such a soft cotton ball
Without you, I am not me

Peaceful Sunny Day

Dear Prissy,

On a boat with the beautiful sun, calm waters
The sun is about to set along the river
The beautiful flowers glisten against the sun
The time I felt about going on my first cruise
Is the time I feel now

Nathon Bess

Inferior

The police brutality
Shows there will be no escape
But chaos awaits

Chaos

Patience is gone
Aggression awaits when violence tries
To derail justice

The word *police*
Blocks the meaning of laws
To show freedom

Dreams Await

Joy is arrows that
Point out
Nature

Wonderland

The river reminds me of me in Trinidad with my family.
The river shows me a place where I used to go to get away from drama and to relieve my stress.
The river shows me how to correspond to my real problems.

Cecily Blackwell

Racism

Argue, fight, believe
Police, white, black, crowd, shields
Racism, helmets, community

I argue, I fight. I believe in my community.

The police, white
They have their shields and
The black person stands up
Before the crowd

Cops are racism
To the community and they
Have their helmets to protect them

Freedom

Freedom is living life
Freedom is listening to music
Freedom is having fun
Freedom is being happy and smiling
Freedom is dancing in the sun
Freedom is energy

Ode to Cantaloupe

O cantaloupe, you are so round
You taste so sweet
You are so orange
You're the full moon
But then you are shaped like a crescent
I love to eat you
When I take the seeds out, you remind me of a smile

Free

Dear Jamaica,
You look so beautiful
You look so breathtaking
You look free, you are so colorful
Your flag brings out the best of you
The trees are growing and the water looks clean

Kimberly Braithwaite

America

America is to me, not free
It's crooked, depressing and far from its advertising word
Free
“The land of opportunity” should be “the land of greed”
This land right here isn't for me

Fear

She's very scared
This mom is being searched
She's lonely, hurt

That's my mom
Where are we gonna go?
What's your name?

Should I answer or just run away?

Ode to My Bed

You are comfy like a couch
With your vibrant pink sheets
And your matte brown blanket
Light sound as I place my head
Light poofs like a bubble being popped ahead
When I get outta of bed
I wanna run back and rest my head
Without you, bed
I feel dead

Dear Me

America isn't free, especially for people like me.
Here's what I know for sure.
We're black.
Our hair is thick and curly, soft to the touch and poofy like a cloud.

Jeudy Brito

Not a Poem, A Place

This is not a poem, just a place I would like to be. I would leave the Holocaust behind, including Hitler. It would probably change the way people view other races in a good way. I would put a lot of jungles in my world, but with less dangerous animals. I would put a secret chest somewhere and whoever found it would find designer clothes, each item worth millions. The only rule I would make is no killing. That would be bad. I only want peace in my world. This might sound so childish but it was a dream of mine when I was small, for everyone to have pet dinosaurs.

Ode to Chair

O chair, without you I would never be able to relax and just sit. I could sit on the floor but there is something about you, chair, that just feels nice and warm. It's very comfortable sitting on you, chair. You help my mind think more because when I'm hot, worried, I sit on a chair and you reveal all my stress. O chair, there will never be something as simple as you, or as special.

Love

Love is always in my mind
It feels beautiful and kind
This might be cheesy but I will really
Do anything for love
I just love love
That's what I feel about love

Shani Butler

Lost

They look depressed
Gathered around this weird lake
Nowhere to go

This is nature
Four children and five adults
Sitting on rock

So many trees
The lake is so dirty
Looks so disturbed

Friends!

Friendship is like a roller coaster you've never
been on before
You don't know what to expect
It can either be the best thing you've ever
done
Or it can traumatize you

Mom

I am strong, I
Am independent
And I don't wear
My problems on my
Back. I work hard
To provide for my
Family and will do
Anything for my kids.
We live in a dark
World so you have to be
Aware of it at all time. I
Am a soldier who fought
Many obstacles but never
Gave up. You have to take
Care of yourself because
Nobody will do it for
You. Being kind can
Kill you so you have to
Set up a barrier. This
Is what I learned to do.
Hope my dream comes through.

Ode to Carnival

O carnival
You make me so
happy
You been around
through thick
and thin
You make me
feel like a little
kid that just got
ice cream
The love I have
for music and
costumes makes
you so undeniable
I travel all around
the world just to
be with you and
have a different
experience every time
Without you, I will die

Tiana Carr

Beauty

Beauty is a woman represented as a sun feeding the moon

Beauty is sitting in front of a big gray moon

An angel trying to fix her wings

In a room full of color

With a background full of darkness

Jaden Chery

African Women

Three black women
Staring at them in amazement
Serious looking pose

African black girls
Poorly painted walls, small house
Three pink dresses

Showing off culture
Traditional clothes

Love Story

Sadness is the girl controlling the guy
What is a relationship without happiness?
All is causes is fiery rage
What is loyalty without love?

Astro World

I've left Earth. I have left behind the nasty smell of garbage. I've left pollution because there was no solution. I've left behind the terrible past where people get hurt, get killed and get left. In the new world, everyone has a blast. I'm looking for happiness all around.

Ode to Sleep

O great sleep
You are so beautiful
You are the best
I look forward to you
Every afternoon and night
You take away all the stress
Make me care less
Life without you would be trash
The day goes by so fast

Onima Choity

Mom and Dad

I am a hardworking woman
I am a man that does anything for my family
I am a woman who never has time
I am a mother and a father that sacrifice
Just like America
I am two parents that never sleep

A Black Hole

I've left Earth
I've entered a world
Without slavery, without racism
People don't judge others
Violence does not occur
I've entered a world
In search of peace, of love
I've entered a world
So beautiful
With kids from different races getting along
Men and women wouldn't judge each other
Equal privileges
And equal rights
In this new world
I bring my niece
Her smile and her dimples
Make this new world perfect
This new world has people
That spread positivity
No crime rates
No type of drama
I've entered a world
That's a black hole
That leads to heaven

Ode to a Mango

You are so sweet and round
Yellow as a bumblebee
Sweet as honey
You're like the sun in a tree
Your seed is the backbone of the fruit
Round, hard
Holding the fruit together
O mango! You taste so good
When you're spiced up
When you're sliced up
There are not any other fruit as good as you
Without you
There's no sun for the tree

A Week Near the Beach

Dear Mom,
A week near the beach has been a blessing for me. I've been riding, riding sailboats and eating sweet mangos ever since I got here. The palm trees are as tall as the buildings back home in New York. The white sand and aqua blue water feels like heaven. All you need is a pillow and a blanket and it'll feel like you're just in bed. Remember that time we were eating spicy mangos from the cart in Coney Island? It feels just as great as that.
From Yours Truly, Onima

Iyssis Christie

Bedroom

Big round belly

The sheets are really smelly

More life coming

Vibrant den walls

No privacy is allowed here

Yet he lays

I'll just sit

He'll just lay real still

I will stay

Love

Love is skin deep

Love is Sandy Lou finding her sheep

Love is a maze, you might fall in a cave

Love is being afraid but still taking chances

Love has gotten you out of the cave and you're safe

Ode to My Bed

You are the cushion that holds up my restless body at night

I think about you through my happiest and loneliest days

Through all the despair that trickles down my face

And through all the smiles that I smile from ear to ear

Bed, you are the only reason to wake and sleep

The only reason I don't want to wake

Just so I can lay on this cushion day after day

And hour after hour

I've Left Earth

I've left Earth. I've left Earth mentally. I've brought a suitcase filled with love, family and hope. I've left behind the hatred, the cauliflower, the disgusting pollution and the immature human beings who speak not from understanding but just to hear themselves speak.

Kayla Claudio

Little Girl

A pink shirt
Contrasts her saddened, blue face
Frail and afraid

A family drifting
Worry written on their faces
Searching for hope

An infinite wasteland
Plastic bags for miles where
The boy rests

A little girl
Torn from her mother's arms
Where to go?

Pink

I used to despise pink when I was younger because it was a "girly" color and I was surrounded by an environment where being a girl meant you were weak: elementary. Now, pink is half my wardrobe. Pink is such an interesting color; back in the 1950s pink was a "boy's" color because pink is a strong and bold color. Though it is now a "girl's" color, that meaning of strength and boldness stays. Because women are strong.

Beauty

Beauty is dull patches of grass and flowers growing
Where sunlight hits it
It is the melody of laughter you hear
After a cheesy joke
It is the sparkle of tears running down someone's cheek
During the happiest moment of their life
It is the heart-wrenching cry you hear when a child
Takes their first breath
It is the red dress adorned with jewels
As she dances the night away
It is thick hair matted with leaves and sticks

After an afternoon of playing
It is the whistle of the wind and songs of the birds
As you admire nature
It is the honking of horns and curses of people on the street
During a traffic jam
It is the look of her bare face
After a long day
Beauty is endless

Ode to Bean

O benevolent bean
You are my favorite smile
Your curvy posture brings me happiness
Green, brown, red, black
Colorful in both complexion and flavor
The perfect partner with my arroz con pollo
The joy to my abuela's famous soup
So fragile and small
Yet valuable as a gold nugget
Your soft texture sings symphonies to my taste buds
Though you bring me terror in the bathroom
Nothing can compare to you, bean

Blue Skies

Dear Grandma,
The sky is just as blue as it was when we were here
Laying on the warm sand
You didn't like the harsh sun, so you sat under the umbrella
But I let myself bask in all of its glory, so bright
That I could almost see heaven's gates and
The glittering water reflecting the never-ending sky
I wish our time here was never-ending
But I can still feel the brightness of the sun when
You welcome me with your blinding smile

Ezekiel Clementson

Sun

The sun is
out. Many people look on.
Cops with shields.

Lady

A long-haired lady
Black and tall with glasses
Sad and afraid

A New Place

I left the earth and my haters behind. I've left the smell of onions behind. I've left slavery behind. The new place looks like heaven. I see a lot of people and I hear a lot of positive energy. I got this new place by working hard. The rules are don't touch nothing that don't belong to you. I brought my parents with me to this new place.

Ode to 2K

O 2K
You are my life
You can be annoying at times
You try hard and made me who I am today
O 2K, you make me powerful
I cannot be stop

Annissa Connell

Pink Room

Love surrounds us
We really struggle at times
It's all love

A pink room
Black fan blows air out
Posters, pregnant, pink

TV blazes sound
Man I don't need around
God, what now?

Family

Family is children and parents
Eating Trinidadian food

Ode to Sleep

A peaceful getaway
My imagination's best friend
Sleep is like a complete shut down
Making me a charging station
When I think of sleep I hear white noise
Swoosh swoosh
Without sleep, there would be
So much more anger and brain crashes

Blue Pools

There's a sea full of blue pools in front of me and
all I can think of is you, grandma.
I miss laying on your couch
listening to your stories while you cook.
I can almost smell your fried bake from here. I
can see you piling a plate high with pancakes and me giddily pouring on syrup.

Manifesto: Life

Here's what I know for sure. There are constantly news headlines with another person's child gone. I no longer believe that this government is working to protect me. I want to live in a world where my body is my body. Where a decision made in my life isn't a crime in the state of Alabama. Where my fellow brothers and sisters don't fear police. Where we don't kill each other for the streets that don't care about us.

Tyrell Copeland

Manifesto

What I know for sure.

The world is really free.

What I know for sure.

Love can solve any problem.

What I know for sure.

Your last breath will be your most memorable.

Ariana Cruz

Refugees

Captivated by gates
Wires grown high to prevent
The climbing of our kind
Razors would prick if touched

Short, black hair
Sweater dirty and old
Hands covered in dirt
A blanket for little brother

Refugee, refugee, die-fugee
A little girl shouldn't be here
Refugee, refugee, refugee
A girl craves for her home

Family is gone
Separated at the high wires
Brother is one out of eight
Only one left

Migrants

Rivers flowing gently
Seeking a new way of life
Family of eight
Will they survive?

Clothes colorfully ripped
Yawns caused by sleep deprivation
Citizens swimming freely
To reach the border of new

Illegally viewed together
Worried isn't the word
It's more than anxiety inside
They ponder

On a rock they think
Struggling for salvation
The American Dream is the goal
There they go

Peace

Peace is the wind flowing past a dress
As a girl sits on a cliff
Nails dented into a face send tingles down
spines
It feels so divine
Peace sounds like the drips of pain hitting a
paper
Humming birds hum from the burnt of their
wings
Peace smells like three teddy bears
Peace looks like angelic wings coming
together
Peace is the silence in a world falling apart
Puzzle pieces of trees cannot be replaced
Peace is the look on your face

Fear

Fear is the sharpening pain of nails in a
body
The silence of sitting at a generic desk
Holding a red balloon and waiting for it to
pop
Fear is a medal rod holding your head strait
The world doesn't need you to turn your
head
Fear creeps onto the walls and affects the
anxiety
of the girl sitting on the cliff who may fall
or jump

Ode to Juice

O flavor of wonders, you take me down a
sugary road
Juice like Arizona and Snapple
You're filled with diabetes and calories
galore
I choose you over soda
You're worth way more
Life without you is a plain watery sadness

Janeciah Cunningham

Black Brutality

Police looking over
Not on the ground, dead
Or alive, depressing

This is eye-opening
Sad, having a hard life
Stuck on ground

Surprised looking over
The man sitting still on
The ground alone

Happiness is the Best

Happiness is a bunch of men and women
Dancing on a checkered floor
Love is having your family and friends
around
To enjoy a nice meal
Happiness is your little sister graduating
From elementary school
Courage is standing up to the school bully
Peace is laying in bed after a long day of
school
Family is having trust in someone who is
Important in your life

Paradise

Dear Mom,
As I stand near the waterfall wondering
what to do, I am surrounded by people who
seem very happy. In Jamaica it is beautiful,
everyone is so nice. I have been cliff
jumping and it was so exciting. The weather
is beautiful, hot in the day, cool in the night.
I want to stay in Jamaica forever.

