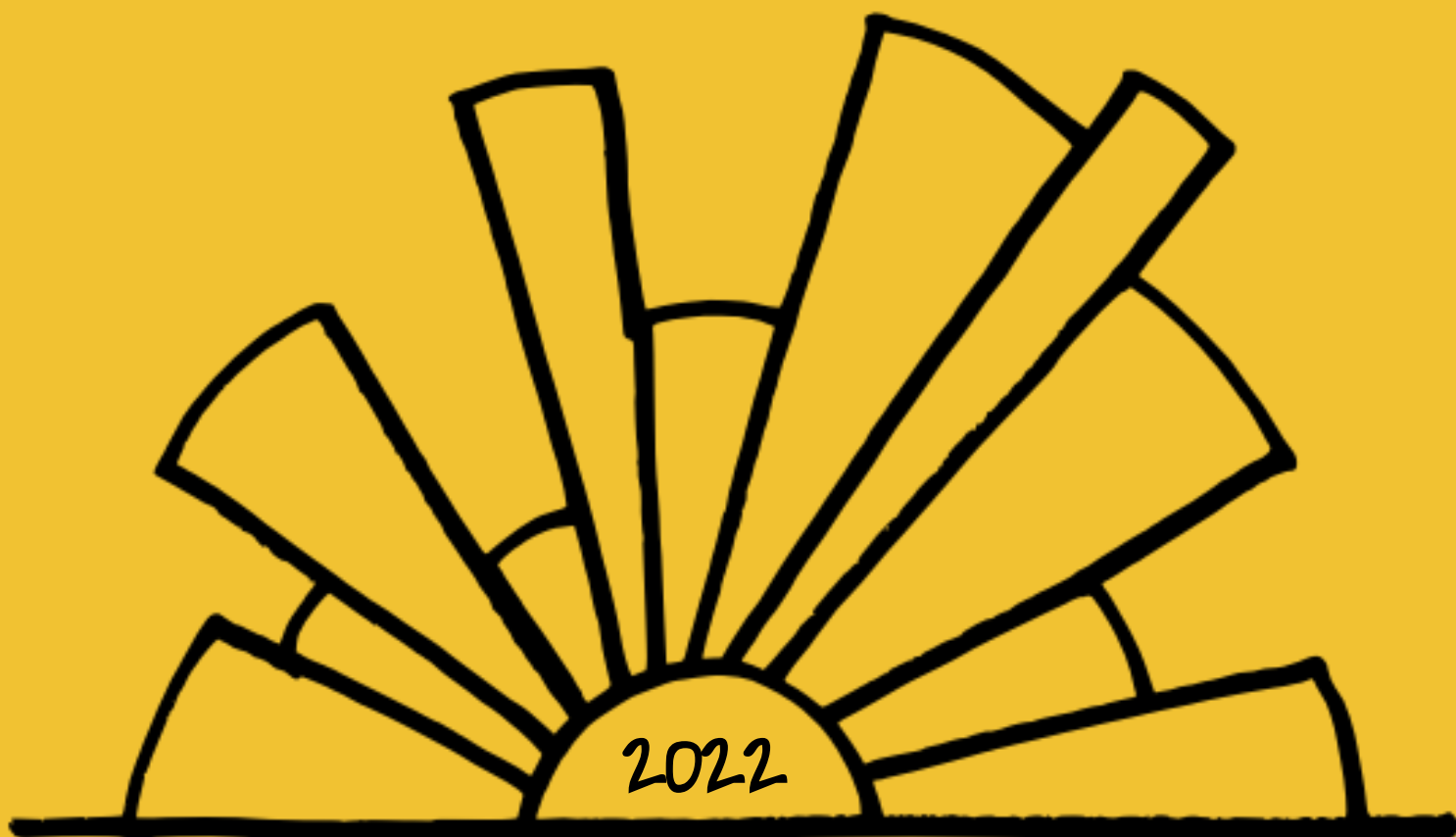


The Middle Image



Thank you to the Student Authors whose work appears in the 2022 Middle Image:

