

Writing is an art that can transport you to different times and places.  
-Kelly

Writing helps me improve in school. -Jose

# Youth Writing Festival

A program of the Multicultural Institute

To me writing is a form of Art that should never be taken away because it helps develop children's brains and minds.  
-Alexa

I love to WRITE  
-Maria

# Anthology of Students' Creative Works

Writing - Writing is the thing I can do all day the thing I love to do. The only thing I do when I get my iPad taken away from me.  
-Maria Isabel Contreras

Writing is educational  
-Ana

WRITING IS VERY FUN TO LEARN TO BE A WONDERFUL WRITER WHEN WE GROW UP.  
-duce n.

writing is lovely and nice, and it makes you think more,  
-Jason

Writing is helpful in life - Brian A.

# Summer 2015

I enjoy writing because sometimes we can write what ever we want to.

Writing feels good to me - Madeline.



# Table of Contents

- About Us ..... 3
- MI Staff and Board of Directors ..... 4
- Letter from the Berkeley Site Director.....5
- Berkeley Site.....6-45
- Letter from the Richmond Site Director.....46
- Richmond Site.....47-81
- Youth Writing Festival Staff.....82-84
- A Word from the Students.....85
- A Word from the Tutors ..... 86
- Special Thanks..... 87
- Youth Writing Festival Writers ..... 88



## MULTICULTURAL INSTITUTE

The Youth Writing Festival (YWF) offers elementary and middle school students an exceptional opportunity to build literacy skills during the summer. Students write essays, stories, and poems, they benefit from individual instruction, the camaraderie of small study groups, and the rare gift of enough time to make real progress. The result is extraordinary -participants uncover new creative impulses, develop confidence in themselves, and in some cases, compose their first pieces of writing ever outside of assignments for school.

### Our VISION

We envision a community in which immigrants, regardless of their immigration status, are embraced and valued in the communities in which they work and live.

### Our MISSION

We accompany immigrants in their transition from poverty and isolation to prosperity and participation.

### Our PROGRAMS

Day Laborer: From job-placement assistance to health services, education to advocacy, this program helps economically disadvantaged immigrants and their families.

GED Preparation: Prepares adults for the Spanish-language GED exam, leading to new employment and educational opportunities.

Business Skill Development: Offers Spanish-language intensive short-term courses in business planning to increase capacity, track expenses and income, file taxes, and build clientele.

Mentoring for Academic Success (MAS): Offers academic support to students from 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade. Its goal is to reduce racial inequality in education, leading to readiness for college success.

### Our VALUES

- **Dignity of each person** –*promoting respect and communication*
- **Social Equality** –*believing that resources should be shared by all*
- **Transparency & Integrity** –*good stewards of all gifts given to us*
- **Community Involvement** –*giving a voice to those we serve*
- **Simplicity & Flexibility** –*keeping our work efficient and effective*

# ABOUT US

## THE MULTICULTURAL INSTITUTE:

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, promotes community empowerment, youth and family support, and leadership development in diverse communities. Founded in 1991 by Fr. Rigoberto Calocarivas, the Institute has a small full-time staff, a number of part-time staff, and many enthusiastic volunteers. Overseeing the Institute is a board of directors who work together to establish and fortify alliances with local civic, business, religious leaders and other institutions.

## MENTORING FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS (MAS):

Established in 1999, strives to eliminate the educational inequity gap by helping students set and achieve academic goals through tutoring, enrichment activities, and parental support. We assist students in becoming eligible for post-secondary education.

## THE YOUTH WRITING FESTIVAL (YWF):

It is the MAS program's summer academy. YWF gives students (grades 3-9) the opportunity to explore and practice creative writing, learn about a variety of literary techniques, strengthen their literacy skills, and develop community. Students work in small groups on free-writing, structured assignments, poetry, prose, and group activities. The Festival ends with a public reading where the young writers share their works.

## MI STAFF

*Fr. Rigoberto Calocarivas*  
**Executive Director**

*Merced Truax-Padilla*  
**Office Manager**

*Phurbu Tsewang*  
**Accountant**

*Beth Jerde*  
**Grants/Contracts Manager**

*Mirna Cervantes*  
**Health & Immigration Program Director**

*Rudy Lara*  
**Day Laborer Program Director**

*Cesar Meza-Esveile*  
**Day Laborer Program Director**

*Josue Revolorio*  
**Day Laborer Program Director**

*Juan Carlos Ortiz*  
**Day Laborer Program Assistant**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Marco A. Garzon -President*  
**A&G, Immigration Attorney**