Going to a New Place

I've left Earth in search of a better world. I
am looking through the galaxy for a world
where there is no racism and everyone
works hard equally. Everyone is equal and
has equal opportunities. A world where
women aren't fat shamed and can have the
same job as a man. I want a world where
we aren't afraid of cops and can actually be
protected and not killed by them. I've left
this Earth to seek a place where there is
food for everyone and no one is starving or
homeless. A place where everyone has
whatever they want, either their favorite
foods or their favorite place. I seek a place
where it's never cold, only hot, so you don't
have to wear coats and instead wear shorts
and dresses. I've finally found a new Earth.
It's a field with bright colors. I have my
closest friend and family here. Everyone
gets along and we have no worries.
Everyone has a really good job so that they
can provide for family. Everyone has nice
big houses and whatever car they want.
Everyone is happy and grateful for where
they are in this new Earth. There is no
violence in this new Earth. There is no
arguing and everyone, and I mean
everyone, is HAPPY.

Jeylin De La Cruz

The Unknown
Writing on the
Wall, seeing what is unknown
Nobody understands me

A white wall
I am not writing anything
I am bored

I'm thinking hard
I cannot see the truth
Dream was real

Peace in the Middle

I've left Earth. I've left racism. I've left war. I've left Earth in search of a world with peace and equality. A place with no unjust treatment, a place where everybody can love themselves and others. A place where people are not overcome with ego and stay true to themselves.

Tamir Deflorimonte

States of Being

Chaos is jumping rope on a bridge
Energy is a group of birds flying together in sync
Love is the result of being a big sister
Loyalty is a pack of magnets
Faith is floating in the ocean alone

A New Place

I've left Earth to find freedom. Peace, as well. This new place is magical. It feels like spring every day and it's colorful. Everyone here is my people. They deserve to be here. We've left behind stress, violence, insecurities and anything that held us back from being great. We can breathe here. There is no racism here. We won't ever have to worry here. This magical place is an arcade. Free to play, shout, run and be free here. I've left those nasty tomatoes on Earth. They cannot grow in my garden of greatness. As you walk through this magical place, you hear the faint laughs of kids. In this magical place, kids can be kids. My people are happy in this magical place. We've left Earth and are never returning. We finally have a place that we can call ours.
And it's magical.

Ode to Makeup Palette

O vibrant palette
You are so fun
Your colors are eye candy
So tasty, so sweet
I admire you! My best friend
You are the perfect teenage fantasy
The perfect one for me at least
Your texture is a butter roll in my mouth
You are my eye instead
You complete me
You have never let me down
You make me so relaxed
You're ice cream on a hot day
Coffee in the morning
And a nice hot bath at night
Without you, I have no life
Without you, I cannot breathe
Without you, there would be no "That lil make-up girl"
And she is a queen
All because of you, best friend

Carleny Dela Cruz

Girl
Girl barbed wire
Blanket angry stare black sleep
Agrigo bufanda cabello

Hope

Hope is the color yellow
and a horse
and a bird
Hope is I am going to have a cute future
Be a flight attendant
Have a family

Walking

Siempre que me levanto camino
a la escuela despues voy a la bodega compro
pan con cheese y jugo con takin
y despues miro como amanecio el dia.

Republic Dominican

La playa son Hermosa el dima en caierte toda persona viven feliz me encata caminar por los campo escuchado los animal la comida son sabrosa en la noche se disfruta mucho ponon musica la fruta son sabrosa.

Fabion Dennis

Protest

Depression, guns, alone

No one by his side

He stood alone

She kept calm

Heavy armor cuffs female crowd

Watch without helping

Crowd of guards

Shields black woman with no

Attitude during incarceration

Kayla Draghine

Protest

Attempts peaceful protest
No retaliation against their force
Girl meets reality

Officers want control
Woman wants to obstruct injustice
Cops, community, catastrophe

She is detained
The world makes her insane
Keep on going

Mental Utopia

I've left Earth. Not physically, but mentally. I've left the trauma of witnessing my loved ones get put six feet under, whether it be from sickness, suicide or homicide. I have left the taste of pork, steak and chocolate. I have left the smell that hits your nose when you step outside in New York. There's pollution everywhere and foods that taste great but are designed to kill you. I leave the people who participate in mass shootings and homicides. I leave the horrific images of those who have been raped or sexually assaulted. This new place is a caterpillar who has become a beautiful butterfly. This new place has no segregation or racism. This new place is a beautiful utopia with no pollution where people don't smoke cigarettes or do harmful drugs. It has love in the atmosphere and people actually walk out of their houses and say "Good morning" to their neighbors. This new place has no guns so that gun violence is not even a concern because nobody has any. I've brought my family and anybody that wants the same opportunities as me so that we can all succeed. You get to this new place by leaving Earth mentally, not physically, because if everyone had this mindset, things would be much different.

Ode to My Phenomenal Phone!

O phenomenal phone. So bright and red. I could use you until I die. You are my joy when nobody is around. My light when there is nothing but darkness. I love that when my MacBook dies you stay alive. You are full of life and fun. You keep me occupied when I am bored. I love when you help me avoid talking to people by talking to you. Without you, I would not be sane.

Bright Lights At Night

Dear Mom,

As I relax on this terrace and look around in the atmosphere, all I can think about is you being here. This city is so beautiful, not at all cliché. This city reminds me of you, so bright and full of life. As the sun sets, the lights come on... such a beautiful night life. The colors are so warm it reminds me of your smile. I can't wait to see you soon, Love, your amazing child

Jair Dryce Harrison

A Walk

I look out of the window
Which is dirty
Full of happiness as I see
The diversity in my school
Yet the American
Flag is right
Above me, reminding me that
We weren't always like this
I move and continue
My walk
I see lockers that remind me
Of the way African Americans are
Locked up physically in society
And mentally
Is this
truly
the land
of the free?

Protest

Black lives matter
In the background there are
No black lives

Locked away forever
By the white man's chain
Do we matter?

Martin Luther King
What did you die for?
They never changed!

Grandmother

I am a senior citizen
I pay \$1.35 for the bus
I am the shadow of my church
I am the sunlight to a dark day
I am a woman

Courage and Freedom

Courage is the ability to not look normal
But hold your head up even with a snake
hairstyle
Freedom is the ability to drink water from a
water fountain
For black and white
Find the strength to not be normal
To have the courage to stand up tall
Or the strength to drink as much water as
you want
Even with the non-colors behind you

Ode to Play Station

O Play Station, you are a wall
That blocks me from work
You are so patient and never complain
You make me feel supernatural
You are so faithful
You don't talk about me, like to me, or
betray me
Your X marks the spot
Your triangle is like a fresh pizza
Your square reminds me of a box where I
feel free
Your O reminds me of the sunlight when I
am in a dark place
Without you, there will be longer days

Dionis Duncan

Going for a Walk

I go for a walk to see the colorful paper
Reading books so my mind can wander
I look up and see a colored flag
The sun is bright light
A tree flowing in the wind
The smell of food wakes me up
I feel my heart beating like a drum
when I just stand
still

Ode to Food

O food, I need you every day!
You are what I need day and night
You help me get through the day
You are like gum with lasting taste
Crunch crunch!
Without you, I couldn't get through the day
Literally

Ode to Phone

O phone, you keep me in order
If I was to lose you, I'd lose myself
You are like a brick that can't break
You are a piece of us

Amber Feliciano

America Is Different

America is supposed to be that land of dreams
America is the land of bipolars
I am a Puerto Rican
Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York
But still being born in America is not
What it seems
America was never really free
When I think about America
The first thought is money
The American flag is red, white and blue
It's supposed to represent the free
I am the granddaughter of Puerto Rican immigrants
They see me living the American "dream"

Dirty Boy

Sleeping little kid
Dirty mattress in the dump
Filth among him

Garbage surrounding mattress
Kid looks dirty and poor
Sleeping in garbage

Poor little boy

Little boy looks sick, cold,
Depressed and tired

A Future Place

I've left Earth. I've left behind ham. I've left behind the smell of mushrooms. I've left behind peppers. I've left behind the election of Donald Trump. I've left behind my mother and my brother. This new place is a big cube. This new place is a dime. This new place is a bean. This place is multicolored like rainbow. This new place looks like a studio, small, but bright. Nice silver refrigerator, nice silverware, and nice silver pots.

Ode to the Cruise

O big cruise ship!
You are amazing
You are a breeze in the ocean
Your horn reminds me of an alarm clock
That's right next to me
Without you, I could have fun
You rock side to side like a wave in the ocean
Your sunny days make me bright as I scream
Hurray!

Tropical Paradise

Dear Brittney,
We're on a tropical beach, palm trees in a sunset. The ocean breeze is like music flowing through your bones. When I see this I think of the song peace of love. It's like an island where you go and cheat with another person. The part where Destiny, the author, wrote what she gone do when she sees me with you. This reminds me of when we get together and have a good time talking about things when we're in our feelings.

Latesha Fellows

Lonely Little Girl

A young girl

Holding a baby looking sad

Life looking rough

Big metal fences

Barbed wires surround little kids

Girl's serious face

Cloudy dark sky

Hair not looking so good

Baby is tired

Tesha's New World

I've left Earth

Without my enemies and that sour taste

And that onion smell

The new place is a fresh area

This new place is full of candy

And dogs

It has no enemies

Sunny Beach Day

Dear Sister,

The sun is very bright. The palm trees move slowly back and forth. The waves running onto the beach bring the boat float. This reminds me of Florida with all this heat.

Destiny Foll

Three African Queens

Three African queens
Looking as flawless as Eve
Demanding all attention

Center of attention
Forming a swarm of admirers
Frozen in awe

Glistening in pink
Flowing like angels from above
Picture of perfection

Tough Life

Standing from above
I see some who has
Suffered great pains

He was cold
There was no pulse found
Drugs caught up

He was running
He thought he had time
But he didn't

Peace

Peace is a woman with her parrots
Smoking a cigarette
A woman who is unfazed by all the chaos
around her
Her environment is crazed
But she needs a smoke
She goes and unlocks all of the parrot cages
and
Sits in the room with her parrots
Smoking her cigarette

Ode to Boredom

O boredom!
You are like my own personal hell
You are undefeated
You evil mastermind!
You are the poison to my water
The poison to my life
You are so frustrating and dull
When it comes to whose worst you're #1
You make the world go standstill
You are a stagnation in my happiness
Without you, there is no value to joy

Who Is America?

Who is America?
When America was founded
We knew it was free
During slavery we knew it was equal
Now what do we know?
Do we know who is America?
Is it this massive land where
You come to be successful
You come to be free
You come to be you
You come to be me
Who is America?
Is it her
Is it him
Is it us
Is it them
Who is America?
I don't know
America isn't bold
America is a land that will never be great
Never be free
But will always be filled with hatred and
greed

Khalil Gelin

Hidden Figure

Little hooded girl
Hiding from nightmares and depression
Little hooded girl

Pen, paper, typewrite
Dreams come true for this
Dark, shady world

Frown on face
Smooth, cool, silky dark hair
Depression all around

Truth Be Told

Delight is the sun's reflection
Off the red tower

Chaos is being stabbed in the back
While playing the mandolin

Delight is dancing in a bright yellow orange
dress
While singing

Seeking Greatness

Two things I'd leave behind are police
brutality and poverty. Those two are what's
ruining our world right now. Two things I'm
in search of are better opportunities for
everyone and a no violence world.
Immigrants would no longer be looked at as
immigrants, they would be looked at as
people who seek another change.
Policemen would be severely punished if
they commit the act of police brutality.

Ode to Blue Puffy Vest

O blue puffy vest
You're beautiful!
You help me improve my outfit
You make me very warm during spring
Your color resembles the blue sky
Puff, puff and puff!
Padded like an armored vest
Light as a feather
I dive into you as if you're a pool
Without you, my days would be over
I'd have no soul!

Long Lasting Waterfall

Dear Ex,
I miss you so so so much. At times you're
annoying like the people in the water, but
at times you're as humble as the trees.
When I'm with you, you allow me to make
peace like the waterfall. You attempted to
play me like the kids tried to play with the
fish. We were once together but now we're
separate, like the sun and moon.

Michael Hammond

A New Place

I have left Earth to find a new life
Leaving all of my friends and family behind
Leaving all the good, delicious pizza and chicken behind
This place where you can be you and not be judged
For the things you do
This new place, is this place really true?
You can relax your feet, kick back and enjoy the view
You're not told what to do
You're just being you
This place is filled with healthy things and not
The smell of death chasing after you
No more slavery, no more being judged because of your color
I have left Earth to find a new life
In this place birds sing, there are even palm trees
Just like Miami

Postcards

Dear Momma,

The time in Jamaica, I spend the night by the waterfall. I can't forget about diamond or dad – it was like a real family. Peaceful, amazing 7½ inch trees. I can't forget about this moment. We were the image that people wanted. An area full of life.

Dear Sister,

Miami was amazing, playing on sand, running the wind, a lot of sea shells shaped like your chin. A lovely brother and sister moment. Fish were in the water, the sun blazing on my back. This was the life, the life I wanted for real.

Johnathan Harris

The World
A black male
He is screaming for equality
He is mad

They are human
Too. He is wearing a
Black jacket, protesting.

Happiness
Happiness is what some people need to
Be. Happiness is the key to having a good
Life. If you are not happy in life you
Won't live a good life.

I've Left Earth
I've left Earth to search for a better one and I found it.
I've left Earth and brought my friends and family.
I've left Earth and brought my game system with me.
The earth I'm now in is peaceful.
I've left Earth and the loud people behind.
The new earth I'm on looks better.
In my earth everyone will love each other.
On my earth, everybody is equal, unlike segregation.

Manifesto
I believe that the world can be better.
I believe that we don't have to kill each other to feel better about a situation.
I believe that we don't have to kill each other because we have different beliefs.
I believe that everyone should be treated the same.
I believe that we all should be equal.

Saqqara Henry

My Show

Will it succeed?
What will my baby become?
I like this show

Chaos

Chaos is a bin of mixed matched things that may
Or may not find their pair
Chaos is a flip of a coin that consists of no head
Chaos is the unfair game of flipping a coin
Morality's complication and peace
Tails, I win. Now you have to give up.