Alexander Allen
Hannah Aman-Rademacher
Tyler Ames
Kailee Anstey
Daemon Armstrong
Ethan Ashton
Jenna Barnard
Neveya Barnes
Myles Beach
Nisi Beltran Roblero
Kaitlin Bennett
Cierra Biaselli
Braydon Blair
Kaitlyn Bower
Kyle Brett
Lily Brigham
Tyler Brown
Julia Button
Teagan Carter
Natalia Coley
Elizabeth Conner
Colin Coyle
Lindsay Crawford
Shayla Cruz
Walker Davey
Jenna DeSmit
Brooklyn Drennen
Autumn Englert
Makayla Fidanza
Analiah Figueroa-Fuentes
Lillian Fisher
Maylie Fisher
Ben Fleisher
Kaiden Froman
Omer Fugate

Aubrey Gannon
Malory Geist
Xavier Gerow
Juan Gomez-Roblero
Landon Graybill
Dacodah Ireland
Ashley Henning
Elektra Hess
Shayla Higgins
Joseph Johnson
Amiyah Jones
Emma Jones
Devante Jones
Justin Kania
Mackenzie Keiffer
Vinny Kimberly Lonnen
Abby Kincaid
Michael Klatt
McKinley Knight
Hanna Kumalac
Michelle Lauro-Ramirez
Karl Ledger
Hailey Lonnen
Richard Lowery
Hope McCugh
Cole Madden
Julissa Marmolejo
Shania Mathes
Deandre Matthews
Liam Matthews
Decklan Meiers
Mickale Meyer-Lane
Nathaniel Miesner
Owen Miller
Kyra Monnier

Myalee Moyer
Madison Muckle
Wesley Olles
Leah Pawlak
Kristin Platt
Luke Pollaro
Lucas Prest
Cohen Reid
Cordelia Rivers
Pablo Rosario Reyes
Brayden Ryder
Melodee Sager
Aideeliz Santiago Garcia
Joshua Schoeberlein
Marayah Sharpstene
Nova Smith
Jordan Simmons
Kamryn Simmons
Jagger Smith
Emma Snitzel
Mia Standish
Sophia Standish
Henry Symons
Christopher Tetrault
Tristian Tilbe
Annabell Toman Weese
Anthony Turlington Jr.
Alayzarah Villanueva
Charles Warren
Dayton Weese
Brady Whittier
Caidyn Wilson
Lena Young
Hunter Zambito
Joshua Zayac

The Middle Image

Albion Middle School
Literary Magazine
2022

As the spider
climbed in
the center of

the human.
first the eggs
hatched

aggressively
then they all
feasted actively

into the heart of
the lifeless
human.

- Devante Jones

As the doll
climbed over
the top of

the gate
first the whispers

then the silence
stepped steadily

into the dark of
the night.

- Hunter Zambito

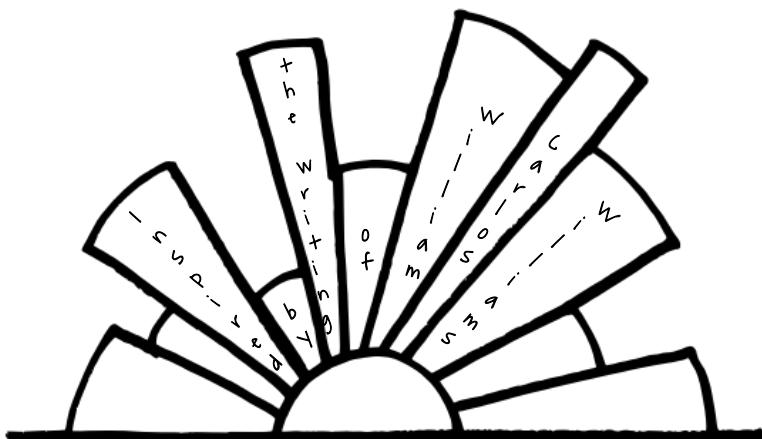
As the words
climbed in
the center of

the brain
first the harsh
destructive ones

painfully
then the broken
stepped-on heart

into the face of
the affected
enemy.

- Neveya Barnes



As the fog
climbed on
the top of

the house
first the dark
clouds

silently
then the darkness
stepped stealthily

into the center of
the abandoned
town.

- Marayah Sharpstene

As the shadow
climbed over
the top of

the trees
first the moon's rays
dawned

softly
then the shadow
stepped out

into the light of
the illuminated
building.

- XZavier Gerow

As the words
climbed into
the center of

the heart
first the violence
punctured

slowly
then the darkness
stepped creepingly

into the expanse of
the dejected
soul.

