

The image shows a close-up of a zebra's head and neck, with its characteristic black and white stripes. Overlaid on this image is a series of vertical white bars of varying widths, which creates a complex moiré pattern. The pattern of the stripes and the bars interacts to produce a series of diagonal, wavy lines that change as the viewer's perspective shifts. The entire composition is set against a solid orange background.

**The Middle Image**

**2023**

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# **The Middle Image**

**Albion Middle School  
Literary Magazine  
2023**

Serenity...  
Quiet like rainfall...  
Sweet like a cornflower...  
Voice like a songbird...  
Eyes like a sapphire gem...

~ Lily Allison

Empty buildings, large and tall.  
Coffee from cafes close and near.  
Cars whirling by.  
Wind is swirling through my hair.  
A minty taste of gum in my mouth.  
Life is boring.

~ Alisha Dragon

Rain coming from the sky  
Rain dripping on the ground  
Rain falling on me gently  
Rain water dropping from the sky  
This is a rain storm

~ Kendra Wilston

The minerals in the air.  
Like a supernova  
Liquid mercury running through the streams  
Like the color of Orion gray  
The beautiful sight of Pluto  
And its wonders

~ Logan Prest

Worn down houses and cracked sidewalks  
Polluted air  
Construction and others arguing and cars honking  
Cold air on my hands  
Snow falling  
I'm lost

~ Wyatt Cook

starry night  
scents of summer  
crickets chirping  
grass swaying under me  
warmth of the air  
beautiful moon glowing down on me

~ Gabe Figueroa

There was a tree that once stood  
This tree was not like the others  
It howls in the wind  
Swish swish swish  
What a tree, to not bask in sin  
The tree  
It moves in the breeze  
It sways and swishes  
Living a life of peace, like a man with riches  
To live such a calm life is just unfair  
That nature can take its course and it will end  
The sway of the leaves so smooth and clean,  
they have a clean breeze  
Swoom swoom swoom  
The red leaves the same color as an apple  
The calm and slow leaves move as slow in the breeze as the sunset.  
The warm and colorful colors coming from the leaves create a warm feeling.

~ Tyler Sullivan

I sat by the Tree,  
On this lost Land,  
The Sea made me Free,  
The Waves called me down to  
the Wild Water,  
Where I felt Complete.

The Sand in my hand,  
The Waves near my Feet,  
I Crave the warm Towel  
As I Wrapped it around Me  
I felt Complete

~ Shayla Higgins

A tall willow tree  
Long branches that dangle down  
With yellow flowers  
Weeping willow trees  
Blowing in the windy days  
Looking like it's crying  
Rose bushes are red  
With their nasty prickly vines  
Bloom in the summertime

~ Olivia Ginger

The stars listen to my wishes,  
but when dawn takes over the sky,  
the lovely morning dances with the birds' songs,  
and then the sun guides me to the light,  
then night reminds me of its lovely comfort.

~ Drake Schomske

the sea dances like a ballet star  
the sun shining on me,  
as the breeze gently kisses my cheek  
the stars guide me,  
and the moon tells me  
that I'm not alone

~ Lily Allison

Envy fills my body  
While Lightning  
Strikes my Soul as  
I weep in sorrow  
While I turn red  
Sadness and madness touch my soul  
Pity fills my body and bones  
Keeps a grasp while I feel Envy touch the air  
The storm is rising in my Soul  
As I torment the Kingdom and sad souls  
With hatred and Envy.

~ Jayden Travis

### Anger

Anger is the color red.  
It smells like a pepper,  
It tastes spicy,  
It sounds like torture,  
It feels like you're shaking,  
Anger is always upset at something.

~ Maddax Krull

### Excitement

Excitement is the color pink.  
It smells as if you went into a field of roses.  
It tastes as if you were shoving cotton candy in your mouth.  
It sounds like birds chirping in the spring.  
It feels as if you were on an adventure in the clouds.  
Excitement is a PARTY!!