Ode to Paper

O inescapable, memorizing void
How you make me feel limitless
It is true that you intimidate with countless opportunities
I can present onto you, with your blank, gaping hole
Looking at me because "the eyes are the window to the soul"
Tattooed on you
The expectation of others
You are an escape or revelation for us all
They crumble up and drown not just your physical thing
But the thing they are afraid to face
You help us escape and you help keep me sane
You are my favorite lifeguard
You save me, allowing my mind to throw up
The thought that could have killed me
Without you, I wouldn't be here since you are
the only thing in the universe that allows me to be myself

Warm Light and Dark Colors: My Colorful Content

Limbo, Yaay! The sound of black cheery folk
Their voices bounce through the clear air
like an invisible beach ball
Two sources of bright yellow coming from two directions meeting my heart
The bright yellow, orange ball in the sky above
And the yellow maize-like sand on the ground
Splashes and children's laughter pops the bubble of dark, black and gray misery
The only dark colors we will accept here is the dark green and brown wrapped around houses
Feed for our loveable animals and interested in our existence
Look! You're missing its dances
We call it the Polynesian Sway of the Dancing Trees
We can take the dark gray clouds because in our houses we will
Relive this colorful content

I'm Hungry, I'm So Hungry

I am hungry
I'm hungry, not like vulture
I want him

Janyah Herbert

Human Rights

An angry mob

Protected, serious, white. A group
of blacks surrounded.

Black lives matter;
Cruel, hate, unfairness. Put your
hands up now!

Freedom of speech;
Protest, for what you believe.
Don't back down.

Metaphors

Delight is a big bright moon
Energy is game playing
Wisdom is a new look
Sadness is a lonely angel
with a broken wing

The Lost Ocean

Dear Liberty,

Oh girl! This bright, beautiful blue water is filled with many fish under the sea. The surface is covered with many people and boats. The s sound reminds me of grandmother's fingers gently playing on the piano. My feet get so cold as I step into the ocean. The air smells like a mixture of auntie's cooking and strawberries. I can hear birds chirping out in the tall, singing trees. Although these rocks are ugly, they make a comfortable seat. Remember the beach day we had last summer? It's like we got away, but this place is like no other. It's deep out in the sacred place where many people go. This lost ocean is where we can find peace.

Davi Hernandez Herre

Leaving Earth

I've left Earth

Imagine a dirt road with bright green leaves

Bushes and dark brown tree bark

With the smell of a rain forest or

A nice day at the park

With the wind whooshing and the sun beaming

I would leave morning breath on earth and

Pollution smells from Manhattan potholes

Kelly Hernandez

Who Am I?

I am a paramedic. I'm the person people call when there's an emergency. I wear blue pants with a white shirt and black shoes. Every time I get a call to go help people. I get really nervous and scared. I wish I was able to save everybody but I can't. When I can't save someone, I feel guilty because I could have prevented it. It's 2019 where people get into a lot of accidents and I always try my best to save them.

Tranquility

Peace can be found while sitting on a tree
Watching the moon
Freedom people feel while walking alone
And feeling the air on their faces
Happiness is when people start drawing
Whatever is on their mind and it comes out beautiful
Loyalty is when people have your back when things get bad

The New World

I've left Earth.
This place smells like roses.
The technology is really advanced.
Some things I leave behind on Earth are racism, corruption and the president.
Everybody here respects each other and supports each other.
There's no government.
There are no borders.
There's food and money for everybody.
Everybody is able to get a proper education without paying any amount of money.
There's no pollution.
The sky is blue and trees are green.

Tianna Holness

Dark Night

A dark night

There is a baby crying

Lights beaming bright

Man in gray

Mommy is being patted down

Dirt is everywhere

Ode to Lashes

O lashes

You never fail me

You make me beautiful

You are the best

Lovely feathers to a bird

You melt my heart

Like glue melting on you

Without you

I'm a bird without wings

Just like when the sun is rising

Or the moon is shining

I love you

Sincerely, your best friend

Holness's Holiness

I've left Earth. I've left all negativity. I've left school and family. I've left all bad vibes polluting the air. Done with "friends" poisoning my mind. I've left Earth, I've left everything behind. I'm on an escape mission, I need to get away. This new place is full of positivity, rising and shining just like the moon.

Keri Jack

Mr. Joyce

I may yell at them
But I mean well

I'm just as tired
As they are but I
Can't show it

I am the example
The one they look to
For help

Be quiet, keep working
Speak louder, push harder

I held your
Hand now
You do the
REST

I Miss You

Love is a man who is very in tune with his
harp
Sadness is leaving and never coming back
Peace is giving you a hug after so long
Fear is knowing we had so much time
Grief is knowing we wasted it all
Anger is the way I feel cause you won't call
Wisdom is what I lack causing me to fall

Postcard

Dear Sister,
The water is as blue as that dress you loved
as a child.
As the boat passes by I picture your
reflection in the water.
The flower petals cover your face.
I lean back and drift off to the good old
days.

Swag

A small group of my classmates
Walk amongst each other
There's blood flow. It's funny.
We're not prevalent. Wear
Blue, black, burgundy, orange
And gray. We're calm.
We're all the same.

We're colorful deep
Down we feel the same. If I cut them
I think we'll all
Bleed the same
But yet we still
Play this game
Of who's better than
Who but deep down
We're all the same

Aalyiah Jagan-Reynolds

Protest

Officers lined up
Men shout so loud, FREEDOM!
Don't stop peace

Angry faces red!
We fight for the peace
Black lives matter

Scream and shout
We fight for lives, strong!
We need peace

Happy

Happiness is
children
playing in a park

Love Manifesto

I believe in the power of love
How it takes over one's mind and body
Love can make people do crazy things
Love can make someone go crazy
I want to live in a world where people fall in love for the right reasons
I want to live in a world where people take risks
For love

Leangy Jean

A Girl's Life

A girl looming

The thought of future problems

A poor classroom

A poor family

Desperate for food and water

Life of immigrants

Love is the little girl

Under the trees

Chaos is like something

From a sci-fi movie

Taking a Walk

I was taking a walk.

I saw small spaces that looked like little passage ways to a new world. I saw friends walking and laughing. I saw a nice blue sky that reminded me of the summer with no responsibilities, just fun.

When I looked outside I felt happy,

A weight being taken off my shoulders.

Tired of Earth

I've left Earth. No more smells of people smoking, no more sass from cats. No more memories of slavery or the US stealing land from the native Americans, no more memories of world wars. No more inequality. I'm in desperate search for equal opportunity and equal treatment for everyone.

I'm search of no more stereotypes of people.

Ode to Summer

O summer, the joy you give me and my family

The freedom you provide in my daily life

The beautiful moments we have had together

The sweat dripping from people's bodies

The sun gleaming on my face

Summer, you take away my pain and suffering

You provide me happiness and freedom

The energy and motivation you give me

For a good, productive day in the sun

Without you my life would never be the same

Dear: Summer Days

Summer days, you bring me happiness with your palm trees swaying back and forth. The waves splashing around remind me of having fun on those day, the sun beaming on my face reminds me of the refreshments I would eat after, so refreshing.

Joe Jean Baptiste

Armed Policeman

Armed police protected
With shields, helmets, holding back
A black man

A black man
Yelling with anger, furious, agitated
Facing armed police

By the Beach

Lauderdale Beach, Florida
Early in the morning as the day goes

The hotter it gets
Early in the morning, the beach was full of people
Playing beach soccer, volleyball and football
The wind was blowing amazingly
On every group of people
You could hear different genres of music playing
While walking alongside the beach
Plenty of beach tents
With different colors
Were in sight

Medjine Jean Marie

The Boy

A lonely boy
Trash all over the ground
Where's his family?

A dirty mattress
Trash going on for miles
A little boy

A dirty boy
Someone come and help me
Please save me

Love

Love is a woman feeding a moon in a cage
Love is beautiful
Love is a woman not eating at night to make
Sure her daughter doesn't go to sleep
hungry
Love is joy
Love is singing songs and dancing around
the house
With friends in the afternoons
Love is marriage
Love is marrying your soul mate and
spending
The rest of your life with them

Search for Happiness

I've left Earth in search of a better place.
I'm leaving behind all negative energy. I'm
leaving behind all the sickness and disease. I
am in search of a better place where
everyone can be one and get along. A place
where there is no violence and an abundant
amount of food. This new place is a
beautiful piece of ribbon. It shines as bright
as the sun on a hot summer day.

Ode to My Phone

O IPhone!
You are so reliable
A lovely rose gold map that helps me find all
my answers
The first thing I look at in the morning
Without you, I would not be able to listen
to music at night
You help me do many daily tasks

Different Sounds

Dear Mommy,
The rustling of the green leaves are like
lullabies in the morning. The waterfall is
like the sound of shhh. The sun piercing its
way through the trees is like a soft blanket
on a cold winter night. The people climbing
up the multi-leveled waterfall reminds me
of the monkeys I saw in Florida last time we
went. The chatter of the people is like a
busy New York night. The different sounds
of the city are like drinking hot chocolate on
Christmas night.

Shyann Jenkins Miles

I Am

I am the African-American girl from Brooklyn
America was never a great place for those who are minorities
America was never the land of the free for the immigrants
The African-Americans who are judged
And stopped
By cops
Feel oppressed
Make America again!

Tension in the Air

A cool day
A boy filled with rage
Tension is thick

Boy Who Cried Help

A hurt boy
Pictures and words are drawn
The Muslim religion

Ode to Cunningham Park

O Cunningham Park
The place you go to look for someone
You bring joy and fun to everyone
Life without you would be boring

A Day From the Past

We're on the smoothest river of them all
As time passes we watch the sunset
Your laugh makes me laugh
Remember when we got lost trying to find everyone else?

Canijah Jno Baptiste

I Am A Person

I am a person
A person of color that gets mistreated
because of their skin tone
I am a person that is scared to walk outside
Because of police brutality
I am a person
Who do we run to when we need help
If our help is no help?
Who do we call when we're down and
upset?
Who do we call?
How can we make a difference,
A difference in opportunity?
How can we make a difference to help our
people succeed?
How can we make a difference?
I am a person full of hope
I am a person that gives all of my effort
I am a person

Heart Break

A cop staring
Senseless and clueless to situation
A man died

A scary sight
“I don’t know what happened”
Confusion, heart break

Heart stopped beating
Life stops going, feeling lost
Nothing can help

Friendship

Friendship is like a swing
It goes up and down but the main goal
Is to keep it up

Friendship and family enjoy the fun
That fun is like a swing
It goes up and down
But the goal is to keep going up
Family has a similar concept but also ties to
love
Love is a roller coaster
There is scariness and nervousness to
expect

A New World

I’ve left Earth behind. I left violence and
anger, sadness and depression. These are
all the devil of emotions. I left behind taxes,
bills, payments of all types. They spread too
much negative energy. This new place has
peace, love, and positivity. There are
beaches, gyms and pools all around. A place
where one can go away and relax.

Ode to Xbox

O Xbox, so powerful
A box full of joy before the sun
White, black, blue, red, no matter the color
You’re still fun, a bright shining light, full of
delight

Nicholas Jno Baptiste

No Name Poem

Angry black man
An obstacle in their way
They are determined

Assertive white man
Unfazed to hold his own
White man's burden

The police stand
And the children are suffering
The blacks chant

No Name Poem Part 2

I've left Earth and arrived at a world much better. A world where there's no school and no one's chained down by a word called poverty. A world where my friends can live without having to worry about being gunned down on a walk home from school. What about God? They asked in the Old World. That can be kept but I don't care about your god, his god, her god, or even my mother's god. I prefer it my way, no adults, no guilt. I know my way is wrong but I prefer it that way. A world where I can run wild, no filter, no censor. We get to do what we want here. There's no consequences that can stop us. I wish to bring my friends to this world, the ones I've known for over ten years and I'm fine with them bringing their friends. In this world, the happiness will never end, no death, no pain.

Ode to Walking

On a blazing afternoon, the sound of the steps play a tune. Even when the feeling is pain, you put the ease to my brain. In a world without you, I think I'd be driven insane. You fill me with motivation, the bridge that keeps me caring.

Letter to a Friend

Dear DJ,

Can you recall the times we were in streets after school on days that felt so long, but went by so fast? We crossed the bridge three times multiple hours spent just chilling, the breeze wrapped up on us like a blanket for a goodnight sleep.

Keyana John

Tupac

I am dark skin with a hint of melanin
I wear baggy clothes
I can rap and bring a lot of knowledge to people
I live in the early 1970s
I live in East Harlem, New York City
I feel sad and frustrated, the world is not opening
Their eyes to see what we're coming to
I grew up in a world of people

Life

Dark gray sky
A big sad struggling family
Nowhere to go

Plenty of kids
Swimming in the dirty water
Trying to survive

Small little baby
Dull sky covered by the trees
Very large rock

Successful

Young black women
Trying to make it out
Nice beautiful heels

Two small boys
Big blue rusty peeling wall
See through dress

Nice tiled floor
Young man selling blue clothing
Woman peeking out

Mom

Dear Mom,

The water here is so beautiful and clean. The sand is so soothing and wonderful. The sun is beaming down on me, burning my skin. The fruits from the beautiful palm trees are so fresh and sweet. Remember when we came down here? The driver's seat is on the opposite side.

Deshawn Johns

Postcard Poem

Brooklyn, New York, Nola

Dear Sister,

Bright lights spread through the city of skyscrapers.

A beautiful view of a long way filled with traffic and people.

So many people, so much light.

You should really come.

Today the weather is amazing. It's not usually like this.

You'll probably hate only that.

Come meet people with this New York accent you say I have.

Kiond Jr Jones

Drake?

I am Drake?

My name is used as a joke?

Because of Big Dresco?

I am the best artist in Canadian history

If I die, all my fans will miss me!

The Child

The child lies

He will not live forever

He will die

Soil is moist

The child has no toys

Someone save him

Sky is purple

Due to the darkness above

He needs love

I've Left Earth

I've left Earth. I have left rats, snakes, roaches, and other nasty creatures. I have gained beautiful flower smells and sky. I have left terrorist attacks and gained peace with the world and everyone in it. I am in nowhere. I am no one. We are all equal.