- Colin Coyle

"This is just to say"

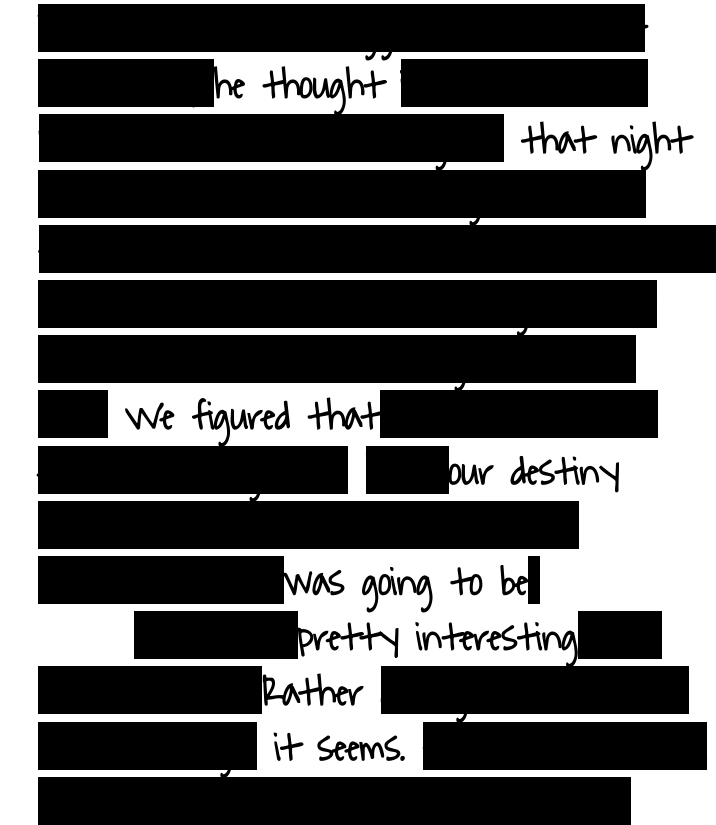
I have watered
The flowers
That were dying in
The pots
And which
You were probably
Saving
For someone
Forgive me
They were dying
So miserable
And so depressed

- Analiah Figueroa-Fuentes

"This is just to say"

I have stolen
The cattle
That were in
The pasture
And which
you were probably saving
for auction
Forgive me
They were beautiful
so majestic
And so energetic

- Christopher Tetrault

[illegible]

part [REDACTED]
- Lily Brigham

The [redacted] beat moved [redacted]
impressively. The [redacted]
[redacted] spectators were few. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] many
intricate and artful movements, [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

- Michael Klatt

[redacted]
[redacted] on earth [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

There was now a fine, cold drizzle [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] I had come a thousand miles... [redacted]
[redacted] uncertain almost to absurdity [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

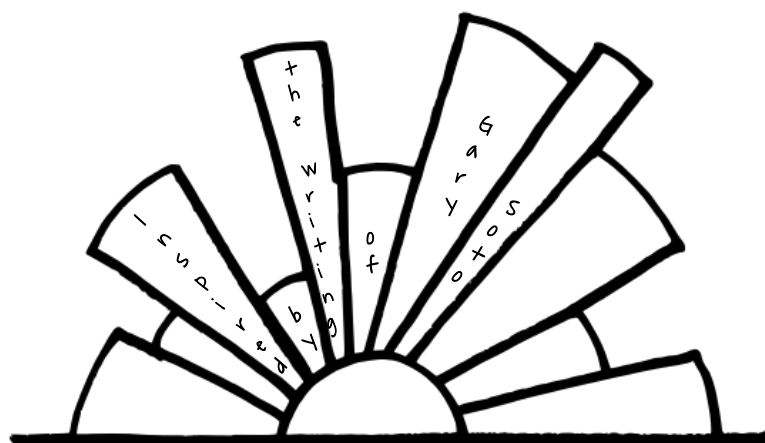
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] Well, well, well [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] earth is quite interesting indeed. [redacted]

- Karl Ledger

In [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] kitchen [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He sat [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] hoping [REDACTED] he would [REDACTED] be [REDACTED] understood [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] finally [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
They [REDACTED] slowly, [REDACTED] See
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] a girl [REDACTED]

- Melodee Sager



[redacted] the boy [redacted] turned
away. He [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] wished [redacted]
[redacted] he could start [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] erasing [redacted]
[redacted] who stood in front of him. [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted] He remembered [redacted] when
he [redacted]
[redacted] picked [redacted]
[redacted] on [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] him [redacted]

- Shayla Cruz

[redacted] He [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] was too weak from failure [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] avoiding the
stores [redacted] he had to return [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] to his [redacted] car, [redacted]
[redacted] after [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] college [redacted]
[redacted] he [redacted] picked [redacted] up [redacted] a different [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] mood.
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] bouquets of love. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] raced [redacted]
[redacted]

- Kamryn Simmons

"Valentine"

Not flowers or candy.