*Martín González -Co-President*  
**Owner, Gonzalez Landscaping**

*Charlotte F. TerKeurst -Secretary*  
**CA Public Utilities Commission**

*Les Guliassi -Treasurer*  
**Transbaycable/steellriver partners**

*Jesus Méndez*  
**Owner, Mi Tierra Foods**

*Eugenia Bowman*  
**CORE**

*Armando Barajas*  
**Owner, ABBA Stone & Tile, Inc.**

*Veronica Lopez*  
**VP/Mortgage Loan Specialist**

*Victor Weisser*  
**Former ED, California PUC**

## From The Berkeley Site Director

The Youth Writing Festival strives to give students the freedom to express their creative thoughts and imagination while allowing them to strengthen their writing skills. Through free-writes, short stories, poetry, and other writing techniques they were encouraged to become stronger writers. And we succeeded!!!

Congratulations Berkeley YWF Writers! I appreciate you giving MI an opportunity to help you grow in your writing. These four weeks flew by and I can't believe this summer writing journey has come to an end. I enjoyed seeing each one of you grow in your writing and public speaking skills. Some of you were shy and insecure of your writing and to present in front of others but as the month unfolded you all grew comfortable with yourself, fellow writers, and your tutors. Thank you for being part of our program! Always remember writing is an outlet that allows you to express your true self in countless ways.

YWF tutors and volunteers were tremendously passionate, patient, and dedicated to each writer's growth. I thank you all for your hard work and contribution towards making this program a true success. I enjoyed watching you create special bonds with your students while assisting them in becoming the writers they aspire to be. It was a great pleasure working and learning with every single one of you. The program wouldn't be possible without your help. Thanks to you, the YWF has a positive impact in the lives of our students.

I would also like to thank the parents for wanting the best for their children. Thank you for always believing that our program can help them grow and strengthen their writing, presentation, and social skills. Without your unconditional support, they would find it harder to believe in themselves and programs like ours would not be able to impact our youth. You are an inspiration for your children and their success.

A final thank you goes to the MI Board of Directors and Staff for all their help and support. I would also like to thank Fr. Rigo for envisioning this program and what it can do for our youth.

Sincerely,

*Mina Cervantes*

Berkeley Site YWF Program Director

# Berkeley Site

# Alexis Ayala



## **A Day as a Dog**

If I was a dog, I would chase cats. If I was a dog, I would eat and drink water. If I was a dog, I would go for walks and chase a ball. If I was a dog, I would eat off of the floor. If I was a dog, I would bark because if I saw another dog I would talk to the dog. We would talk about chasing a ball. I'll try to find a bone. Dogs like bones because it's good and chewy. If I was a dog, I would run.

## **Five Senses**

I felt the fish swimming  
I felt the fishing pole.  
I heard the fish jump in and out of the water.  
I smell the worm on the fishing poles.  
I tasted the hot Cheetos I got at the gas station.

## **My Favorite Animal**

My favorite animal is the elephant, because it is grey and big and super strong. Also, because it is in the zoo. It has a nose and a huge tusk. Elephants are cool! Elephants can live in the zoo or jungle. Once, I went to the zoo and the elephant was sleeping.

## **Turtle**

Trains go choochoo!  
Under your bed is a snake.  
Red is my favorite color.  
They have shells with shapes.  
Leaving is hard.  
Energy gamma.

## **The Year 2055**

I will hope there are flying cars so I can put it in my time machine. So I can use it, so I can take it to my cousin's house. I will get the new iPhone. I will take my family to the place they want to go. It will be fast to get there. I will see if I have kids in the future. I want to know if I will have a pretty wife. I wonder if there will be water. I wonder if there is going to be animals.

# Alexander Ayala



## Fish Head

One time, I got my sister's turtles some fish. We put the fish in the tank. Later, I came downstairs and I saw a fish head. I told my dad. He said, "The turtles will eat the head later." The turtles ate the fish head from a different fish. So they left the body. The next day, the head and the body was buried with the rocks, and then we had to throw the body and the head in the toilet. We flushed the head and the body, but some fish got stuck in the thing that cleans the water.

## The Busky

The Busky hunts in packs of three. It hunts fish, seals, and penguins. Its' friend is the sea bear. The Busky relatives are huskies, wolves, polar bears, and foxes. It lives in the arctic. It's rough when it is with the sea bear and its relatives. The Busky is white so it can camouflage in the snow. It is seven feet tall and eight feet wide. It hibernates and it can live to one hundred years old. If you are going to the arctic, bring a husky. If you threaten it, let the husky talk to the Busky, so it won't eat you.