Draco Postcard

Dear Big Draco,

I am on an island full of color. The trees are bright green and the breeze feels like the summer. The food has no chemicals and the opps do not spin in rentals. This place is not home, but it makes you feel at home. This place is paradise.

Sincerely,

Young Draco

Malik Kamassi

Craziness

I am the embodiment of craziness
Everybody has this strange outlook on me
But with each thing I say there is a clear
message
With each one of my lyrics

Rights

Fighting for rights
Passion screams in his head
Wanting warfare now

A stern face
Meeting a passionate face there
What will happen?

Confused and dazed
Wondering what will happen next
Anticipation is key

Darkness

Grief is a very dark and gloomy bird
It feels dark and empty inside

Leaving

I've left Earth. I left behind racism and the sour taste of pickles. This new home world consists of giant pickles and to get to this place you would know how to collect a certain number of ingredients such as a bun with sesame seeds, one tomato, one grilled burger and one slice of cheese. Then you will be able to enter this world.

Ode to Backpack

O backpack
Your blue shade fades into a dark bottom
You are so round around the edges
You are the bag of my back and I love the weight
That falls upon my back
The way the handle grips my hand
Without you, I wouldn't be able to bring my items to school

Water on Land

Dear Mom,
Boat swishing on water, the paddle continuously hitting the water and the boat moving in slow motion remind me of the time when it was summer and you were making pancakes and called me to come and eat, the constant noise of the spatula hitting the pan and flipping the pancakes.

Ronika Kitt

Poor Brother

Parents gone away
Accident leaves my brother abandoned
Searching for home

Hungry, lost, abandoned
With tears in my eyes
My poor brother

Loyalty

Loyalty is people who surround you
It gives you a way to show who's trustworthy is society
Loyalty is like royalty;
It shines light
You can read people and
Decide whether or not they're being
Great

Gone

I've left Earth
I've left behind my mom and distractions and drama
Family and everyone
This new place is a beautiful sunlight
In this new place, I have a 75 inch tv so I can be able to watch
Whatever I want
I have lots of money because that makes me happy
I have a big house because I love being by myself
Even though I like big spaces
I bring no one with me because I would rather be
By myself
Through all my dream
I definitely bring my phone
I have clothes and shoes

My Dream Vacation

Dear Sweet Bahamas,
Your country is full with a beautiful, nice, cooling sunlight. Your water is blue as the sky that floats through my eyes. Your sand is soft as my pillow. It's so easy to dance around your beach. Thinking when will I see you again. The sun shines so bright on me. It feels like a dream. It's sad to say goodbye, but there will be a time when we will reunite.

Breon Lewis

Boy

Boy, sad, lonely
Poor, hungry, dark, cold outside
Has no one

Living around trash
Need a family that's caring
Strong, brave, hurt

Snoring around trash
Need more, family, friends
I'm young, powerful and surviving

A Walk

I go for a walk among peace and quiet noises. In the classroom I see people walking, looking annoyed and sleepy. The blue walls remind me of my grandmother in a bed, dying. I feel irritated and tired, ready to go home, watch the clouds move and chill.

The True Place

I've left Earth. When I leave Earth I leave behind the bad thing I did in the past. Another thing is things that happened during the wars. The pieces of history: 9/11 when all the planes thrust into the building and burned it down to the point it was a big smoke and spread for hours. The things I am searching for in my new world are peace, love and happiness. This new place is blue. This new place is peaceful like a massage. This new place is quiet and new. In this new place, birds are singing and the air smells fresh. This is a true place.

Life in Hawaii

Dear Best Friend,

In Hawaii it's very nice and calm. I can lay down, not be bothered and dream big dreams. In Hawaii it's sunny and beautiful. Life in Hawaii, you eat different foods. My favorite fruit is mango. In Hawaii, it is clean and very fresh. Our beach is clean, but not like Hawaii. I remember that our bench as clean, but like Hawaii. In Hawaii, you really can live your best life. Hawaii is nice, warm and very clean. The people are also committed to you and telling you the truth. People out here treat you like an angel. They'll do anything for you. I really can't wait to bring you out here. You would really love it here. You probably would want to move, but at the same time you wouldn't because when it's raining here, things get messy.

Alex Maryanovskiy

Being a Bus Driver

I am a bus driver
Who fuels the society
But doesn't get paid enough

From sunset to sundown
On the road
With only the sun to keep me company

Waking up early every day
Now hopping on the bus
To start the day's journey

Being a driver is not easy
Dealing with happy and crappy passengers
But that only fuels me

To keep fighting through
For my hope to not diminish
Because society needs me
To deliver them safely

Garbage Everywhere

The garbage surrounding
The scared, little boy, crying
His hopes away

The destroyed environment
Surrounding the little boy's hope
Families' worst nightmare

Garbage filled land
What has the world become?
Unsafe living conditions

"The Land of the Free"

I am the promised land of the free
Where everyone wants to live
The so-called land of opportunities
Where fast food thrives
There are 50 states in America
But no space for change
With immigrants given false hope
Just to be disappointed in the end

I am the immigrants who want to live
To have a business or a secure job
And seeing America as a perfect opportunity
To achieve that American Dream
There is one thing that is stopping me
And that's the racism of the land
Because the only people living comfortably
Are the rich white men

What Is Freedom?

Freedom is children playing with their friends
and pets
Freedom is a woman dancing to the rhythm
of the music
Freedom is a man celebrating with a drink
Freedom allows people to explore anything
they want
Freedom allows emotions
Happiness, grief and anger
Freedom creates friendships
People bonding over similar ideas
Democracy allows freedom
Uniting people with common goals

Ode to Sleep

O precious sleep, the key to my relaxation
With your soft marshmallow pillows
And cozy ocean blankets
When my head touches the pillow
A sense of comfort swings through my body
You make me feel refreshed and excited
Without you, life would feel awake

The Floating Island

Dear Mom,
On the floating island, it's daytime
The ocean's reflection is shining
The trees are swaying with the light breeze
The floating houses are very cozy
The smell of fried chicken fills the air
Remember the time we went to the beach?
And the warm air felt like a soft blanket?
The feeling of déjà vu all over again

Leonardo Mason

Fight Back

We'll fight back
That's part of our plan
Justice, our goal

From the hands that serve
Hands that protect
Seems like justice is in our own hands

Families without moms and dads
Makes me sad
We will fight back!

Horace Matherson Jr.

I
I am black in America
New York to be exact
The one you won't realize
That has a name attached
The one you side up and down the street
You can say hi but you won't hear a peep
The hatred in my heart, the fear in my eyes
Never thought I'd be a statistic
In the blue on black crimes
I am black in America
I said in pride
America could be cloudy
But I will shine
There's a lot of things against me
This I can say is true
God had put me on this Earth to do all I can
do
The fear of death strikes me clear
Hopefully distance not near

The Bridge of Friendship

Dear Closest Friend,
Wish you were in the city that never sleeps.
The view you love, the things we could do,
wish you were back in the city that we met.
The rush-filled atmosphere of the Brooklyn
Bridge that we walked across connects
Brooklyn to Manhattan. Like two teams in a
tug-a-war, immaculate. Remember how we
talked and fog came out of our mouths?
Like smoke from a tailpipe.
The friendship we made on this bridge
I would never change this time.
Dear Closest Friend,
Hope to see you soon.

J. Cole

I am a dreaded brother
With no Grammy's
Sing from the heart
Dream from the soul
Systematic oppression
Dreads the country as a whole
Strive for greatness
And bring back what they stole
The style that I wear
Like a Tribe Called Quest flow
I am the goat, for sure

Ode to iPhone

O iPhone, how precious you are to me
Lights up my night with your night shifted
light
The sleepless nights, the poor connections
O do I love the pain in my eyes and
migraines I encounter
Just because you're my iPhone
You're the portal to my life outside of life
The strength you have to keep me tied
To your blue lit screen
You mask my depression, even if I cry
O iPhone, you waste my time
The way you look, the red you wear
Like a model with a dress
Without you, I'd be dead

Nafia Maynard

Can You See?

Black and white
We are all the same
Black and white

Can you see?
We are all the same
Can you see?

Do you discriminate?
Why do you discriminate me?
Why do you discriminate against me?

The Struggle

Think, write, think
Why should I stress myself?
Think, write, think

Write, think, write
I have to understand this
Write, think, write

Write, write, think
I need to be white
Write, write, think

What A Sight

Beauty is dangerous; the woman's face looks magical
Sadness is the trees on fire, leaves turning into dust
Happiness is seeing bright colors on all four walls in the room
Delight is a woman's body that looks like earth

Welcome New Life

I've left Earth. It's been five months and eight days since I've left behind the myopic people. I've left behind the smell of garbage. I've come to look for the freedom, the freedom I've never felt before.

Ode to Mango

O mango!
You are so tasty!
On a hot summer day
You are so tasty
You can be cut up in different shapes
Cubed, straight, curved, and many more!
I can put hot sauce on you
And eat! Yummy, yummy, yummy, yummy!
Can't wait until summer
Your nice red and yellow skin is
So beautiful

Ode to Lip Gloss

O lip gloss!
You are the reflection of the sun beaming on my skin!
You shine upon my lips on a sunny day
Sometimes you even smell good
Or you sometimes taste like fruits
I really like the look you give me
When I put my outfit on
I just like how you shine on me!

Let's Relax

Dear Mom,
The wind here sounds so relaxing and soothing. Reminds me of when you ate honeycombs with headphones in. When I lay down on the hammock, it reminds me of how you used to rock me to sleep. The trees here provide me with a lot of shade to protect me from the scorching hot sun.

Briana McLetchie**Black America**

Silence is here
They feel threatened by me
I am innocent

As I walk
They begin to push back
I scare them

A black girl
Is what I am. My
Voice is powerful

Separation

I weep as
They watch me here alone
I am sad

I have none
My mother is what I
Desire; home, too

Separation, anger, hatred
I feel this way because
This isn't home

Chaos

Chaos is a ghost in a room
Along with an orange cat and
Four colored birds
Men in black with cancer sticks
In their hands
A rainbow with a moustache and a ring at the
end
Holes in the wall shine through
A dirty room

Only A Dream

I've left Earth. I've decided to leave behind
ALL negativity, sickness, the taste of
watermelon and molasses. I would not leave
behind any history because that's why we are
here at the moment. In this new place I am in
search for infinite happiness and fun. This
new place is in my dreams. This new place is
always warm and sunny. In the night all the
stars are shining bright.

Ode to Bed

O bed
You are so soft, so fluffy, my best friend
A place for me to lay my head
You make me happy
A place to let out all stress
You keep me warm and fuzzy
Without you, I am lost
With you, I am complete
Without you, I am not at peace

Paradise

Dear Mommy,
The sound of the ocean is like the wind
whistle and loud.
Palm trees blowing back and forth sounds like
the ocean waves.
The waterfalls coming fall down like rain.
This reminds me of the time we were in
Mexico.
That was truly paradise.
Pretty pink dancing flamingos.

Manifesto

Here's what I know for sure: life is full of
hardships, battle and challenges you have to
overcome. As soon as you think your
problems are over there is another one right
behind. Stay strong. I believe that you can
overcome anything and everything. I believe
your voice is worth being heard. It is
powerful. I want to live in a peaceful world.
Patience and positivity is key!

Erasto McNeil

A Dark USA

(America was never great)

Fifteen year old black kid living in Brooklyn

I look outside and become a panther

Always have to watch where you walk

How you talk

And what you wear

(America was never great)

STOP! One word I hear a lot

I don't know why, I just do and

I always look like a person that did a crime

It could be just my mind

But I think it's cause I'm black

(America was never great)

The Meaning in a Painting

Friendship is something that

Has to grow like fingernails

Freedom is given to you like a flower

Anger is built up

Like an invention

Life on the Other Side

I've left Earth. I'm on another planet and it's everything I've wanted. Basketball and the Gonzales twins. I get to play basketball every day. I see fans cheering my name and it smells like blossoms in the air. I've decided to bring some people along, but to be able to get here you have to beat me in a game of one on one.

Dear Father

The hotel rooms remind me of mommy's room at night. The water is clear as the water you used to give me in the green cup from when I was little, walking on the beach together. The palm trees remind me of when I used to climb trees for coconuts. And this boat looks like grandpa's fishing boat. It reminds me of home.

Mitzy Memije Gonzalez

America

I am America
I view everyone the same
Except for those who don't share my skin tone
Except for those who don't speak the same language as me

I am America
I give opportunities to all
Except for those who write F under gender
Except for those who were not born here

I am America
I give freedom of speech to all
Except for those whose ancestors I've enslaved
Except for those who go against what I say

I am America
Except for me and you

Marble

I've left Earth.
I've left the black hole that smells like death and tastes like bugs.
I'm leaving the slavery, segregation and the Holocaust behind.
To be consumed and destroyed by the black hole that has replaced Earth.
I'm in search of love, peace and acceptance.
This place is like a giant marble.

Ode to Gummy Bear

O squishy gummy bear
You come in all different colors
Red gummy, yellow gummy, green gummy.
Orange gummy
Squish, squish, squish
Sweet to even the smell
Your squishy head, your squishy body
I chew and savor your sweetness
Bland my life would be without your sweetness
Gummy bear, gummy bear

Postcard

The water is as blue as the sky
The clouds in the sky are like little pieces of fluff, like cotton candy
People in the distance look as small as ants
Trees cover what's beyond the sand
Boats surround the island

Jesús Mendoza

Living in America

I am a Latino boy who lives in America
You can see racism in every shape or form in the USA
America is a form of hope
And a new start for people
But it's not an easy task to do
America is not what you think it is

Fear

Fear is two heads and half a body
Sticking out of the wall
While a violin is placed by them
Fear is when you don't know what
Also, when you're helpless because you
Can't do anything to save yourself

Leaving Earth

I've left Earth in search of a way to a nicer and healthier place for people where you wouldn't have to work or anything. This planet has clean oceans, nice views to look at. There are different types of animals as well. There is any kind of food you can ever think of. I've left behind all racism because it's not fair how people are treated today in our world. I've left behind all the bad laws on this Earth. I don't have people I don't like. I've brought my friends, family, dog and everyone from the Earth, but no person who are really racist. In order to get in you need to show you're a good person and respectful towards everyone.