I give you my love.

It is a gift from my heart.

It promises that I will always be here for
you and love you

like the moon and it's as big as the universe.

Here.

It will make you feel happy, loved, and joyful
like a little fluffy puppy.

It will make you feel better and always be
happy to be around me.

I am trying to be caring.

Not flowers or candy.

I give you my love.

Its love will stay within your heart and soul
as we are,

for as long as we are.

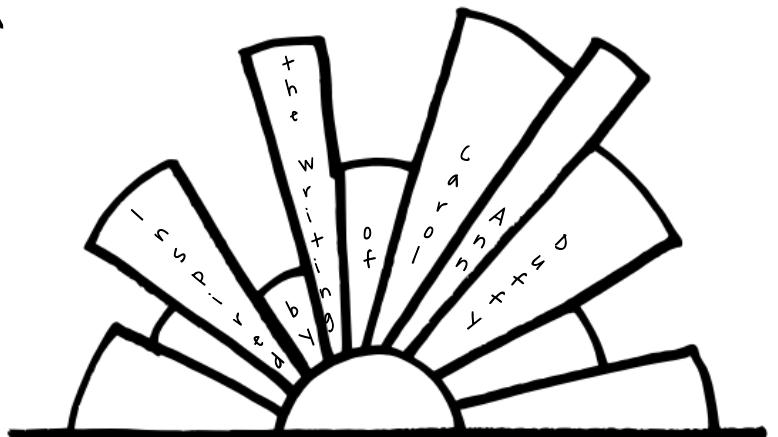
Take it.

It's a gift from me
if you like.

My love.

Its scent will cling to to your soul,
Just like it would cling to a monkey to a
branch.

- Kailynn Bower



"Valentine"

Not a criminal or a thief.

I give you a monster of a man.
It is a face of pure evil.
It promises "to get revenge"
like the "predator and prey".

Here.

It will be dangerous
like a toxin.
It will be very manipulative.

I am trying to be serious.

Not a joker or a comedian.
I give you a dangerous man.
His strength will break doors off hinges,
break and fracture bones.

For as long as we are safe.

Take it.

His anger rises
Like a lion,
if you like.
deadly.

His scent will cling to you
like a toxic smell of fumes,
cling to you like an agitated cat.

- Cohen Reid

"Valentine"

Not a laugh or a scream.

I give you a tear.
It is a powerful stream.
It promises a flood.

Here.

It will help you flow
like a river.
It will make the Nile feel inferior.

I am trying to be truthful.

Not a lake or a bay
I give you a tear.
His wet residue will stay on your cheeks,
sad and dreadful
as we are,
for as long as we are.

Take it.

His soggy feeling will give you life
if you like.

Melancholy.

His scent will cling to your shirt,
cling to your heart.

- Kamryn Simmons

"Valentine"

Not a dark feeling or a single thought.

I give you a promise and I keep it.

It is a trust process .

It promises I will never betray you
like the people who have before.

Here.

It will catch up to you

like when you left me in the dark.

It will make you regret what you did after you lose all hope.

I am trying to be as honest as I can.

Not a sorry or a card to make me feel better.

You gave me a lot of memories I won't forget
some bad some good.

Its guilt will drag you down,
down and down.

As we are,

for as long as we are.

Take it.

Its the best photo we had ever taken together

Cherish it more than I ever could,

if you like.

Beautiful

Its scent will cling to you,

cling to everything around you

You can be yourself now, without any problems.

- Landon Graybill

"Valentine"

Not a crush or a phase

I give you a heart, my heart
It is a strong feeling
It promises love
like the kiss we share every day.

Here.

It will give you truth
like I can.
It will make you want more,
need more, long for more of my love.