## Busky

Big animal  
sUper awesome  
Super fluffy  
Kills its' enemy  
Young cubs

## I am who I am

I remember when I got wet in the rain.  
I don't remember when I had a pet bird.  
I love animals.  
I hate bugs.  
I have always gone to the park.  
I have never seen a cheetah.  
I see grass.  
I don't see worms.  
I know there's grass on Earth.  
I don't know if I'll ever get in mud.  
I wonder if there is always going to be grass.  
I try to go to parks.  
I try not to destroy plants.  
I want to learn more about animals.  
I don't want to get a snake upset.

# Brian Arellano



## About Me

When I grow up, I want to be a professional soccer player, so when I play all the people would yell out my name and cheer for me just like Cristiano or Messi. Then, when that happens, I can be stingy rich. Next, when FIFA comes out they can put me as a legend and everybody would buy me. Last, when I get a lot of money and a cool car I can give money to hospitals and charity or any other place because I want to help every child that is so ill. Finally, when all the kids are well, I can maybe get an award from the President of the United States of America.

## A Day As A Hamster

If I was a hamster, my name would be Rodney and I would live in a mansion cage with cool activities and healthy foods. “I have an awesome owner that keeps me safe. When I get scared he runs as fast as he could to hug me and make me feel better. Also, when I get really hurt he comes to help me get better. Then, when I lost my family, the eagle spotted me and grabbed me with his claws, but I was biting his feet so much that the eagles let go. I fell from a high distance, but all thanks to the jumper I got safe, but I still got hurt. Next, when I got down, a mean kids were stepping toward me and were about to stomp me, but a nice kid came and took me right on time, or I would have been a sandwich for the eagle! Then, the nice kid was my owner forever and that’s how I got to live in a mansion cage! When my owner had a job I was alone, but he didn’t really have a job, he just went to the pet store and got another hamster so I wouldn’t be alone, so me and the other hamsters live happily ever after and had funny lives.”

## Free Write

Once upon a time, there lived a bird and his name was called Solovino. He lived poorly. He and his family didn’t have anything to eat until a group of people heard about the poor bird and his family. They went and built the bird a big container with food inside. The bird and his family lived happily ever after...to be continued...

# Jason Arellano



## Five Senses

I like to smell flowers and they smell like honey.  
I like to taste leaves and taste like bitter.  
I like to hear birds tweeting, hearing water falling and making little bells.  
I see flowers and trees and clouds.  
I can touch leaves and flowers and trees and it feels cold and hard.

## The KFC Turtle

Once upon a time, there was a little turtle who lived in the streets and he saw something bright and something big and it was a fast food restaurant and it was called a KFC. Then, he wanted to get a job there but he needed to talk to LeBron James to get the job so he could get money to get food to survive but LeBron James, the owner of KFC, said “no” because the turtle was not a human and turtles can’t work in human jobs. Next, the turtle really wanted the job so he said to LeBron James, “Let’s make a deal: if I can make more chicken wings than you in less than two minutes, I get the job. Last, LeBron was making more chicken wings and turtle was like, “I’m going to lose and can’t get the job!” But then, he got hope to himself and believed that he could make more chicken wings. Then there was ten seconds and the turtle won! He made more chicken wings than LeBron! The turtle had tears of joy because he won. Then he got the job and he was so happy!!!

I’m a robot, and my room looks like I live in 300 million years from the date July 6. So my room looks like an imaginary place and the couches are clouds and when you grab a piece of cloud you can imagine anything. It will turn into that and the piece that you ripped from the cloud will become a couch. But the couch can also grow back to a cloud. Also in my room, I have a PS 300,000,000. Also, I have a flying bed and have a massager and I feel comfortable and my walls can chase you, just imagine sometimes and the walls will touch you and the floor is so soft, like the softest thing in the earth. And the TV doesn’t need a remote to turn on or off or change the channels. Just imagine it like you say, “I want SpongeBob” and the TV will switch to the channel and to turn off the TV you just touch your nail like touching the power off of the remote but you just touch your nail and the TV Will turn off. And my room has a lot of games and I have a teacup dog and a baby dog and a Chihuahua all mixed up. Also my room has everything you too will ever imagine.

# Kelly Camacho



## The Bee

Ode to the bee  
That gives us honey  
You work very hard  
You do not eat sard (ines).  
You only do what you think  
Is for the very best  
And you will even sting.  
North, east, south, or west  
You come in such bright colors  
And you go to every flower  
You are not a stalker  
You are a star-er  
I wish I were not afraid of such a  
wonderful thing.  
You don't need a maid,  
Just go and do your thing!