Ode to Boxing

O boxing, you are so interesting to do and watch. I see how fast they punch. See the quick combos to the body and head. It happens so quick. Boxing, you make me happy when you show good matches. The sound of the punching bag makes you want to punch harder and faster. The sound of the bell makes you forget everything and focus on the fight and the person in front of you. Thanks, boxing, for opening a new door for an awesome sport and also USC. Once you go into the ring and hear the sound of the bell, it's like you change into a different person. When you're in the ring and people are watching you, you feel happy. This is your fight. The only thing you focus on is how you're going to win, getting points or getting the knock out. Boxing is a lifechanger.

What A Day!

What a day, everyone is out on the sandy beach where their umbrellas cut out the bright sun. People in the water swim deeper and deeper. The sky is the bright blue of clouds. People with their blankets, gold, and want a sun tan. I remember when I went to Florida and Puerto Rico. I went to the beaches and the sand was hot and the water was clear, so clear that you can see our feet and toes through the water.

Junior Mentor

Baby and Bird

Young hungry lost
Poor homeless baby and bird
Ready to die

Ready to eat
Willing to go find food
Sleepy, hungry, dying

Killing our animals
War just started...

Singapore

I've left Earth
I've left slavery and the KKK
But mostly I'm just an *I don't care* person
This new place is a clean apple
Everybody is with e
I don't have favoritisms
There's a boat on a building here
Like in Singapore

Postcard

Dear Guys,

It's really nice outside of Brooklyn and the girls over here are bad, son. No cap, I'm really living my best life out here in Republica Dominicana. I see nice trees and cars and houses. The water looks nice.

Noah Michel

Dead

Dark scary night
Dead body in the wilderness
Chirp of cricket

He is dead

Breathing out life, seeing light
Staring, lifeless body

Parked purple car

Dead in middle of nowhere
Dead for weeks

Metaphors

Freedom is a walk across a mountain
Justice is like walking on the air
Love is a death drop down a cliff

Change

I've left Earth in search of a better place. I leave behind racism, unfairness and race in general. I won't leave behind any piece of history because we wouldn't be where we're at within it. I'm in search of happiness, the pursuit of happiness, a place where everyone is free. This new place is the sun for the universe, this new place looks like change.

Ode to Food

O food
You're the best
I can eat you all day
And still not be satisfied
The smell of you is delightful
It makes my mouth water

Postcard

Miss you, Camp
Remember when we gathered around the waterfall?
I've been chewing a marshmallow from the most
beautiful woods that nature has to offer

Cierra McQuiller

America

I am the black woman who fights for what is right
I hope for the best, but prepare for the worst
I have my nappy hair and brown skin color
I wear my button up shirt with black pants
In the search for what is best needed
Why are people like this?
Can we stand together?
Is this really the land of the free?

The Lil Girl

She looks scared
She's a baby with no
Mom, all alone

What is happening?
Where are they taking her?
That blind woman

Dark scared girl
People are just standing around
It's warm outside

Cardi B

I became more than what I wanted to be
I never thought I would be where I am
Today, two years ago
Many may not like me
Many talk about how I look, talk and act
But I don't care

I wear what I want
I act how I wanna act
Just because I'm bigger than what I was
Two years ago
I'm still that girl from the Bronx

One of the biggest thing that happened to me
Was becoming a mother
Okkkaaayyy
She is my world
And I only think to become better in life
Because of her

Hope

Hope is a lil girl sitting on the tree
Hope is the red balloon that the lil girl holds on to
Hope is the big bright moon in her face
Hope is the angel wings on her back
Hope is the light from the tree
Hope is the bright light in the dark
Hope is the help from a furry friend
Hope is having a friend there for you
Human or not
Hope is the thought of leaves on the tree
Hope is the strength to my joy

New Planet

I've left Earth. I've left behind mothers and fathers afraid to let their children outside. I've left behind all the racism, sexism, violence and the things that make the world we live in so horrible. I've left in search of something new. The hope of this big bright planet is where there's no reason to be worried. On this planet you can be yourself and people don't hate you for who you are. On this planet you can be free and there is peace. This new place is a bright star in the universe full of joy and happiness.

Ode to Cellphone

O cellphone
You are the bright light in my face
You make my life so easy
You are like a tv in my hand
You make so many sounds
Dings, rings, dangs
Without you, I don't know where I would be

The Colorful Beach

Dear Mommy,
On this colorful beach I hear
The ocean waves
There are many people here
Kids laughing, music playing
And birds fighting over food
Remember when the birds took our hot dog?
O mom, this colorful beach,
Wish you was here

Janaya Mitchell

The Covery

I am the sun
I wear sweatpants and hoodies
To feel comfortable
I can be colorful, but choose not to
When I'm happy
I shine and blind people with
My smiles and laughter
When I'm gloomy
I hide away below the sky
Now I am neutral
I am tired and want to go home
My stomach hurts

Lonely World

A little girl
In the middle of nowhere
Whose baby?

She is scared
Could be sister, but where
Is her mother?

Furious, guards up
A yard, a gate with wires
She is lost

Messy hair, she's
Been through it all, she
Wants a home

This Is America

I am black
I'm light skinned
This never stops the cops
From hesitating
This is America
You see a
Black person, it makes
You want to keep your guard up
America never cared
Families are being separated
Walls being built

But is it worth it?
Is it worth fighting in this world?
This is America
Kids taking the wrong route
Eager for revenge
Trying to find a way out
But this is America
It's time to recognize your fake friends
The sky is blue but it gets real dark
True colors start to show, it's time to lay low
This is when the snakes come out
This is America and it's only getting colder
Redemption is here
We have to want it, you have to earn it
This is not the end, can't be but
This is what we made America

Ode to Apple

O juicy apple
I remember when I took a bite
And my teeth came out
I was so happy I was getting money
Under my pillow that night
Just to wake up with no money
Without you, I'm okay!

Ode to the Sun

O glorious sun
You are so bright
Shine down on me today
You are the best part of my day
I spend summer in search of you, marble
You make the flowers blow and the birds
tweet
Without you, I'm in a dark place

Industry

Dear Mother,
Sitting on the grass, I don't know what I'm
doing. I'm trying to make something but it
doesn't have my interest. Different colors of
whatever this is, but it feels nice in my hands.
Remember when it was pouring? Yes, that's
how I feel.

Aryana Moreau

"I want to live in a world where self-love is just as important as the likes you get on social media."

I Am

I am the daughter of Haitian immigrants
I am the Brooklyn teen, fighting for her education because society
Does not feed her opportunities
I am the black girl who envisions
A day where corporate seats won't just be for the white men
I am the descendant of revolutionaries
Given the false hope that they can achieve the American dream
I am the descendant of fighters, the true founders of America
What is America? How many generations will it take for this
Question to be answered?
It surely is not the land of the free,
It surely is not the land of opportunity,
Even if it was
Who is it for? Not me, not my ancestors,
Not for the minorities
America is a rose
A flower of love, a beautiful flower whose thorns prick
Everyone who thought it would be safe to hold it

"I want to live in a world where women don't have to carve up their bodies like a block of wood to feel truly beautiful."

Women

Free our sisters
Black women are fighting back
Women's liberation poster

Woman

Happy black woman
What is making her smile?
Perfectly picked afro

Protest

Protest happening on the street
Trees without leaves
"It's cold but we're here"

Hello New World

I've left Earth. I've left behind the mushrooms sprouting from our littered soil, the smell of gasoline, and the 8th grade spring season that chewed me up and spat me out. I'm in search of peace of mind. I'm in search of a new place that leaves you with chills down your spine after seeing how beautiful the scenery is. This new place is a face without its features. In this new world, flowers bloom in time. It has a bookshelf with my name on it, prepared with every novel I've wanted to read, but couldn't purchase back on Earth. It smells like fresh air, kind of like a spring morning after countless hours of rain, like the swaying of a rocking chair. I brought with me my journal to document this new experience. There is no judgment here. There is no prejudice here. There is no such thing as "You're too big" "You're too small" or "What you are going through doesn't matter". Everyone here is accepting. I came here to escape from this never-ending black hole we call Earth. Hello new world, my safe space, the world that accepts me. Goodbye Earth, the world that drove me away.

"I believe that in order to incite change you need to hear the stories of others because every story is worth listening to."

Ode to Pizza

O pizza
You bring my mouth great satisfaction
Your stretchy cheese is so savory, so delicious
You are a pie chart turned magical
You are a dart board in a casino
With crust that competes with the crunching fall leaves
O pizza, how wonderful you are
Your plain slice is an art canvas ready for toppings to come its way
You are a blanket that comforts my hunger
Your grease is a waterslide in the summer
Without you, there would be no class prizes for penny drives and subway rats would not be so famous

"I believe in the power of conversation."

Keydi (Elizabeth) Murillo

Please Help Me

A crying girl
The police officer is arresting
The girl's mother

Why's she getting
Arrested, pushing her hands against
The car, heartbroken?

No one is
By her side to hear
Please help me

Red Balloon

Love is a girl under the tree
Watching the whole moon and a red
balloon
The girl loves that red balloon
Why did she let go?
It broke her heart
That's why she stands the whole night
Staring at the moon
Finally she understands that
Love must be let go if it's real

Ode to Netflix

Watching you everyday
Like a husband to a wife
Loving you more and more
When I discover a new you
Hearing the pling of a notification
That you have something special
My life without you would be
Like an ocean without water
Chilling on my bed spending my whole time
Just focused on you
Saying I will do my homework later
Is like saying this is the
Last episode I will watch

A Postcard to My Mother

Dear Mother,
Am so happy being here in Jamaica on my
honeymoon with my husband. Every night
we go out to the beach telling each other
how much love we have to give. Listen to
the waves crashing against the sand, stare
at the stars, get in the water. Makes me
remember that time that we went to the
beach in Coney Island in the middle of the
night. Am so excited to tell you more about
my adventure. Jamaica is very beautiful, the
people, the food, everything. Hope to see
you soon.

Davine Murray

Ode to Heart

You are breathtaking

I watch people break you and put you back together
Hurt you and ease your pain
You are so fragile, yet tough
Your sound is like a rhyme
From an old time jukebox
Your features are so defined
You are my life line
You are my every emotion
Without you, I wouldn't be here

Ode to Girl

You are extraordinary

I watch you grow and motivate others
I watch you take a stand and lend a hand
You are so tough on yourself
Your voice is like a call to order
Like a church bell people can hear from miles away
You make me feel empowered
Your mind is so divine, so unique
You are my ideal
You are my motivation
Without you, I would be stuck

Tyrese Nelson

I Am The Boy

I am the boy that lives in Brooklyn
The boy that tries to survive America
The boy who goes to school every day, just to achieve
America is like a snake getting ready to strike
Or your guard is down
I am the boy that must always be on the right track
Once I mess up, I get stalked by the snake
Even when times are dark and
I can't see the snake
I have to keep going on

Lonely Child

Abandoned little boy
Awful smell of garbage surround
Loss of home

Craving for food
"I sleep around stinky garbage"
Designs on mattress

Very old mattress
Question is: Where are parents?
Very long nap

Loyalty

Loyalty is an old and used car ready to be broken down
Loyalty is like any other item a person receives
Once you have the new item it feels like the best thing
When it's used for a while it doesn't feel new
And soon becomes unwanted

A New World

I've left Earth.
I'm in a new place. A place that comforts me. In this new place there are a lot of basketball courts. I'm leaving behind school and having to do work. In this place there will be no stress with no noise. The new place won't have so many people in it to make noise. There will be little conversations, some laughs, a lot of basketball playing and some noise from TVs.

Ode to Orange Basketball

O orange basketball!
You are so perfect
The joy you bring when someone touches you
You are an option to escape reality and leave behind stress
Your roundness makes you easy to dribble
Your sound is music to my ears
You can bring energy to people and make people lose it
Your color orange reminds me of the best fruit, an orange
Without you, humanity would be lost
You keep people from doing bad and committing crimes
You are more than just a sport equipment

A Nice Vacation

The huge land on Jamaica looks so comfortable, like a warm blanket. The yellow, warm sand looks as if it's scrambled eggs. The blue ocean waves make a person want to jump in. This reminds me of a time I went to Jamaica.

Mia O'Donoghue

Leaving Earth

I've left Earth to leave behind racism and sexism. I've left Earth in search of equality and food. This new place is like a new basketball on a court. This place is futuristic and always smells like cotton candy. I bring with me my family, friends, basketball, food and music. You get here by going through black hole #3 (my bedroom). And there are very few rules. Be kind, have fun.

Ode to Basketball

Without you, I have no meaning
I dribble through the night
As the days go by you're still in my hands
 Like a dog and its toy
You make me feel meaningful
 Like a dad to his son
You made me the star of the team
 I'm #31
Your loud bounce when I dribble you makes me feel known
 Like a coach and his team
 And a soccer ball for its goal

Zamyani O'Garro

Beauty

Three beautiful women
Everyone is looking at them
Beauty all around

Dirty, chipped wall
But the ground is pretty
What a combination

Tall inch heels
Dresses are pretty and pink
“They look nice”

Ode to My Phone

O entertaining phone
You are so lovely
You rosy bunch of joy
You're the door to so many different worlds
What do have next planned?
Another story? New pair of sneakers?
Without you, my life is empty
Without you, my life is so boring!

Best Trip

Dear Mommy,
I am having the best vacation ever! The food here smells so good, just like your mac and cheese, but nothing can compare to that! The people here are sweet like peaches.
I see these beautiful trees. It feels good to be out in the open, but I can't wait to come home to see you! – Joyful Person

Star

Dear Sister,
I miss being around you.
Your smile brings me joy.
Our trips are interesting.
When we get together we can make fried oreos.
I hope you visit soon.
Are you ready?