~ Raelin Sochia

### Happy

Happiness is the color yellow  
It smells like flowers  
It tastes like candy  
It sounds like laughter and giggles  
It feels like warm hugs  
Happiness is a hug on a cold winter day

~ Tristan Crouser



### Calm

Calm is the color light blue  
It smells like a field of flowers  
It tastes like fresh baked bread  
It sounds like the gentle waves of the sea  
It feels like a fuzzy blanket fresh out of the dryer  
Calm is a gentle breeze of wind

~ Aubrey Marconi

Happiness is the color blue  
It smells like a newly sprouted violet  
It tastes like a birthday cake  
It sounds like a bird chirping in the morning  
It feels as if you were laying on clouds  
Happiness is electric

~Colin Smith

### Social Anxiety

Social anxiety is the color dark blue  
It smells like dirty pennies  
It tastes like chalk  
and all of your other least favorite foods combined  
It sounds like a baby who doesn't stop crying  
It feels like you're on a rollercoaster  
Social anxiety is a horrible gut feeling you get in your stomach

~ Brooklynn Miens

### Depression

Depression is the color gray  
Smells as bad as road kill  
Tastes like soured milk  
Sounds as bad as fingernails on a chalkboard,  
Feels as if every good thing that has happened to you  
is being torn up  
Depression is depressing

~ Sawyer Whittier

### Fear

Fear is the color purple  
It reeks of sulfur  
It tastes sharp as a razor  
It sounds like boom, a jump scare  
It feels a cold hand gripping your arm  
Fear is a piano solo in the background

~ Mayziar Walker

### Depression

Depression is the color black.  
It smells like spoiled milk;  
sour and strong.  
It tastes like rotten apples;  
worms poking out of the sides.  
It sounds like someone trapped;  
screaming for help.  
It feels as if you're stuck.  
No way to escape.  
It feels like you're alone.  
Depression is not being able to find a way out.

~ Mary McCormick

### My Little Brother

Byron loved the color blue.  
We got him a toy that looked liked him.  
He was like a completed rainbow.  
He loved our dog Layla and he would  
always smile.  
His face was happy when he saw me.  
The chopper was his favorite.  
It was possible he was going to never leave us.  
Blue was the color of his eyes.  
“Be loved by some one gives you strength.”  
My little brother

~ Lyla Neal

### Bravery

My Gamma

She flies high with the proud color gold  
Her fear as small as a speck  
Gamma is like a kite soaring high, nothing bothering her  
She is as brave as a lion  
They fear not even the mighty buffalo  
My Gamma's bravery is as big as the mighty elephant  
Nothing is impossible when it comes to her  
When no eyes watch, that's when she is the bravest  
“Nothing will scare me now”  
My Gamma fears not even the mighty buffalo

~ Hannah Olles

My nana the Covid Survivor

Her strength is the color red

Through a phone was the only way to talk to her for those long 19 days

She is as tough as nails

My nana is as tough as lion

The feeling of sadness and guilt filled up inside of me

She showed me that it was possible to overcome a hard challenge

My eyes started to water when I saw her

“Keep calm and carry on,” that's what my nana did

Her bravery is the color red

~ Eleana Coley

### Nfl Players

The green field below them  
Cameras focused on you  
Scary, like a dark cave  
The ball flying in the air like a bird  
You can feel the nervousness in your stomach like  
thousands of butterflies fluttering around  
Big crowds of people chanting for your team to win  
Trying not to get hurt  
All those eyes staring at you like a chameleon  
“A champion is simply someone who did not give up  
when they wanted to.”  
Nfl players!