## Dragon with a Wagon

A dragon with a wagon, how absurd!  
A dragon with a wagon, haven't you heard?  
A dragon with a wagon, messing with the chief,  
A dragon with a wagon, making mischief.  
A dragon with a wagon is making chaos  
A dragon with a wagon to a person never bows  
A dragon with a wagon thinks it's the king  
A dragon with a wagon thinks it knows everything.  
A dragon with a wagon has one weakness, though:  
A dragon with a wagon always wanted a show.  
A dragon with a wagon sees a sign that says, "help!"  
A dragon with a wagon wants to be on the  
commercial for Yelp.  
A dragon with a wagon falls for the bait!  
A dragon with a wagon doesn't know it's a trap and  
they will wait.  
A dragon with a wagon goes on the stage  
A dragon with a wagon gets trapped in a cage  
A dragon with a wagon starts to cry—  
A dragon with a wagon makes people wonder why.

## Roy G BIV

**Red:** the color of our faces when we blush

**Orange:** The color of the sunset sky

**Yellow:** The color of the sun itself

**Green:** The color of the gift Mother Nature has given us

**Blue:** The rain that drops that helps our earth grow

**Indigo:** The color we wear on our clothes

**Violet:** the flowers that make us happy when we feel low

These characteristics make up ROY G BIV

ROY G. BIV is a very bright person. They have positive energy. Isaac Newton helped ROY G. BIV when people didn't understand him/her. Now everyone thinks that ROY G. BIV is an all-around good person.

# Giovanni Campos



## Wolves

Wolves live in packs  
Wolves hunt their prey together  
Wolves have very sharp teeth  
Wolves are very fast  
Wolves are important to the food chain  
Wolves usually live in cold places  
Wolves eat a lot of animals  
Wolves are predators to lots of animals  
Wolves are mammals  
Wolves like to live in the cold  
Wolves can howl very loud  
Wolves make me feel awesome  
Wolves are awesome  
Wolves are vicious  
Wolves can be sneaky  
Wolves' sense of smell is better than humans  
Wolves' eyesight is better than humans  
Wolves' hearing is better than humans  
Wolves have sharp claws on their paws  
Wolves are very strong

## Free Write

Once, there was a monster robot that was so big that it was destroying the world. It was knocking down every building. There was lava, explosions, and fires everywhere. The world looked very bad. The robot exploded and everyone was happy, but there was another robot. That robot destroyed the other robot so that this robot can destroy the world.

## Dragon Fight

Once upon a time, there was a dragon that protected everybody. One day, there was another dragon that started attacking people. The dragon that protected everybody got so mad so he called all his dragon friends but the other dragon was still attacking people. The dragon and his friends were going to fight the other dragon, but it was so big! They still fought it and it was so hard for them to hurt it. Two hours later, they knocked it down!

## Science

Science means excitement to me. Science can be dangerous. Technology is fun. Medicine helps us a lot. Robots do exist. Brain makes me smarter. I have a skeleton in my body. I get lots of ideas out of nowhere. X-Rays are used to see bones. Warnings can be helpful. Global warming is bad. Cells help me when I am sick. Body parts are great. Science can be interesting.

# Jonathan Campos



## **My Dream Room**

The walls would be so colorful, like a rainbow. It would have four windows on the side. It would have an indoor soccer field. Also, an indoor baseball field. It would also have lots of technology. I would have tablets. I would have three TV's: one for Playstations, another one for an Xbox, and the third one a normal TV. It would also have a bathroom with a gold toilet. Also, a bath tub with a TV. I would also have a balcony to look outside. I would have three dogs. Also, a whole closet with my clothes in it and another closet with all my shoes in it. I would also have an indoor swimming pool.

## **SeaBear**

You can find this animal in the Arctic. This mammal has a bird head. It has a bear body, and the rest of it is all sea monsters. It interacts with Orcas and Buskys. It is friends with Orcas and Buskys. This animal is calm and it lives in a pack of three. If anything tries to attack it, it will attack back. It eats seals, fish, and penguins. It is brown and black. It lives up to 72 years old. It's 12 feet long and weighs 175 pounds.

## **I Am a Bird**

Today I woke up and my owner came over to feed me. He didn't give me much food today, and this whole week. I didn't like his attitude. My friends and me don't get to eat much. My owner made us all live together in a tiny cage and we barely have space to fly. There was a little hole in the cage, so we were making it bigger and bigger to try to escape. My owner also had a cat. We were all scared of him. His name was Whiskers. All of us were enemies with him. Whiskers tried to kill us all one day. But we scared him off. Now the hole was big enough and we all escaped! My owner grabbed one of my friends, but I pecked my owner's eye out. These days were terrible. We had no food, and we were sick. WE were dying! Well, we weren't dying, we were just hungry. And we weren't sick, we were just gold. But it gill felt like we were dying! We went to the ground and my friend started coughing as if he were choking to death. I'm just happy that Whiskers can't try to kill us anymore, because that guy had a problem—like, a really big problem. There's something wrong with that cat. When I mean that cat, I really mean all cats. Hopefully, Whiskers doesn't find us and try to kill us unless we kill him first. My friends and me are very colorful. We were thinking of becoming part of the rainbow, but we were still hungry. So we went back to our owner's house, and he was so happy we were there (so now he changed his attitude). He let us inside and we took the bird food and left again! Hey his eye was okay.