I am trying to be yours.

Not a player or a liar.

I give you a heart, my heart.
Its beating will
make you need it, want it,
loyal and truthful
as we are,
for as long as we are.

Take it.

Its bound to be yours,
if you like.

Love.

Its scent will cling to your need,
cling to YOUR heart.

- Krystlin Platt

"Valentine"

Not a chocolate bar
or a satin wrapped heart

I give you a light bulb.
It is a glass full of wonder
It promises to guide you
like the beautiful lights do.

Here.

It will blind your sight
like Heaven.
It will make a
chance of glory.

I am trying to be helpful.

Not a stuffed bear or a kiss.

I give you a lightbulb.
Its reflection will stay in your eyes,
bright and beautiful
as we are,
for as long as we are.

Take it.

Its silver ring
could be a wedding ring,
if you like.

Silver.

Its scent will cling to your hands,
cling to your light switch.

- Lillian Fisher

"Valentine"

Not a candle or a note.

I will give you a book.

It is an item that tells a whole story with just little words.

It promises to get you hooked

like the rack your coat hangs from.

Here.

It will be certain to get more interesting over time

Like a haircut.

It will make you feel many emotions, ups and downs.

I am trying to be caring.

Not a necklace or a ring.

I give you a book.

Its little scribbles will

Impact your interests,

Expressive and engaging

as we are,

for as long as we are.

Take it.

Its colorful cover like all the feelings I feel when I look at you

And the black spine like a black rose,

if you like.

Comfortable.

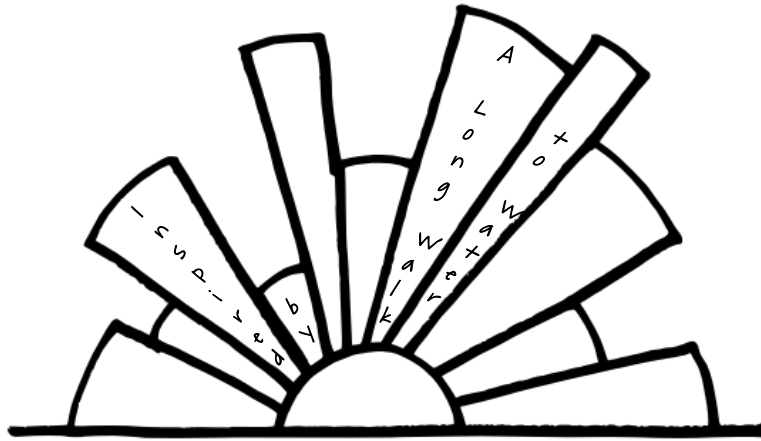
Its scent will cling to hands as you flip through the pages,

like you cling to a glass vase, always ready to be broken.

- Shayla Higgins

Memories flash through my head
Of everyone taken from em
Uncle, my only family still by my side,
is grabbed by the
Reaper
Now there's no one. Nothing.
- Cordelia Rivers

Sacrosanct
Ablaze
Lack food and water
Versed with living in war
Afraid
- Alektra Hess



Afraid, I am scared to go
Earther and farther
Running, walking
Afraid, scared
It is too hard
Death, most have died
- Braydon Blair

Where is my family?
Am I ever going to see them again?
The village is under attack
Ethiopia is the destination
Refugee camp
- Omer Fugate

Sitting in her favorite garden spot
She imagined being a fairy
With enchanted wells
And sparking emerald wings
She was always a happy camper
Whenever she was in her fairy world
As she whirled around pretended to be
a fairy queen.

- Jenna DeSmit

There was a blackout
And the sky was like liquid mercury
The clouds were Orion gray
And I couldn't see anything
Until the moon came out
And lit up the sky like a supernova

- Alexander Allen

My family and I
On a road trip
I listen to my music
The rain song
It's like a rushing stream
When I close my eyes
All I see is
A striking
Great lake
And me
Jumping off
The high dive
"Splash"
I shiver
As I
Think
I touched the water
Only to be
Back in the car....
- Maylie Fisher

I got unlucky in the sister department,

My youngest sister is a beauty queen,

My oldest sister is a heartbreaker,

And every one she sees acts as if they been shot with Cupid's arrow,

My mother named her newest addition to the family...

GLITTERATI,

that poor puppy.