~ Parker Roberts

### Sofia

Sofia's heart is as red as paint  
She's always helping me with something  
Like when we walk together  
She's as soft as a bunny, nothing mean comes out of her.  
When I'm down, she always makes me feel better  
Sofia's heart is as large as the world around me  
It's always possible for her to make me happy  
And her eyes are always as bright as the sun  
“I'll come with you guys”  
There's always a true color in Sofia

~ Cayleigh Martin

## Taught

I was taught by my leadership group  
to always lead and never to follow  
so I might help others to lead  
I was taught by SeMya  
to know my potential and that I'm loved  
so I might see to love back and know my worth  
I was taught by my momma  
to always be straight forward  
so I might know to let things out to people  
I was taught by God  
to pray and walk by faith and not sight  
so I might understand to be faithful  
Because of them  
I am brave,  
courageous,  
and appealing to the world

~ LaDereon Griffin

If were a ostrich  
I would run free, with  
the breeze in my face

If I were a goose  
I would swim 50% of the  
Time and the other 50%  
I would migrate around

I am Stryker Braley  
Loud, funny, strong  
My place to fly is on the  
Football team

Some day I will fly to the NFL  
And I will see my name on the HOF list  
I will be a starting tight end for my team

My place to fly is is where the pro NFL  
players are  
I am Stryker

~ Stryker Braley

### Queen of the World

If I were a queen of the world  
I would give money to the poor and help other people.  
I would never allow killing in the kingdom  
I would encourage people to take care of each other.  
And I'd welcome new people from a different country.  
If I were queen of the world  
I'm not the queen of the world  
I'm just Daisy  
But I can help my neighbors and help with donations at church  
And I take care of the kids in the neighborhood  
I will never allow bullying at school  
I will encourage other kids to never give up  
And I will welcome new neighbors  
Because I AM Daisy Bravo

~ Daisy Bravo

### King of the World

If I were king of the world  
I would stop violence and racism  
I would never allow violence and discrimination  
I would allow peace  
And I'd welcome the Titanic again  
If I were king of the world.

I'm not king of the world. I'm just JaiLi  
But I can treat others equally  
And I can show not to discriminate  
I will never hurt others  
I will help others  
And I will welcome kindness to the world  
Because I am JaiLi McPhatter

~ JaiLi McPhatter

As the water  
Climbed under  
The door of

The ship  
First the  
water entered

Roughly  
Then the passengers  
Stepped onto a life boat

Into the cold of  
the sea

~ Kaiser Allport

As the darkness  
Climbed through the windows in  
The center of

The room  
First the lights  
went out

Softly  
Then the eeriness  
Stepped forward

Into the middle of  
The haunted  
room .

~ Anna Grillo

*Inspired by the writing of*

*William Carlos Williams*

As the girl  
Climbed on  
The top of

The Moon,  
First the girl  
Sat oh so

still  
Then the girl  
Stepped right

Into the moonlight of  
The empty  
sky.

~ Shayla Cruz

'This is just to say"  
I have opened  
the envelope  
that laid on  
the table

and which  
you were probably  
saving  
for a moment with me.

Forgive me  
It was almost waiting for me  
so expectant  
and so daunting

~ Cordelia Rivers

Inspired by the writing of  
Gary Soto

he knew  
her.

She

looked up,  
He                      their eyes met.

turned                      and

I                      e  
F  
t

he was a fool.

~ Alisha Dragon



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the left.

He

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~ Sadie Money

I once was afraid  
Afraid of what they'll do  
When I ask, ask what to do  
I can't stay in here forever  
When I ask, they say never  
Never will I see, see what is out there  
So I let out a cry of despair  
And then a small song, a little smile, and then nothing.

~ Annabelle McMurray

My mother once told me  
Don't hang out with mean girls  
you will turn into one,  
But that never stopped me from  
hanging out with her.  
I didn't realize how toxic she was  
until she started lying,  
She would lie and act like a baby  
when it wasn't about her.  
She was like a teacher's pet,  
but they didn't like her.  
I don't realize how toxic she was until,  
Her friends would stay stuff to me,  
she would just sit there and laugh,  
Or do nothing  
when she could have done something.  
And I would talk about how much I liked  
being friends with her,  
And all the memories,  
I take back everything I've said.