# Aiden Canales



## Lions

Lions are yellow like the sun  
Lions are fast like a cheetah  
Lions can eat a lot like a whale  
Lions can make me smile  
Lions can make me laugh  
Lions can make me feel better  
Lions can eat things that can move fast  
Lions can eat big things  
Lions can hunt silently  
Lions can eat their prey faster if they're small  
Lions can eat two giant things  
Lions are able to eat so much because they can store food  
Lions have to eat so much or else they can die  
Lions are good because when they store food they're full and they don't eat  
Lions are incredible animals

## 2915

The year 2915 would look like this: there would be flying cars, really tasty food, and there would be a lot of people in the world. People would be able to live on other planets like Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, the sun, and the moon. The sports will be all futuristic and stuff and floating houses. There will be robots that do stuff for the humans and aliens would be able to live on Earth and animals would still exist and if you didn't have a car in the future, there would be tubes you could go in to get far away places, even to the border!

## A Poem for Nature

Nature is green like a tree  
Nature has lakes the color of the sky  
Nature has plants and trees beautiful like flowers  
Nature has sand like the sun  
Nature has the color blue like the ocean  
Nature has animals that are incredible like a lion  
Nature has birds that can sing beautifully  
Nature is beautiful  
Nature has trees that are brown like a deer  
Nature has deer that are like Santa's deer

## Ode Poem

Oh sting ray, I wish I wasn't afraid of you,  
But I am because you stung me.  
Sting rays have no bones.  
They swim like birds flapping their fins.  
Oh sting ray, your bones are cartilage  
Like my nose and ears.  
I wish you weren't so intimidating  
Oh, sting ray!

# Diego Canales



## Science

Science can help the earth, but it can also destroy it. For every life gained is another life lost. All brains function differently. Science creates new lifestyles every day, but the universe is too unpredictable that science can go wrong. Radioactive waste escapes and it can harm the Earth. Science comes in many different ways, like danger, killing, and discovery. But without science, we cannot fix mistakes we made, like building or gardening or creating or experimenting. Therefore, science is good and bad equally.

## One Night at Flumpty's: Part 1

One upon a time, there was a pizzeria named Flumpty Dumpty's Pizza. There were 2 animatronics that worked there. The first one was Flumpty and the second one was Mr. Snazzy. Flumpty and Mr. Snazzy were almost alike. Flumpty was a big white egg with robot arms and legs, and black eyes. Mr. Snazzy had a rectangle body and a rectangle head, and he had the same arms and legs as Flumpty. But, Mr. Snazzy would always wear a party hat, no matter what. One day a guy names Mikey Shmity got a job here at Flumpty Dumpty's Pizzeria. Mikey was a 21 year old man with shades and side burns and he had two different colored eyes. One was green and the other blue. His hair was black brown, and he was six feet tall. Mikey got the night shift so he didn't start working until midnight. When Flumpty and Mr. Snazzy heard about this, they got mad and released monsters into the pizzeria. But he made it so the monsters would only come out at night after it was closing time. To Be Continued...

## One Night at Flumpty's: Part 2

Previously: Flumpty and Mr. Snazzy released monsters into the Pizzeria. It is now closing time... The night has now begun. Mikey was doing okay for the first few hours, but when it became 2:57, Flumpty showed up at his door. Mikey immediately slammed the door closed with the punch of a button. Mikey was freaking out! In the other door he saw something move. He flashed the light in the doorway. A creature with a rectangular head and a rectangular round body was standing there wearing a party hat. His mouth was wide open with sharp teeth inside. The creature also had a bunch of holes in his face. Mikey tried to slam the door closed. He whacked the button, but it was stuck. What is Mikey going to do next? To be continued...

# HersonChavez



## About Me

I was born in USA. My mom is from Mexico and my dad is from El Salvador. I love math a lot, and cursive and science. I have a brother. I live in San Pablo, California. School is important for us. The thing I don't like doing is cleaning. The thing I like doing is being in school. The only thing I ever do in my house is play my Play Station. I got a Chihuahua. In school, recess is the best thing.