School Manifesto

Here's what I know for sure: school is tough. It can be difficult to understand work, hand in assignments on time AND stay out of drama! I believe we can use our power for good. We can ALL look down the same path. We all want to graduate, become successful and do something important in life. I want us to help one another, not bring each other down! No more drama! No more giving up! No more attitudes! Let's do what we have to do and push through it. Graduate!

Jordan Oliver

Undecided

The cops growl
I'm frightful but remain brave
I look left

Then my right
Others try to stay calm
I look away

Love Is Blind

Love is a melody
Something that spreads and makes you
want to hum it
Over and over again
A beat to your heart which never escapes
Love can often damage you
If not captured and controlled it becomes
your addiction
Your obsession
It can be dark and scary, often mysterious,
in multiple ways
Like a roller coaster when you're at the top
And you're about to drop
You feel that sensation in your stomach
Love gives you butterflies, love is endless, it
can never escape
Your humanity
Love is a part of you
Love is like a melody

Earthly Wonders

When leaving this terrible violent
Thing we call "Earth"

Nothing won't matter anymore
I will be at peace, at ease

Earth is so loud, so confusing
Nothing is important that I
Will miss

Unknown

I hear the creeping of little tiny feet
Some energetic and others going off
As I walk in dark mysterious space
Some smiling faces watch me as I walk
However, I pay no mind to this
I feel as if my body starts going off on a
cloud
My worries no longer appearing in my head
I see multiple white posters
On this mysterious white cloud walk
The color white
It starts to fascinate me
I think of angels, innocence and love
I go deeper into this weird blank-like color
To stop and think to myself
Can this be my everyday color?
My everyday mood?
Does this color affect others' actions or
make
Them want to reflect in any other way?
Man, listen, I don't know
But these white posters take a toll on me
I see only my life flash before my eyes

Joseph Olmann

Vision

A peaceful woman
Two men scared; it's blurry
They can't see

Sidelines

People on standby
Recording history, but not taking
Part; purple haze

Perception

Tree of green
Glass panes no one can
See through; dark

Running constantly
Ducking in and out of market stalls
Mr. Salvadore cursing me under his breath
Catch me if you can, I called out
As I took off again
A few years later I was running titans
Off their feet
Win gold at the Olympics
Winning watches and medals

Fool

Happiness is a blue sky with red fluffy clouds
The sun gleaming on my helmet
Pure ecstasy
While the shadow trails behind
Ever so close
Can't catch me! I think as I
Run into a brick wall
Blood as red as an apple
Runs down my face and
Stains my black suit
I pick up my motorcycle and go
To sulk in a nearby alleyway

Earth in Memorandum

I've left Earth in search of a galaxy far, far away
untouched by the filthy hands of mankind,
stained with the blood of my sisters and
brothers. Not trifled with political tension. Earth
can keep its history. I have no need for their
twisted ideals and bloody wars. We'll have our

own starry night sky, no longer clouded with its pollution. Baby blue water, clear as the minds of those who inhabited the planet. There will be no race competition or otherwise. This place was not born from divine influence but from the knowledge gained from how poor the world could be. Although I may be haunted by the images of my old planet, I am distracted by the beauty of the one I live on now.

Name

An African-American goes for a walk
Why must I have all these labels?
All around me colorful people swirl
Like paper in the wind
With no sense of purpose
Aimless
I walk among the desks and
Posters share our history
I feel angry and hot
Why are they working without purpose?
You are walking, but not talking
Share your ideas!
Are you not upset that outside of these
Four walls we barely discuss this?
How are you?
Without meaning, an expected response
With no feeling
I'm fine
Without content, cold and calm
Like a question without intent

Back to My Roots to Nigeria, So Clear and Blue!

Dearest Past Self,
The colors here are so vibrant
The white ivory sands of Nigeria
Scalding my bare feet
I seek solace from the beautiful bay that stands
before me
Enveloping me
Schools of fish pass by
Like the people in New York
So there is noise in this serene place
Children playing defiantly against the sun
Loud and vibrant, full of life like
The palm trees

Valerie Paquiyauri

A Day Without Anything

Immigrants look tired

Some are in the water

Few on rocks

Sky looking gray

One is washing their clothes

Have no names

Mothers have babies

Washing bodies with the water

It's nice outside

A Mystery on the Beach

Dead body laying

A man's mouth is open

Laying on grass

Police looking shocked

Wondering why he is dead

Lady bending down

Looking At Different Views

Love is a black lady wearing a

Very stylish hat looking the other way

Happiness is a lot of people dancing and

Having a good time

Joy is a horse trying to run away

Beauty is people dancing with their kids

And husbands

Ode to Mango

O sweet mango

You are so delicious

You are sour with your round shape

Like the color orange

You leave a sweet taste on my tongue

With your magical flaws

You are like a pretty view in my dreams

You have sounds that glisten in my ears

Without you, my life would be incomplete

A Beautiful Beach Day in Nigeria

Dear Mom,

In Nigeria, it's a beautiful beach day

People are having fun in the blue waters

Palm trees move back and forth

What it's like in a tall moon

Wish you were here to spend a warm

Beautiful, sunny day here

Nashaun Payne

Bird

Bird is chirping

There waiting for someone to die

Watch your back

Beautiful Place

I've left Earth.

Here it looks like a beautiful place.

It smells like strawberries and tastes like strawberries.

I've left behind everything that ever happened in the past.

This new place is gray.

Isaiah Pecou

Dissent

Big armored men
Why are they doing this?
A peaceful protest

Cracked road, the
Visitors look at the incident
She's under arrest

There are trees
An office building shrouded mysterious
Where are we?

Old Woman

A black void
Blind but one eye open
Was she burned?

One shiny metal
Reads two six two two
Is this identification?

Joy

Joy is a newborn baby born
No matter how deformed it is
Experience this great pain with short claws
Look for the baby it's worth it
Hope and kindness to come

Gone

I've left Earth to find a new world. A brave new world. No cauliflower or carrots, the base of the Earth. A more vibrant world, without death or extinction or aging. I'm bringing all good morals and good rules. This new place is a beacon of morality in a sea of degeneracy. This place looks like Earth. We are humans and all. It's a more ordered planet. I've brought all the good people of the world.

Ode to Pencil

O pencil, you are long
Gracefully gliding
On the empty paper
The world revolves around you
Poised and poignant
Towering over your product

Abigail Peters

I Am

I am a young black girl named Abigail
Daughter of two people from St. Vincent
I'm a young black girl who walks fast every time
I see a young white cop, avoiding getting shot
For just being me
I am a young black girl, born and raised in a
place
Called America, "the home of the free"
They say America is free
Is it really?
If America was free
why am I still being called a slave to the white
family?

Labelled

I am labeled
I see nothing but darkness
See my badge

Can you see
An old white blind woman?
In dark skies

I'm wearing black
That's all I can see
The darkest color

Strength

Strength is music notes from a violin
Strength can be shown in a multicolored quilt
Sitting upright in a seat shows strength
Tearing the ball from the paddle
Strength is portrayed by two women

Manifesto

The world is corrupt, no inequality. We are all
created the same, but still viewed as different.
Judging eyes are all around me. Too many guns,
too much violence, too much hate, not enough
peace, not enough self-worth, especially about
their bodies. I want to live in a world where
people are not afraid to walk outside day or
night.

Ode to iPhone

O iPhone
You bring me joy with endless possibilities
Your beautiful clothes make you pop with color
and excitement
You're like a television
Full with bright colors
Beautiful pictures
I get drawn into you so quickly
Unlike television, I can put you in my pocket
And take you to all my wonderful adventures
You make my life so easy
I ask you a question and you give me answers
Immediately in different points of view
Without you, I would be bored and confused

The Horse Ride at Coney Island

Dear Friend,
As the light turns green, the race starts
The wind blowing in front of my race as I see
All the amazing rides go by like the speed of life
Seeing why you love this place this much
I remember after this ride we were so excited
We went on over and over again
We got dizzy from that excitement
Leaping for joy we skipped across the
boardwalk
We forgot we were walking on hot sand and
hard shelves
We collected so many shells just to leave them
behind for the next person
Running in the water, we made our own special
waves
I knew I shouldn't come without you
You're like the horse ride at Coney Island
You grab people's attention,
you make people happy,
especially moi

Isaiah Phillips

Black Human Beings

Yelling for freedom
We will not be silenced
Peace for all
Watching me well, I yell
White men's faces
Staring for all to see

One nation divided
Locking us away forever
For all to see

We want rights
We are human, too
Why us?

One State of Mind

Oppression is a lady with nails
implanted in her skin
With a straight face
Having a weapon instilled in her

Freedom is
black people
escaping from
the white man's chains

Faith is believing in something
You can't see and having
Trust
In a higher power

Oppression is
Escaping the chains
that confine you
that hold you
Oppression comes with
scars that are embedded
In your skin
Something that you can hide

Freedom is
Being mentally and physically

Free
From the world itself

Faith is believing
In change
Oppression, freedom and faith
Flow together like a river
That can create new life
Within yourself

Ode to the Tree

O tree, the way you move in the night
Under the vibrant sun and moon
O tree, your branches hold your beautiful
leaves together
O tree, you bring me life
I tree, you swing in the wind
You walk in the night full of oxygen that I
breathe
How much I love you, O tree
You're so great
O tree, without your oxygen, there would be
no me

Waterfall Rush

Dear Great Grandma,
As I am here, I find a waterfall
Full of life, the water swooshes down the
rocks
And into the lake
People are stomping their feet in the water
The sound of the trees is loud as they move
back and forth
I remember a hot summer day when you took
me to the park
And I ran through the water drops
Waterfalls remind me of you, peaceful and
calm
Trees remind me of you, humble and stern
With their soft leaves hanging full of life

Matthew Polanco

What Is Life

Courage is an old woman, very plain

Kindness is floating on water

Strength is when getting over obstacles get easy

One Path to Success

I've left Earth with the mindset of peace and silence. I blank out of the world and here I find a place where all my dreams come true. I can play baseball all day and everyone supports me. The smell of grass, like you just cut the lawn. The sight of cameras, like I am at a concert. The noise of the crowd yelling my name, happy to see me. Distractions, obstacles, negativity. All down the drain with one path! Success. This is my baseball, wanting to shoot for the sky.

Ode to Baseball

O baseball

You give me the drive to learn

You make me think

You make me happy

You can make me sad

The world revolves around you

Playing this sport gives me energy

Brings everyone together

All for our goal

Win!!!

Vacation to the Homeland

Dear Special Female,

Let's take a trip to the Dominican Republic where streets in the night sound like birds and waterfalls all night long. Where you can see the clear water that reminds me of your beauty. The tough roots that we always overcome, but then go back to the smooth and gorgeous root. Fruits that are sweet, just like your personality and your features. A place where we can have a peaceful life.

Personal Manifesto

This is what I know:

I want a world where all is free

A world where life is one

Steven Polanco Cajas

LLJH

Love is two figures playing games
Loyalty is a bear feeding a hungry bear
Joy is two pigs rolling around in the mud
Happiness is playing basketball

Hoping For Fun

I've left Earth. I'm leaving behind the smell of poop. I'm leaving behind homelessness, cancer, diseases, stress... I'm leaving behind the death of Malcolm X, the death of MLK, the death of Nipsey and the deaths of those killed by police.

Ode to Basketball

O basketball, you are the best thing ever. You are an awesome hoop, you are a beautiful moon, and a very cool sun. Your curve is heaven. I love the sounds you make... Splash! Cuff! Without you, my life is hopeless.

Jack Pongritz

People and Police

Why the police?
What was she doing there?
Is she ok?

Lots of people
What are they looking at?
Lots of ears

The road's cracked
Why are the windows broken?
Where are we?

Bird and the Kid

Is he ok?
What is the bird doing?
Where are they?

Kid is hungry
Why is the kid hungry?
He is poor

Bird is hungry
Bird is waiting for food
Kid with nothing

Leaving Earth

I've left Earth. I've left mayo, sickness and racism behind. I'm in search of infinite bacon cheeseburgers and everything I've ever wanted. This new place looks like the most amazing thing I've ever seen. It smells like a hunt of oranges and sweet tasting citrus. I only hear my footsteps and other people talking to each other. I can taste burgers and citrus that are fresh.

Ode to My Bed

O bed, you are amazing
You let me have the best sleep
You are my one true love
You are so comfortable and soft
I love the comfy pillows on you
I could sleep for hours and hours on you
I have no energy without you

Omar Ramirez

Protest and Arrest

Robocops holding hands
Bright flower apprehended but brave
Street cold

Leaving Earth

I've left Earth. The air smells like flowers. Light and the sun's moving. I see new people. The food here tastes good. I see happy people. There's no 9/11. It's a new place. There's no paper in this world to have a new family. I can't stand your ground, reach for black folks and touch only air. Baseball is in my place.

Ode to Baseball

O baseball, the bat is going to hit you
We're going to the playoffs and
A great game
A cold ember changes into water
It's raining
We can't play

Manifesto

I want a world in which people treat others the way they want to be treated, with respect and kindness. Not a lot of people dying from bad people. We can have love, freedom and this world CAN change.

Desmond Reed

U.S. Society

Fear the police

Our powerful, imposing, protecting force

I think not

I am peaceful

You fear me and my power

I'm not weak

To be nonchalant

Not easy to do but

We both win

Struggles of the Dead

Another dead body

Who really cares, another junkie

Just another statistic

A New Beginning

I've left Earth. I've left everything, its peace, its history, everything, because it is the source of all our troubles. I hope to come back to build what should have been built a long time ago. I think I've found this utopia I dreamt of. Everyone here is human, not black, white or any color on the racial spectrum. They bleed and sleep, just like we do, but they are different. Is it that they are equal? Is it that they judge each other on character and not their ancestors? And will it last? Something so good wouldn't last a day in our world. They tell me that we must start over and want this change. I'm coming back home, as much as I don't want to, to build what we need. Maybe we can be like them or maybe it's too late. I am just hoping for the best.