- Kamryn Simmons

The sun tells the moon how great the sunlight is,
the moon tells the sun how great the moonlight is,
the sun tells the moon how people play in the sun,
the moon tells the sun how people hunt in the night,
the sun tells the moon how bold she is,
the moon tells the sun how nice she is,
the sun and moon are very alike.

- Makayla Fidanza

The light from the moon shows us
that there is more out there than meets the eye,
and the sea can bring peace and calm,
but also deadly waves of destruction.
the morning dawn guides you away from sweet dreams,
and the night sends people to rest.
And the sun and moon tell their own separate story.

- Charles Warren

the stones flew through the air as the soldiers ran
the moon brings fear into their hearts
the night guides their plan for an ambush
and the sea takes over the noise of their running

the stars stalk in the air
and the trees dance in the now heavy winds of enemy aircraft
the grass folds under the weight of soldiers falling to the ground or running to cover
the shrapnel flies through the air getting dangerously close to the soldiers
- Cohen Reid

The stars dance through the night sky.
The moon guides the sailors through the sea.
The crashing waves take the boat, showing it the way.
Bringing peace to all that chooses to hear.
The sails gust through the small breeze.
The moon's crust shines bright for all to see.
On the water is where I feel most free.

- Shayla Higgins

bright colors of the pictures on the walls
candles burning in almost every room
sound of the clock on the wall ticking and
the wind chimes dancing above the heater
warm breeze of the heaters behind the couch
chocolate cake, still hot, for dessert
this is the best place
so quiet and always warm and cozy
never hungry, so peaceful
I love it here
- Melodee Sager

Rollins Pond

crystal clear spring waters
tall pines surrounding me
birds chirping in the trees
low fog being whisked by the wind
mountains made me feel at peace
- Walker Davey

The mare's pricked ears put a smile on my face.
The mild wind makes nothing but happiness in my brain.
I look beside me to the ground passing by, the breeze taking
over my surroundings.
Hoof beats sinking by guiding me around, stride the dirt
taking over the ground.
The smell of the fresh air and animals takes over my nose.
- Shayla Higgins

My mother once told me
That if I'd dreamed of golden fields
And the lost ones
I would be able to find
The book of sorrow
And find how to free the lost ones
As I freed them, I heard singing
And then a small song, a little smile,
and then nothing

- Richard Lowery

The woman stood in front of the table, her sad hands
Resting on the table
They woke at the disturbance
Of a paper of mine
They scrambled to their pen
Swinging, wrapping, gripping
They waved over the paper in a pattern
Making a signature on my paper
They retreated to the edge of the table
Clinging

- Joshua Zayac

The women stood in front of the table, her sad hands
Clinging to photos, with memories that never last
Wondering if she could could bring them back
Never enough to remember her past...

But the earth kept spinning
Day by day but never enough to grasp what little remained
So she stood at that table waiting for something
And then a small song, a little smile, and then nothing

- Hanna Kumalac

Before I go
May I feel the orchids in the garden
Seeds as old as the dirt around them
May I no longer remember the
trap-filled thickets
Blisters growing from the aluminum
carry handle
May I hold you tightly
Clinging

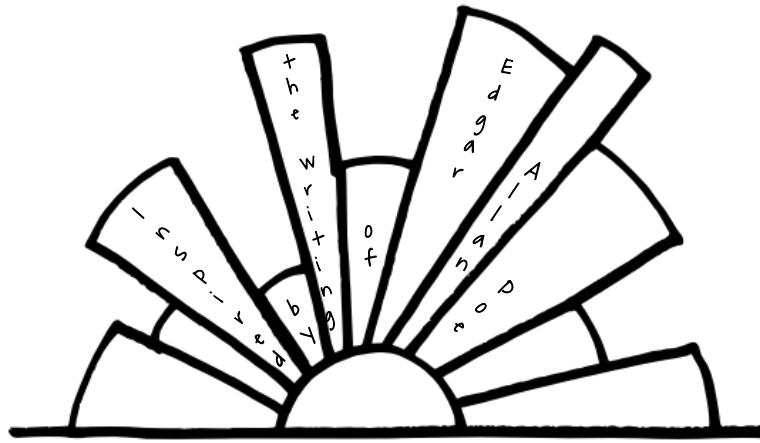
- Daemon Armstrong

The woman stood in front of the table,
Her sad hands covered the wound
The bomb rained down and exploded the East side
I could do nothing but limp
My soul shattered and my body numb
Try to breathe, only smoke from the new fire will come.