## My Favorite Animal

My favorite animal is the sea horse. They are little creatures. They live in the ocean. They are slow animals. Some are camouflage. They don't have scales. They have curvy tails. They are horses that live in the sea. They have long snouts to suck up food. They can move their eyes in different directions. They are fun to have as a pet.

## Ode Poem

Oh Cat—

You jump on me, and scratch me when I have food. Cats jump on me and take my food. I throw my ball to the cat and he gets mad at me.

Oh Cat—

You are fluffy and many types of colors.

## I Am Who I Am

I remember when I started science  
I don't remember when I started playing soccer  
I love sports  
I hate cleaning the house  
I have always played soccer when I was little  
I have never been in a restaurant  
I see my friends  
I don't watch soccer games  
I know math  
I don't know how to play some games  
I try to be free  
I try not to be rude to my sister  
I want to be rich to buy myself a car  
I don't want to be mean to my family

# Maria Isabel Contreras



## **My Dog Wilfred**

Wilfred was the best dog I have ever had. He was so cute! I actually felt a connection when I was with him. I would wake up at 6:00am to just take him on a walk around my house. And then one day it was so windy that the back door of my house swung open and he ran out. We searched for 4 days and we couldn't find him. I miss him so much. I miss him sleeping in my bed, I miss when he barks when someone passes the house. He was the one who made me secure. I miss my

## **My Dream Summer**

This summer I wished I went to this summer camp. I also wished I went to Clover Leaf Summer Camp. Clover Leaf is a camp where you stay there for a whole week and you go horseback riding or swimming in the pool or the lake. I also wished I went to Lake Tahoe and also maybe to Florida or Hawaii. I also want to go to Germany to explore and learn their language. The best part about summer is that I spend time doing what I love to do. I wish that this might become one of my summers.

## **My Dream**

My only dream that might not even happen is that I might not become a famous singer. If this dream did come true, I would wait until I was really famous, then I would go back to my hometown in my new Lamborghini convertible and visit everyone that is and was important in my life. I would go to hospitals and give money, and I would give good and money to the homeless. I would go back to the places where the best things happened. Then, I would visit all my family. I would do concerts for them whenever they wanted. I would walk with them, go to the movies, shop, hang out, and meet other people. I would visit all my coaches of soccer, swimming, and maybe others because my life isn't over. Then, after a year or four months, I would go back to traveling for the next year, but I would never miss anyone's birthday. If this dream never happens, I will still try but then I get tired, so I will just move on. I would like to become a Marine Biologist. That is a person who studies the ocean and the animals in it. I would really love this job because this has been my dream since I have ridden a dolphin. My other dream is to go to Yale or NYADA. They are both in New York. If I got into one of these colleges, it would be the best day of my life. I would be the best of the best, or at least that's what I think. I would tell my whole family and my BFFs. I would be SOO happy. I can't wait until I am a senior.

# Alfredo Cruz



## Five Senses

I can hear the birds screech throughout my ears flying around the park. I can see my group talking and working. I saw the baseball field as big as a car. I can smell the air polluted hurting my healthy lungs. I can taste the juice I drank of mango with orange as smooth as a baby's skin. I can touch the pencil and notebooks.

The pencil was hard as a rock, it wrote as soft as paper. The notebook was hard as a binder and in the inside was soft.

## Animal Poem

Ooh black horse, you're so tight. You look like a knight. You're so fast that you make me laugh.  
When you jump and never bump into stuff.  
You're so tall that you make me feel so small.  
Horses have a big nose and they don't have toes.

## Cheetah

Hello, my name is Cheetah and I'm a cheetah. I have brown and black fur. I have black dots. I was just born a day ago. Also, I run 110 to 120 kilometers per hour and go 68 to 75 miles per hour. I was more in Africa, in part of Iran with my family. I eat gazelles, rabbits, antelopes, and wildebeest calves.

Now, let's talk about my life. I just got out of my mom's stomach and I was all wet. Then I tried to see, but it was hard because it would hurt my eyes, so I wouldn't see for a couple of days. Then the fifth day, I tried to open my eyes and for the first time, it didn't burn my eyes and I got to see my family, brother, and sister. Then we went to go eat, so we went, but my mom said to stay, so I stayed and I watched my mom kill the gazelle. After that, we were eating, the gazelle and to tell if it was good for the first time. Then I finished, so I got to play around with my brothers and sisters and we played play fight and after that, it was time to take a shower, so my mom licked me until I was clean.

Then I finished and it got dark, so we went to sleep, but I wasn't asleep! I wanted to play some more, but then my mom forced me to go to the sleep. The next day, I woke up really cool, so I got up and tried to find my mom but I found out that my mom and dad were dead, so I woke my brother and sister, but it did not make things better, it turned out bad. They were running all over the place and also in circles.