Ode to Headphones

O headphones, you are the greatest invention ever

The... speakers from heaven

One of the few joys in life

Isolation from the world

The bridge between me and music

The guide of the tasteful tunes

Without you, life would be chaos

Nowhere to hide

You are a basic necessity in life

Leilani Reyes

Peace

When will I have peace?
I have not known my place all my life
From the day I was born in the Dominican Republic
To now in an apartment in Bushwick

I grew up alone, taken from my beautiful country
To a strange place I did not know
I was in America struggling to belong
Dahlia
They couldn't pronounce my name
So I changed it
Dahlia
It was easier for me to fit in this way

I spent all my years in America struggling with my identity
Who am I?
Am I Dominican?
Am I American?
I was born there but I grew up here
Would accepting the place I call home betray my family?
When will I have peace?

Alone

Barbed wire fence
A young girl with child
They're hopelessly alone

It is cold
Where will the children go?
What a tragedy

They are dirty
There's sadness in her eyes
She is resilient

Where Is The Love?: A Manifesto

This is what I believe, no, this is what I know for sure: love conquers all. There is nothing

greater in this world than love. Yet, the love is gone, nowhere to be found. In the place of love we have fear, hatred and hopelessness. A mother mourns for her child who was slain because of the color of his skin. A girl is shamed because of the clothes she wears and the looks she receives. A family runs from persecution, but is met with cruelty in what was supposed to be their oasis. I believe that when we love each other things will change. People will be happy, empathetic, and dauntless. There will be no reason to shed a tear for love is above all things.

Ode to Coffee

O coffee!
Mi delicioso cafecito!
You are hot and bitter
Drinking you warms my heart
You remind me of my family
Sitting around *la sasa chismeando*
You wake me up in the morning
You are the light of my life
Without you, I would live no more

Ode to Books

O books!
You transport me to another world
You take me to my fantasy land
You teach me so much
About other people and myself
I love the rainy afternoons we spend together
The water pitter patters on the window
As the words float off the page
You are the passport to my dreams
Without you, I am nothing
Without you, my life is dull

Ode to Hair

O hair!
My crowning glory
You're perfectly imperfect
You are unruly and frizzy but still perfect
You spiral into ringlets so beautiful, I could cry
You remind me of my African roots
Without you, I am not me, I am no one

Arianna Rivera

Pink

I've left Earth.

Left behind rats in train stations, the smell in the staircases, white cops killing black people somehow managing to beat their cases, the smell of the homeless walking down the block, cops on every block but crimes that won't stop, the taste of this dirty ocean water, looking like sewer water. Hoping for peace, looking for a fun life.

This new place is a candy store toddlers beg for, very pink and safe.

Miguel Rodriguez

Walking

I go for a walk
Around the class
Room and I see a
Lot of writing
Most of the writing
Is colorful
I feel happy

Boy

Lost in thought
Boy thinking about the world
Drawing on wall

Family

Family is plantains
A lot of people
A house
A dog
Table
Kids

Family is celebration, dance, comida and arguments
Family is protection

Leaving Earth

I've left Earth. I see the bright sun. I see a few people playing and dancing. I leave behind the dirty smell of the garbage can. I will be leaving World War II, the Holocaust, and 9/11. I am leaving my dresser behind. In my new place there is a nice baseball field, great food, and a lot of big houses.

Ode to the Dominican Republic

You're so hot
Sweat dripping down my face
Delicious Caribbean food
Beautiful breezes blowing against the leaves

Waking

When I wake up in the morning I hear the sweeping
When I am walking to the bathroom I hear soufflé making
And the rooster singing
When I come out of the shower I hear my family talking

I hear my abuela talking about
Que vamos a comer hoy

Tamiah Ross

Little Muslim Girl

There's a little girl
Looking for a proper education
She looks scared

She is focused
She's doing math and games
She is learning

She is Muslim
She's reading from the paper
It's a typewriter

Three Women

There, three women
They are beautiful, tall models
Wearing long heels

They are African
They have beautiful clear skin
There're different fabrics

Messed up wall
Two mothers behind the door
Two little boys

What I've Left Behind

I've left Earth. I've left behind all negativity, homework or focus or stress. I've left bitter, sour and sweet. I've left guns and violence. I've left garbage and trash. I've left poverty and need. I've left Earth without the government or the president. I've left rain and snow and wind.

Do You Remember?

Palm trees all around
The hot, blazing sun shining on e
Remember when we went to Aruba?
The smell of the fresh, salty ocean water
Feet buried in the soft, warm sand
Pink, long birds on the beach
Light breeze swaying the palm trees
Big waves in the ocean are getting bigger

Adicia Samuel

Senses

I can't see

Four out of five senses

I'm still human

Dead Parents

Parents are dead

Protect my sister, all alone

We're not fine

When The Light Seeps Through

Happiness is a hole in the wall

Light shines through

So bright it causes flowers to grow

In the dark

Ode to Riis Beach

O Riis Beach!

You are so cold, yet fun

You are loud, but friendly

You are rough and gentle

You make me feel like I'm in the middle of space

You are the softness between my toes, my fingers

Without you, I couldn't play volleyball in the water

Or the sand

Without you, I couldn't walk along the boardwalk or

Eat ice cream along the boardwalk

Tropical Waters

Dear Sisters,

The river water is like a warm blanket in a tropical farm

I watch the morning sky turn into the dusky night

The green trees are soothing, like drinking green tea in the jungle's night

I remember when we went to Miami beach

Playing in the sand to talk about whatever

Positivity Manifesto

I believe in positivity. I believe that it can help think to think of better things in life. I believe it would open the mind, heart and soul to new things in life. I believe it helps put us in a better space where others' negative energies can't win.

Blaise Santiago

Protest

Some guy screams
The police are in armor
Black and white

Homeless

A kid sleeps
Why won't the photographer help?
It's really disrespectful

Idalis Santiago

The Wish

Birds fly high
In the sky, free and fearless
I wish too

Fish swim low
In the stream, unbothered, free
I wish too

Trees stand tall
Low and high, in the water or touch the sky
I wish too

Mama

The cold ground
Mean birds, creepy crawlies, all alone
I want mama

“I’m hungry,” I weep
“Me too,” the bird speaks
I want mama hugs

I try and hide
It’s useless, I am dead
I want mama’s hug
I want my mama’s love

Flying High

I soar through the sky
That bird way up high
 Above the clouds I fly
 All alone in the sky
Through the wind pressed against my face
Someone bigger than me is here
 Dressed all in white
 Blowing all around
My wing broke
Without a sound

With one little touch
I flew away

Right by my side
I knew what was right
 I could never
 Land my flight

Ode to Dance

Like in the sun
Beaming down on me
With your heat of fire

like a table that’s been around for years
each scar is a story

like a blanket
hiding the body
from the threat of a cold
until the morning rays

like the blue bird
sing the music
rhythm in my step
rhythm in my soul

like a magician
everything disappears
only me and you
the earth and the moon

without the earth
the moon means nothing
just sitting in space

with the earth
the moon is night
it never stays in one place
but it’s always with the earth

Jarif Sarder

The Walk

I go for a walk among the people. The people push the trash around the chairs. The blue bottles remind me of the blues. As I walk the teacher tells me to shush. I look up and see a picture of John Locke. Then I look at the sky and see two jets go by. The trash outside remind me of how trash the Chicago Bulls are. The colors around the class remind me of the rainbow. Looking outside reminds me of the buildings in Manhattan. I hear someone say, "Brooklyn," and out of nowhere the Brooklyn Bridge comes to mind. I bump into my friend and see a Snapple bottle.

Friendship

Friendship is a fog that comes and goes

Friends come and go as fog does

Friends can surround you just like fog

Surrounds us

Friends can disappear just as fog disappears

Friends can show you love and true colors as time goes on

You can all have good times and in a matter of seconds it can disappear

Friends can cause you to have hopes or nightmares

Friends can change you

They can either bring joy or sadness into your life

Memoirs

Dear Grandpa,

This image reminds me of so many old memories. The soothing trees. There are so many different trees. The little hut houses remind me of the houses we have in our villages. The wind coming off the trees sounds like the old grandpa whistling. The reflections on the ocean remind me of the butterflies, the ocean waves remind me of the classical music played in the malls. The house reminds me of the soothing sands the old lady who played on her guitar sat on. The beach is the nicest beach on earth. The speed boat just goes faster than light and splashes water all over the land.

Yennisse Sevilla

The Garbage Man

I am the man who has to pick everyone's garbage up
I wear a forest green shirt
And a frown all across
My sad sad face
Twenty years of the same old mistake
All these dirty filthy people
Leaving garbage everywhere
All the smells and all the dirt
But it's my job to do it all
O whatever, they say, you get paid
Don't you, though?
Yes, I do, but never enough for the
Humiliation they force me to face
I am thankful
For I have a plate of food
Every night
But it becomes so gross
When you must face
The disgusting leftovers and
The nasty smells that fall
From the nasty old truck
My knees and hands will never be young again
O in the 70s while I studied
And cut class here and there
I never would have imagined
This endless torture
My angry mother tells me every day
If only you made a better choice, she says
A sad fifty year old man who cries at night
For only I know my pain and my regret
But this angel little boy o, he came to me one day
I admire your hard work, he said and he
Changed my life upside down

Two Dimensions

Two small boys
The two dimensional blue wall
The curious eyes

Chipped broken place
Sandals and black high heels
Three different women

Three elegant women
There's confidence in their eyes
Pink fashionable dresses

Rise

Many spying bystanders
The two strong forceful officers
A serious face

A long dress
Confrontation between all three people
There's no fear

Tall big trees
A populated park with cracks
There's movement everywhere

Donkey

I smell the clean ocean water
The waves sounding like roaring lions
The palm trees moving at the rhythm of the wind
The sound of giggles and hardcore laughs
The donkey peacefully moving and the sun radiating in our smiles
How beautiful it is

Manifesto Puzzle Piece

Without love, we are lost
Without love, we are gone
For God so loved the world
And love is reflected in me
With love I can achieve
With love you can go far
Love is your compassion
Love is your patience
For love is not perfect
Love is quite gentle
Love stands for tears
Love stands for comfort
Love unites nations
Love unites relations
Love is always worth it
For love is like color to this world
And a hug to embrace all those you love
Over it all, love stands for commitment
And most of all, trust
Love is your missing piece

Kiryl Shyroki

Africa

Poor, naked child
Probably surviving in Africa today
Huts and vultures

Poor soil and
Poor village in need of
Mercy, truth, love

Flying pretty high
Hungry, looking for dead prey
Look: death below

From Creation to the End

Beauty is the music notes written in gold
Beauty is every horse, tree and child God created
Beauty is the green grass that the oxen eat
Suits and dress shoes are inside
Pants and shirts outside
Green, red, blue, purple beauty sees
The boy sitting on a brown chair
Looking in to the window
Boys and girls He welcomes
Washes them with His red blood
Fans, gold and smoke are not beauty
Medusa, dark ski masks, and evil webs
Are not beauty

Russia

Dear Friend,
The Kremlin stands there like a caramel house, my colors and shapes. The smooth-looking domes symbolize Russian power.
It's stood there for many years. It's a famous church. It's stood there from the times of swords and shields, built for the glory of God.

With God

I've left Earth
I've left behind all the lust and filth of this world
I've left behind the smell of gasoline
I can live with all of the things that have happened
Things happen for a reason
From Hitler or Stalin, responsible for genocide
As a human I can adjust to things
This new place, though, is perfect
This place is Heaven
This place has God

Ode to the Cross

O old cross
The symbol of crucifixion
God himself shed His blood
Upon the wooden cross
You are the symbol of love
The greatest love of all
You hung a man and the God on you
You are the reason I'm alive
Christ knew his cup of suffering
He had to endure upon the cross
On the cross, it was finished
But you aren't the end
You are the process of salvation

Afiah Smith

The Girl in the Old Classroom

Pen, paper, numbers
Learning in the shabby room
Without a teacher

Dark colored hijab
No doors and broken blinds
Yet still focused

Sitting on floor
Number scribbled on the table
Old math tool

Separation

Barbed wire gate
Young girl holding small boy
Plaid patterned blanket

Ode to My Bed

O bed
My comfort from the world
With your warm embrace
And sleep inducing silence
My sanctuary from the world shines
Your soft, warm pillows and blankets
Without you, I would be stuck in the
Noise of the world forever

Freedom

Freedom is grey, brown and black colors
With red, purple, blue, and yellow bits
Difficult and gloomy at first
But opens up a new way of life
Work and sleepless nights for
Equal pay and safe walks home at night
Protest and backlash to love who you want
And no new descriptions to make you wanted

Alissa Smith

Visions

1.

A sleeping baby
Alone and trapped in wire
Saving each other

2.

Blind woman walking
White cops restricting her march
People standing around

Alissa's America

America's never been what it was supposed to be
America has never been equal to me
White and black is all it knows
If I was America there would be equality
The land of the free could be what people dreamed
A place of hope and faith is what I dreamed it to be
Diversity, no racism and fair opportunities
Something that should come free
To me and you
To generations to come
Come back home and say the war is done

Going for a Walk

I go for a walk among the blue walls
That color meets my mood
Problems that should be served justice
Bump into me
Sexism, homophobia, I see every day
Dehumanizing and superior play a big role in these topics
Just like the teacher in the classroom has a big part
Joyce comes to save the day
Desk filled with expression is something I see
Just like the rainbow that floods the top of the room
Waiting to be covered by the work and expression of others
As sick as I feel, the pain in my throat makes me sleepy
Wish I could stay here
Where I'm not weary

Denroy Smith

Confrontation

Two black panthers

A girl is white dots

There, green grass

My Own Planet

I've left Earth to find a new life.

I am leaving Earth so I can find peace.

I bring my family and friends and good weather.

I leave behind hard work

and people who are disrespectful.

I bring cars and big houses and good food.