~ Lauren Zwifka

My mother once told me  
That I'm beautiful  
Kids at school say otherwise  
My face is chubby and  
my hands are small  
I like my ponies and ice cream  
But that's too childish.  
My mother once told me  
That she loves my smile  
But they say my teeth are  
crooked and yellow  
I hide my smile  
I try the best I can  
My mother once told me  
That I'm smart  
But the kids at school call me  
dumb  
I whimper quiet to hide my pain  
Once I got older  
I learned to believe my mother  
Because I am beautiful and smart  
My smile is perfect the way it is  
I got older

And broke from those pages.

~ Autumn McIntyre

My mother once told me,  
that the "I" in "I love you" mattered.  
She stated that "love you" isn't enough  
It didn't have the same meaning.  
"Love you" means love you.  
But "I love you" means a whole other thing  
It states that you specifically love someone.  
People say "Love you" to me all the time  
My mother cared deeply  
I didn't mind.

~ Reagan Flor

My mother once told me  
“Enjoy using the little spoon”  
As I was so eager to use the big utensils.  
Now that little spoon  
Reminds me of some of the best memories throughout my life.

The little spoon reminds me of eating dinner at the table  
Surrounded by my happy family  
Sitting around that round table  
Eating what's on my plate  
Now I don't even remember the last time that we all sat down together  
All a little too happy and laughing  
While eating what was on our plates.

The little spoon reminds me of ice cream  
Eagerly waiting for my grandpa to give me that root beer float  
I would sit in the living room  
Watching the television on that widescreen  
Not having a care in the world.  
Now, I don't have time for those things anymore  
I barely can even go to my grandparents' house  
And I don't even remember the last time  
that root beer touched my mouth.

So now, I can use the big utensils  
But sometimes, when I go to pick out my spoon  
I'll occasionally pick up that smaller option.  
Even though I'm “a big kid now”  
I don't mind using the little spoon.

~ Shayla Higgins

Before I go,  
Tell me you remember.  
Tell me you remember how we met in September,  
Tell me you remember giving me your sweater.  
Tell me you remember that one song.  
The song I had you listen to  
All day long.  
When you told me you listened to it,  
I had a small smile.  
Because I knew you listened to it since I was obsessed with it  
Only for a while.  
But what's happened since then?  
To us being close.  
Now you're nothing but a memory,  
Nothing more than a ghost.  
So yes, tell me you remember,  
How it was us and then a small song,  
A little smile,  
And then nothing.

~ Shayla Cruz

Before I go  
Somewhere far away  
I want to know  
How far have you traveled?  
How long do you want to go?  
Down, down below  
From everything you've seen  
To the ugliness you've heard  
never to be  
repeated

~ Leah Platt

The woman stood in front of the table,  
her sad hands  
Working at the table  
Making frog pasta  
Picking the flowers for the pasta  
And looking under rocks for frogs and worms  
For her frog pasta  
She stirred the pasta  
She made the noodles  
She added the snails  
She prepared the frog pasta.  
Now on the plate  
The frog which she ate  
And the snails  
which she tore with her teeth

~ Asher Curfman

The woman stood in front of the table,  
her sad hands covered with the filth from the battlefield.  
Hoping to escape in the morning.  
Hoping that something wouldn't happen at night to her and her division.  
The fear rushed over her after the sudden boom.  
Scared from the sounds around her.  
Her division shaking from the things outside  
worried if the medical tent was the target.  
As the sounds got louder, they got more and more scared.  
The division was hoping for this to never be repeated again.

~ Tyshon Brady

In the corner of the living room was an album of unbearable photos,  
The album is very old and the room is very cold  
The albums pages going back and forth  
The pages crinkling the sound getting louder  
The window opens and the pages turn even faster  
Every page clinging together  
No one knows why, maybe someone is trying to tell us something  
And then a small song, a little smile, and then nothing.