# Evelin Cruz



## My Dad

I am going to make my dad a card and draw on the card. My family is going to wake up and buy my dad a big nice cake. I love my dad because he is always nice with me. I feel like without him I wouldn't live happy. My dad is like a part of my heart. Sometimes I get mad at him if I do not get what I want but I know it is for the best, like when I am sad or mad he always makes me happy. I do now know what to say—I just love him so much!

## Tarantulas

Oh tarantulas, you are very strong.  
Oh tarantulas, I wish that you would not hurt people.  
Oh tarantulas, I wish that you were not poisonous.  
Oh tarantulas, why are you hairy?  
Oh tarantulas, why are you big and fat?  
Oh tarantulas, I wish that I was not scared of you!

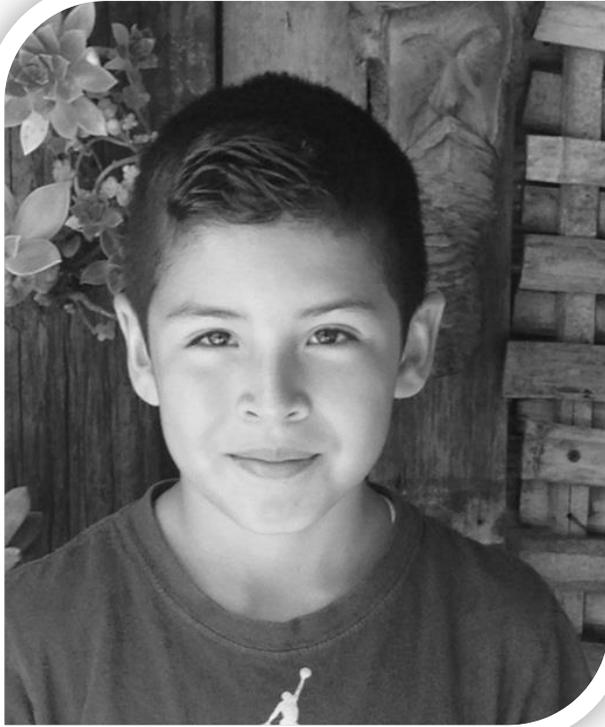
## Dogs

I love dogs. They are very friendly and nice.  
Dogs are cool and every time that I am with my dog, I am happy.  
Dogs can help a lot of people.  
Dogs have a lot of color like white, brown, and more.  
Dogs are very smart. They like playing and running.  
Dogs have always loved people.  
Dogs can remember a lot of things.  
Dogs are very crazy sometimes.  
Dogs will always have feelings for the owners.  
Dogs have feelings.  
Dogs are my love.  
Dogs are very fun pets.  
Dogs are cute.  
Dogs are strong.  
Dogs may seem like they are not friendly, but they are.  
Dogs are amazing.  
Dogs have saved people.  
Dogs are different sizes.  
Dogs are fluffy.  
Dogs help do exercise.

## Dogphin

The dogphin lives in the ocean and swims really fast and in land it is going to be a dog but in the water it is a dog with a tail like a dolphin. The whole body is one color. The color can be pink, green, blue, purple, and more. Dogphin eats fish. Dogphin lives in the Nile River. Dogphin loves people. Dogphins play with people.

# Marco Guerrero



## About Me

My name is Marco. I like to play soccer. My favorite color is blue and white. I am from California and I live in Berkeley. My birthday is on July 6, 2006. I was born in Oakland. I also like to play basketball. My favorite animal is a rabbit and a dolphin. I like to play on the phone and watch TV. My favorite movie is Furious 7 and Transformers 4. I like to play every day at my house and school. I am in a soccer team named Aguillos. My favorite teams are Santos Laguna, Warriors, and Mexico. My favorite ice cream flavor is vanilla. My family is my dad, my mom, and my sister. I like lemonade and orange juice and a milkshake of vanilla and strawberry. My mom is from Manzanillo and my dad is from Guanajuato.

## Persuasive Letter

Dad,

I would like to go to the Warriors party because they are champions! All the Warriors have played and have won!

One reason is because I want to see Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, and every one of the Warriors. Another reason is because they could sell merchandise that I like.