She was gone, and I felt empty
I was alive and she was gone
I can't move and words swirl in my head
Bomb, shelter, death, war,
It's all their fault.

A light catches my slim gaze
The woman is here,
But with another
I try to look closer at their shimmering figures
They stare and nod,
And then a small song, a little smile, and then nothing.

- Aubrey Gannon



Her strange soul always whispers at midnight
She might write during the daylight at noon
The black stormy sky is an unknown dream
Cries with reflections of the lightning beam
The night is as pale as a face out of lace
The lively heart within a grave I hear
It fuels the fire of my internal fear
Lonely with confusion, darkness I scream
Soon to wake in the middle of a dream

- Written collaboratively by Tyler Ames, Daemon Armstrong, Neveya Barnes, Kaitlin Bennett, Julia Button, Colin Coyle, Lindsay Crawford, Aubrey Gannon, Xzavier Gerow, Juan Gomez-Roblero, Amiyah Jones, Mackenzie Keiffer, Hanna Kumala, Michelle Lauro-Ramirez, Jordan Simmons, Jagger Smith, and Josh Zayac

The crow was in shadow, unseen, alone.
For a dream unknown is a dream postponed
The cold soul fills this empty hole with pain
This cold soul fills this empty home with shame
A love of truth but lost which leaves the sky
When the moon is close the tide passes by
Though evil will fear for darkness, spirits
Will sing with human happy lyrics

- Written collaboratively by Jenna Barnard, Cierra Biaselli, Teagan Carter, Natalia Coley, Dacodah Ireland, Vinny Kimerly Lonnen, Abby Kincaid, Hailey Lonnen, Myalee Moyer, Emma Snitzel, and Henry Symons

Would mystery collapse with no thunder?
Would life lose fragile splendor? We wonder.
Our bitter pain, darkness dread nevermore.
Our "love" shall not go on, forevermore.
A whisper alone will shiver the soul
Many words once kind shall swallow me whole.
Through the dawn lost to love and feeling envy.
Though we "weren't" in love, I still feel empty.

- Written collaboratively by Nisi Beltran Roblero, Kyle Brett, Kaiden Froman, McKinley Knight, Julissa Marmolejo, Kyra Monnier, Leah Pawlak, Lucas Prest, Mia Standish, Annabell Toman Weese, Alyazirah Villanueva, Bradyn Whittier, and Lena Young

If an evil cry from every dark night
Shall strike bleakly when there is no light.
Our love can speak mystery and unknown
Our life-like hearts can speak like a poem
Like unseen thunder we kiss the lightning
The light sky my shadow raven flight
Only midnight dreams can howl alone,
Down below where the foul people go.

- Written collaboratively by Ethan Ashton, Tyler Brown, Elizabeth Conner, Malory Geist, Justin Kania, Hope McCuagh, Shania Mathes, Declan Meiers, Mickhale Meyer-Lane, Luke Pollara, and Anthony Turlington Jr.

Unseen eyes will whisper dark mystery
Giving secrets that will mark his story
Whose dreams strange from within scream lonely love
See the stars frolic from the sky above.
But, a pound of bone is fear, a young death,
What brought my friend to his last mortal breath
To be silent though pain, empty shiver
People like me will always feel withered

- Written collaboratively by Myles Beach, Autumn Englert, Ben Fleisher, Joseph Johnson, Emma Jones, Liam Matthews, Pablo Rosario Reyes, Brayden Ryder, Aideeliz Santiago Garcia, and Sophia Standish

Listen, which storm sees gray evil thunder
Through the night the lightning makes me shudder
Half cloud is full face, young love like lightning
It is a race; it's lovely but frightening
Scream for the moon that is always silent
The moon's silence is always violent
Only through spirit's eye but here whisper
Until my rough tongue starts to blister!
The empty dead night is darkness like pain,
Like ships that spin, love is a hurricane.