~ Semaj Miller

In a small town in Scotland they sell books with one blank page  
and when my friend told me that, I thought it was insane  
so I booked a flight on that very day.  
I was told that they used to, but now it's a shop  
that sells tea and coffee,  
but it is only served hot.  
The family that used to run the bookstore  
told me that they only did it for their friends.  
So now that I'm thinking about this in my head,  
I take back everything I've said

~ Bryan Loney

It sits as still as a rock.  
It has very soft skin and hairs.  
I want to pet it everywhere.  
I can see its lifeless eyes seeing me.  
Every single day.  
It does not make any attacks.  
Instead it continues to plan.  
It watches like an owl on its prey.  
It will soon strike me.  
And turn me into one.  
Then I will stare.  
And stare.  
But never attack and always plan.  
Just like the Plush Cat.

~ Grayson Standish

### The Hedge

I can hear them coming, one by one.  
Underneath the setting sun,  
“Do not be afraid,” one replied, “we want your  
pokey quills, to sew with lines,” it vocalized.  
I began to flee, ride and tumble. Until I  
fell under a hedge. I curled  
Up in a ball, trying to hide, until I realized,  
They have arrived.  
“We will not leave until you give us your  
Quills.” Then I looked over and saw  
Some daffodils. I ran from the hedge,  
near and far, and try to escape the monsters that carry on.  
My quick little feet, flamed with pressure,  
Ran miles away, to cool down in my  
layers.

~ Lillian Fisher



Deep black of the feathers  
Make a black void in the sky  
Coming out at night and day  
Some may stay, some may go  
They feast on the dead  
Until they're fed  
It makes a loud caw  
Its flock, its friends  
It may be the end.

~ Willo Kimerly and Dana Burns

I wait in silence  
Creeping around  
Watching the group run under the sink  
I purr and wait to pounce  
They run back out and I attack  
Biting down  
Killing my prey  
Spitting it out  
Letting my owners clean it in the morning  
I go back to bed.

~ Chloe Mosele

### The Turtle

A warm salty breeze goes on his face  
His feet and arms sway in the water  
He is not that fast and not that strong  
The movement of the waves pull him along  
Paddling as fast as his flippers can go  
Sleeping in their nests  
Under the bay  
He crawls so slowly on the sand  
And he carries his house  
You never see him move as fast as a flash

~ Jocelyn Friedl

Inspired by the writing of  
Edgar Allan Poe

Why fly from fear then dream for the unknown?  
But perhaps, there may be something not shown  
People dread the darkness and want power  
But cannot find it at their darkest hour

We hear death purr dark and vile mysteries  
We'll be in our dark unknown misery  
I cry down the broken cold midnight sky  
In the moon we find the darkest stormy sky  
That empty unseen spirit kissed, the silent storm  
That silent storm made the spirits heart torn

~ Written collaboratively by Adam Burgio, Ryleigh  
Conrad, Wade Davey, Analiah Figueroa-Fuentes,  
Maylie Fisher, Cerenity Johnson, Michael Klatt, Aliyah  
LoGalbo, Turron Nixon, Peyton Nolan, Melodee Sager,  
Taylor Smith, Jackson Snook, Brayden Standish, Rilee  
Taylor, Casey Thompson, and Trinity Wibbe

Between strange mysteries or the thunder,  
Lay this immaculate sense of wonder.  
Did I kiss the silent storm by screaming?  
Yes, indeed it was only while dreaming.  
If a bone face out from confusion howls,  
Then in a tomb tormented grows so foul.  
Who dreads midnight more than echos in crypts,  
The dead night wore when the mellow tree slips.  
Death has darkness, so fear the dark unknown,  
The king of the unknown we shall dethrone.