Summertime in the 70s

I see people on the beach

It's in Florida

Nice weather, beach water

Sun is out, palm trees

People with their friends and family

This reminds me of a hot summer day

When it was hot and nice

Samantha Smith

A Classroom Walk

I go for a walk amongst a
Group of students
Of different cultures
Backgrounds and ethnicities
As I look round
I see
Many smiles
Many frowns
Many tired faces

A Life Taken

Dead man and
Police officer. She stares shockingly.
Gray sky, gloomy.

Mountains in the
Distance, dead grass, sheriff's car.
A life taken.

Manifesto

Oh, innocent young girl
You know nothing
About this evil world

You were brought
Into this world
Without knowing what comes with it

You will soon grow
And realize all
The obstacles you outgrew

Zighraya Soto Ramos

Poor Baby

Squalor, loneliness, distress

I take care of myself

I am hurt

Nails are uncut

Life isn't anything but hard

Baby in need

Sad Chaos

Chaos is items on the floor

Energy is an object that looks like a
doll shining under a spotlight in a dark room

Sadness is the situation looking chaotic

Sadness is dull looking faces

Sadness is stoicism

Sadness is gloomy clothes

Ode to My Piano

My piano is like the rain

Thunder, drizzle, drip

The sound lingers

Without you I'd be vulnerable

Marbella

Dear Beach Lovers,

Sand in all cracks, drowning and lost kids, sexy lifeguards that are too old for me, falling umbrella, burnt and peeling skin, crowded boardwalks, the guy screaming "sour, sour", freeshes dancing for SnapChat, freesha, dirty Diana, cuts on my feet from hidden glass, horrid smelling bathrooms, I hate the beach

Joshwa Surujbhan

What I See

Death. He caught Abraham Lincoln. The man who helped a lot of people. His time was up. I see bright colors all around me. I don't know why, but when I'm hungry, time flies. When the clock hits three it's time to practice. A lot of people come. It's called Jayhawk pride. I don't know why we say hi and bye and the next minute any one of us can die.

Waste Land

A garbage filled
Wasteland, clothes everywhere: a boy
On a mattress.

A broken family.
Children sleep while adults worry.
A broken family.

A gold watch
Shines on the crying face
Of a baby.

Ode to Food

O food
I love you so much
So delicious and happy
I savor your taste
I wish you were with me right now, I'm
hungry
O food
Without you I would die
Literally
Without you I would suffer
Food

A Good Time

Chaos is people drinking and having fun
After a rebellion
Energy is people dancing
While a cat walks by
Playing a violin
Energy and chaos combine
Causing your mind to race while your body
Is at ease
Poverty is the reason why
Chaos breaks out in a rebellion
Causing the energy in the atmosphere to
rise
Hoping that democracy will bring hope and
peace

As we lose hope a flower dies
But the courage to keep going
Helps keep flowers alive

Space

I've left Earth. I've left the smell of garbage
behind with the trash that comes with it.
I've left all the negativity and all the
troubles and worry that come with it. I've
left Earth and its problems to go to a better
place. I've left Earth to go to a safe space
where most people are allowed. I'm in a
space where I'm surrounded by friends and
family. This new place is a large field where
my friends and I are playing sports.

A Week Near the Beach

Dear Mum,
It's been a long week near the beach. The
soothing sound of the ocean hitting the
rocks. The amazing view of the sunset from
the beach house. The smell of the salty
breeze at night as we gather around the
campfire to sing the campfire song.

Ashley Sykes

America and Me

I am American

Living in America doesn't make me American

Trump being the president doesn't make me American

America was never equal

The colors red, white and blue doesn't make me American

My black hair and brown hair doesn't make me American

My ego doesn't make me American

America was never free

What makes me American is me

My cold heart

My love of money

Me eagle is me

America was never oppressed

America was me

Dirty Little Boy

Dirty little boy

Dirty mattress inside a junkyard

Garbage all around

Little boy, five

Garbage is where he lives

Sleeping in trash

Homeless little boy

Sad and alone on mattress

Dirty boy mattress

Angry Girl

Box-braids on girl

Girl and brother are angry

Anger is them

Anger is around

Her long braids look tight

He's camera shy

Dull day there

Baby and mom are scared

Striped shirt boy

Dylan Taylor

America

I am America what do
 You want me to be
 I want to shine the sun
Over the dark but how might
 That be
Capitalist or communist what
Does the world have in store
 For me
I want to be what you want
 Me to be, land of the free
Whites, blacks, Asians, Hispanics.
 The people rule the land
This is what America was meant to be
 As clear as it can be I'm not
 Who I'm supposed to be
 The daggers in the dark
The opportunity on the earth
The twinkle twinkle in the dark
 The sparkle

Dead

My oh my
The pain I've been through
 I am sick

Peace and Place

I've left Earth to find peace
 I deserve
I'm leaving behind the images of hate and violence
Leaving behind racism and segregation and sexism
 Restore a balance in the universe
In search of new life, I have a couple of creators in mind
A better earth where the wind blows in the sunlight
 Brighter colors make better days
 Children jump with joy
Everyone's religion we learn
 Maybe even praise
 What happens next
 No more hollow days
A white hand, blue hand, black or red
 Equality smells wonderful
From every borough, state or country

Deanna Torres

American Dreaming

Family being separated
Prepared for the photoshoot but
Not her life

Cold looking eyes
As dark and cold as
Weather and sky

Not caring for
attention, wanting her home
and parents back

not living but
fighting, fighting to be free
to live free

Faith is bright colors to the dark sky
Friendship is letting the animal out
Loyalty is hair everywhere and a blank stare
Beauty is going against the stereotype and
being strong

Ode to the Painting

O painting, you inspire me
You remind me of my happy place
Having such beauty that like no other
Makes me smile
Every time I think of you
You change my life in so many ways
So many different shapes
Without you, I don't think could live
another day
Cover me with all the colors of the rainbow

Storyteller

Dear carver, what story do you have? Carve every smooth detail. Shapes and colors so clear it's like a book. Shapes showing different venues and events. Can I tell your store so everyone can hear? This reminds me of the time when I went to a sleepover and told stories. I had a great time. I think you have great stories. Time to let them shine.

Two Sides To Every Story

Stories can be fiction or nonfiction. Fake storytelling gets mixed into the real. If you don't know the story, don't tell it. Losing power to this world, everyone is free to do what we deserve. This world is full of hate, stress and fake depression. This is the world I know. The world I know is fun, full of love and respect for every creator here. This world is full of problems, but listen to every story. We can save all of them.

Evelyn Torres Priego

Disaster

Baby girl crying
Beautiful bond ends in disaster
Crying baby girl

Inspected, suspect, death
Pink, bright color for disaster
Blue, not pretty

Cops don't care!
Separating a bond, irreplaceable, sad!
Cries for safety!

Open-Minded

Peace is an opening in the ceiling, a way to let go
Energy is almost like a light house, guiding you though
Family is like pottery on the table, considering things differently

Ode to My Bed!

O the best bed!
You never fail to make me happy
So happy and refreshed
My happiest hello but my worst goodbye
Every second goes to you
Wish I could never leave!
The stress those people give me
You always comfort me!
You are there every second of the day
How am I so blessed?!
One a dark night you are my light
Geez, how was I so blessed?
When I think about you a smile comes to light
How, oh how, could I ever forget you!

Jayquan Turner

Girl

Blind little girl
No one there to help
Learning to read

Knowledge is power
Born with extreme disadvantages yet
She can persevere

A little girl

Learning in a classroom, hope
In her heart

Time

Joy is a cold night
Gathered around a fire
Telling stories while
Making their own

Gem

I've left Earth.
I've left behind the conflicts of modern civilization.
I've left the racism and sexism that has been done for so long it seems normal.
I've left behind both world wars.
This new place is a dazzling gem.

Alex Vazquez Saldiva

Manifesto

I believe everyone should have self-respect and respect others.

I believe that everyone should find something that will make them happy.

I believe that school is not the main goal in life.

I believe the justice should be served.

Wayne White

Dreams of a Black Man

A black man
A white police officer stands
Anything could happen

Screams for power
Blacks fighting for their rights
Confusion to others

All lives matter
Different to the naked eye
A weird world

Nowadays

I am a proud African American
A slave to the white eyes
Working hard to achieve a great prize
A prize of freedom, hope and success
Just doing what is best
Wearing a calm fit
Jeans staffing to my butt, a sweater
Hood on all day, fresh expensive kicks
The regular black boy fit

They view us as poor
But to us it's comfortable
They try so hard
To make us feel dull

Philosophy

Love is a gazelle in a red robe
Love is a game
Two players
Press start
Happiness is what you gain
However, it can bring pain
Energy is a gazelle running through the fields
A race
Red light, green light
Like a star shining bright

New Beginning

I've left Earth
A paradise to see
Isolating myself from others
It's pleasant to be me
Trees blowing, grass flowing
Dispersed from all distractions
Me, myself and I
Darkness is no more
Positive energy in the air
Come walk through the open door
Enter the land of a new type of joy
No sadness, no illness, no nothing
This is what the world should be
Got me feeling like a real boy
You will see planets, close enough to touch
Dangerous animals living in peace
Leaving negativity behind

Through the Horizon

Dear Big Sister,
Through the horizon
A beautiful view
Palm trees flowing
Birds chirping
What a smooth feeling
The mixed feeling about the water
Day or night
Blue or green

Two Cool Colors, In the Midst of the Ocean

Dear Mom,
Lights, lights, and more lights
Busy streets, loud people
People filled with dreams in the air
The moment when we walked the bridge
326 steps, all filled with joy and peace
Ha-ku-na-ma-ta-dah
It's a problem free philosophy

Shavone Williams

Family

Family on the
River, water flows one direction
Man stand tall

Sky high blue
Tree on the land, summer
Bridge connects land

Man loves soccer
Family looks depressed on water
On a river

Baby crying, car
Woman's hand leans on car
Man holds woman

White van man
Baby's red sweater, tangled hair
Man in suit

Big wheels, van
Big baby bens take up
Two lanes crying

Metaphors

Anger is a woman with long hair
crying with tears and eyebrows
shaped as a bird

Love is a baby in her arms

Beauty is a woman with
glasses and red lipstick

Friendship is a group of men with
hats praying or singing

Loyalty is a group of loved ones
Being together, showing each other love

Energy is the movement of someone's vibe

New Planet

On my planet there would be a lot of ladies. When I leave there are big stairs waiting for me to wait down to see my lovely planet. A whole lot of food and money. I would leave behind slavery, all the negativity, homeless people, etc. This planet smells like flowers. I would take all the important good people with me. even my loved ones would come along. This new place is very big. It looks similar to planet Earth, but it's very different on the inside. This new place is like the ocean where all living things depend on each other for survival. This new place is like a snake shedding its skin because we will make a change. Abraham Lincoln, Obama and his family, my family, Martin Luther King and all the people that just want positivity in their life are on my planet. I want a healthy planet so therefore no factories, no guns, no weapons, just peace. I would like to have a big defensive system surrounding my planet. When you see my planet, you will see a statue of me. You will hear the joy of the peace. The rules are to get to my planet you have to have a mission, something positive you want to accomplish in life. Most importantly, my planet is all about success, dignity and power.

Bae-cation

Dear Grandma,
I'm on vacation with my girl. We're having fun and getting drunk and the water is beautiful. It's nice and blue. The houses here are wooden-made houses. Very creative and very fascinating. The wind blows peaceful. It's a hot day, the sun shining on our beautiful skin. The people here are nice. They dress very nice with fashion. The trees are beautiful and bright green.

Daneah Willis

A Dangerous World

A desperate family
Longing for a safe place
Looking for help

Exhausted in danger
Unaware of what happens tomorrow
They need help

Scared, tired, broken
How did we get here?
Where am I?

The America I Know

O yes, America
The land of fake hope and opportunities
O America!
The racist place where people fight unfairly
With their money and fame achieving the goals
That will never be offered to me
America never cared for anything but itself
Its reputation, it's control of communities
That have people that looked like me
America never showed and embraced its diversity
Nor would it embrace different cultures and religions
America is not what it seems to be
America will never be for people like me
America will never embrace its differences
Its success, its failure because
America has never cared for anything besides itself

Ode to IPad

O IPad!
How I long for you after a long day
How you comfort and relax me in times of stress
O IPad!
You were an amazing gift
Your apps give me life
How you make me smile as bright as the sun
O IPad!
Without you, I would feel incomplete

Home, My Safe Space

Home! My safe space
The place where I grew up
Home!
Memories of my past, where mama and I felt safe
Home!
Have you come back to reclaim my heart?
Can you be my safe space once again?
Home!
Where mama and I made our products to sell for money
Colors solid and print
In which we weaved straw patterns and colors
Which represent my culture
Home!
Have you come back to reclaim my heart?
Can you be my safe space once again?
Surrounded by lemon trees which we picked for
Lemonade on those hot, sunny days
Home!
Have you come back to reclaim my heart?

Deashawn Woods

Happiness

Justice is peace among the people
Fear is a horse being stuck in a tree
Being saved from drowning is a sign of happiness
Black skin against a yellow gown shows peace
Happiness is black girls doing double dutch
Free from dying from the deadly water

Freedom in the World

Freedom is a carefree life
Freedom represents joy and peace
It is a dream that everyone wants to achieve
Something that should be a natural right
But is not
Freedom is a dream, not reality
Will it ever become reality?
Have you achieved freedom? I haven't

A New Life

I left and went to find a new place. where there's less violence crime and killing. Oh America! the greatest of all. everything is perfect here. Leaving all the negativity behind. Seeing the sunrise from the hemisphere. this new place is an apple. speeding is not an option. keep ICE away from people. why does there always have to be killing? each night someone dies, not coming home. this new place is like a bounce ball. there are some ups and downs.

Ode to Basketball

O basketball, you are so cool
I play you day and night
Bounce and bounce on the ground
You are my relief, you are so great
I shoot you and feel awesome
Running out of energy for you
You are my backbone, my moon
I'd play you to the sun and back!

Manifesto

I believe everyone should be treated equally and has the right to freedom. Why have the Statue of Liberty if it stands for nothing? I believe whites and blacks will one day get back together. There's still modern-day slavery. There's no such thing as a perfect world. Dr. King once said, "... will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." We will all fight together.