- written collaboratively by Hannah
Aman-Rademacher, Kailee Anstey, Ashley
Henning, Cole Madden, Nathaniel Miesner, Owen
Miller, Madison Muckle, Wesley Olles, Joshua
Schoeberlein, Nova Smith, Payton Weese, and
Caidyn Wilson

Dreams in The Snow

My vision clears in the air,
For there's not a time like winter to be fair,
As I dream in the snow,
The sun beams down like a show,
When I grab my coat, it's time to go,
I shuffled my feet, in the ruffled snow,
And look at the sky as I roam,
As I dream in the snow,
In hope that one day,
This dissevered dream will become my own

- Neveya Barnes

The Autumn cloud rises above the sea,

A cliff with waves far, far, far below,
Taller than me, and any other tree,

The water is a soft and slow flow.
The clouds weep up in the sky,

How beautiful,
How beautiful,

The storm so serious above the sand and sea,

I hope and dream that the sun will beam,
How beautiful,
Thunder, lightning, and in the middle, is me
How beautiful.

- Kaitlin Bennett

In the kingdom by the sea,
There was a fierce strike of lightning.
I ran to the cliff by the sea,
Ran from dark devils chasing me.
I jumped off the cliff and landed in the sea,
Sleeping and dreaming of mysteries.
I wake up to a vision in my mind,
Now I know this is my time.
The demons they creep, I cannot sleep,
This water is deep, I need to leap.
- Tristan Tilbe

As I see a bird glide across the sky
I wonder what it's like to fly

As I see the tide rise
I wonder about the waves
And if they ever crave to go away

I wonder if angels ever lie
As if they were never meant to fly

I wonder if heaven's gates have grains of gold
As if I could hold and mold the sand to stand

I think I wonder about these things because it's as if I'm in a dream

A dream that will never end
As if it's a torment to my own mind

- Hannah Kumalac

It came fast and strong,
The clouds covered my vision
Do not get me wrong,
This was not my decision.

For I was a child,
Living in the wild.

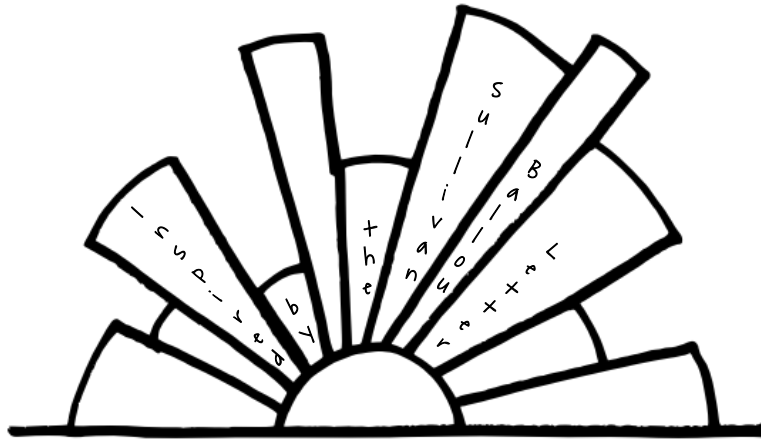
If our land would not dissever,
We'd not be wherever
And all is lost will seem,
Where hope is only a dream.

For I was a child,
Living in the wild.
Today I followed my kin,
And angered the beast from within
The Summer Storm tossed sand and sea,
If only it could let me be.

For I was a child,
Living in the wild.

I didn't weep while the water seeped,
My best friend
If only I could clasp with a firm grasp,
With me till the end.

- Aubrey Gannon



I shall not be able to write you again,
I shall be no more.
Death comes my way,
The blood and suffering
I shall lay down all my joys
Replace them with sorrows
Enjoy the last before death comes
Death is creeping behind me with a fatal dart,
For me to burn to ashes
And when my last breath escapes me on the
battlefield,
do not mourn me
think I am gone and wait,
we shall meet again.
Do not be too young to remember me,
among the dimmest memories of childhood.
I will wait for you Come to me, and live

- kaitlin Bennett

I shall be no more,
Death is now lurking in my shadow.
He is creeping with his fatal dart,
He is carefully watching.
"The name of honor that I love more than I fear death"
Has called upon me,
But I have disobeyed.
Forgive me for my faults and the pains I have brought,
How thoughtless and foolish I have often been.
Do not mourn me dead
For I shall be declared gone,
But don't shed a tear
For we shall meet again.

- Amiyah Jones

I cannot describe to you my feelings on this calm summer night
a wrong motive in hazarding the happiness
I have spent with you comes glancing over me
Sarah, never forget how much I love you
I will watch you and the spirit land and hover near you
Sarah, do not mourn me dead

- Deandre Matthews