~ Written collaboratively by Enrique Bermudez,  
Alex Brown, Alakai Colmenero, Damien Drake, Ian  
Edwards, Michael Farnsworth, Yaritza Fernandez  
Perez, Richard Hernandez-Bautista, Gauge  
Hollenbeck, John Richard Hollenbeck, Logan Kast,  
Abigail Kipler, Nick Luft, John Marat, Gabrielle  
Payne, Melia Prince, Makaylin Rushing, Mars Shine  
Brady, and Anthony Strickland

The tormented torrent clasps the child,  
The lightning is a mystery of time  
And the dime of envy bores into the creep.

Avow, avow, bow down, bow down  
The maiden of the kingdom beams pure,  
She lays in the sand by day  
And by night, she storms the grains of the shores.

She weeps, she weeps because she could not keep  
The cloud could barely grasp why she could not last.  
The creep could not refrain to weep,  
And the lightning could no longer be enlightened.

~ Abigail Kipler

While sitting on the porch eating an apple  
Waiting for the wave of flavor  
Now I noticed that the sun dappled the side of my soul  
There waiting for the sunlight to hit my glow  
While having a vision with the beams of light  
Thinking of the dreams of mystery  
Now I see the heaven of hope  
The hope of the apple

~ Malcolm Peterson

Dreaming and Grasping.  
It clouds my head.

The pitiless thinking.  
My vision goes dead.

The thoughts are storming.  
It starts to make me mad.

Just like hell it stings.  
It feels like anvils falling overhead.

~ MaryJane Ryan-Mincey

As I woke upon the open sea  
I understood nothing except mystery  
I felt constricted yet so free  
I felt so blind yet I could see  
What was this world inside of me  
I tried to seek the open land  
To feel the grains of tiny sand  
But no matter how hard I try  
I am trapped with stormy skies  
From small to big from big to endless  
Whatever this storm I wish to end it  
I wish to clear this stormy bind  
I wish for a clear, sunny mind

~ Enrique Bermudez

As I shuffle through the darkness of the pitch black street.  
I dragged my blanket on the wet concrete.  
Oh the coldness of the air  
And the water in my hair.  
As I weep and I weep.  
I knew at that moment indeed.  
That she would never again love me.  
She was sent from the heavens  
Oh the love she had for me felt like seconds.  
Now she is with her new man  
Her hand in his hand.  
Dancing, yes dancing.  
Oh why, why, why, why  
Why couldn't that be I?  
Oh her glossy hair  
And them being so close, so near.  
Oh the redness in my eyes.  
From the dark dreary nights.  
This feeling, Oh this feeling,  
I weep and I weep.  
This feeling feels like how,  
Sand grains falls through your hand,  
But yet you can't clasp on to it.  
I toss and turn in bed  
Waiting for the end,  
Of this horrible nightmare.  
Only for it to turn out to be,  
A dark, dreary dream.

~ Maylie Fisher

### He's Gone

Sittin' by the fire when I heard a  
scream,

very dire

It was one of those bikers  
and trust me, I ain't a liar

Dude was gone

Not a person in sight,

Then I saw it.

The bike.

He's gone, he's gone

We are too late

He's gone, he's gone

We never knew his fate

The wind howls,

The moon shimmers,

He's gone

He's gone now,

He's gone.

You never know what's out there.

He watches.

~ Carter Krull

### The Last Class

We sit in our chairs. We'll be here forever  
The clock mocks us with a tick-tock tick-tock  
Only reminding us how long we'll be here  
Oh, how we yearn for freedom  
From this place we see as a prison  
Oh, why does this class take oh so long  
All the kids are full of excitement  
Just to go home and lay on the grass  
I'm so excited to leave the class  
Then the teacher tells me I passed  
When the bell rings I dash out the door  
And go and splash in my pool  
Like a fish being freed into the sea  
Today was the last day of school

~ Neveah Inman, Jessie Moore,  
Ayme Vallejo-Morales, Ana Aldaco