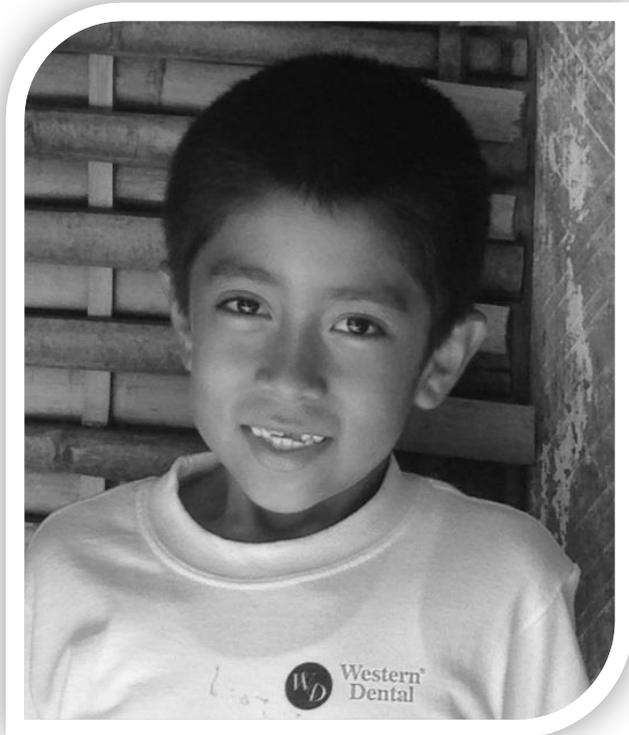
For example, I sometimes go to the store but there are not so many shirts that I want, and there's nothing. Another reason is that in the store it cost a lot and maybe in the party, it could cost less. And maybe next, they could give me something with their signature and it will be cool. Also, maybe I could get tickets. And if we go to the Warriors party, I will feel happy and I will listen to you and be good to my family and everyone.

I hope I convince you to take me to the Warriors party. So it could be fun to see the Warriors players like Steph Curry and Klay Thompson so I could know them.

I hope you take me to the Warriors party. It will be in Oakland and maybe we could go inside the stadium and maybe they could be photos, books, shirts and maybe they could make me their signature and uniform. It will be cool!

Marco

# Juan Diego Lopez



## About Me

I go to the library.  
I take to go to the park.  
I don't like Cal.  
What sport is your favorite?  
Football.  
What is your favorite animal?  
I like playing soccer.

## What I Like

I like cake and ice cream.  
I like swimming and  
I like playing all the time  
I like playing basketball and  
soccer.  
I like going to places.

## My Birds

I have two parakeets.  
They are purple, green, and yellow.  
I got them when I was five.  
They let me pet them.  
Their name is Billy.  
They are boys.  
They are medium sized.

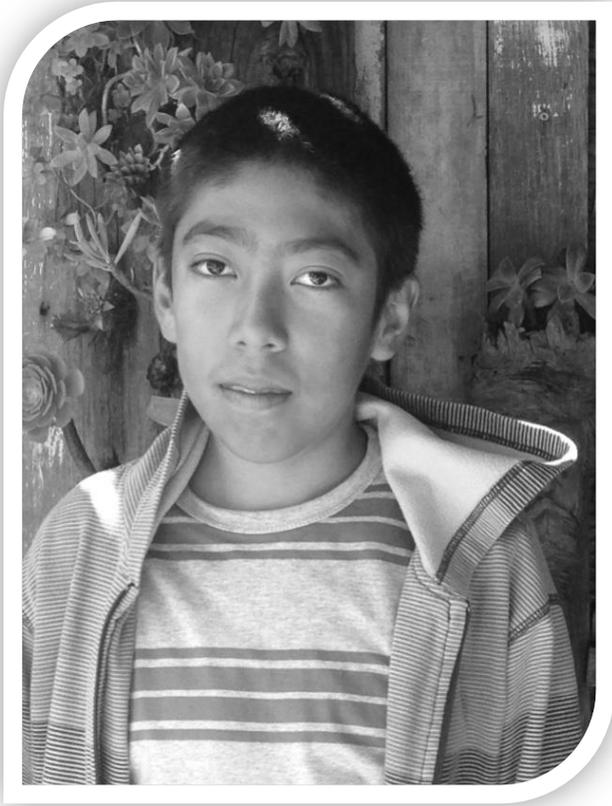
## Senses

I can taste all types of food.  
I can smell flowers.  
I can touch flowers.  
I can hear voices.  
I can see the sky.

## Free Write

Once upon a time, there were 20 knights on the king, so if people wanted to fight them, the knights would fight them. And they took him to the jail. So the people got mad. The people wanted to escape. So they did try to escape, then the knight saw them escaping. The knights got them so they beat them up. The End.

# Jose Lopez



## King Cobra

**King** of all kings is the cobra  
**Inspiring** by its defense  
**Named** king of kings  
**Graceful**

**Careful** of all predators  
**Opens** mouth widely  
**Brave** of the brave  
**Rapid** in all the things it does  
**Animal** of all animals

## Ode to the Cobra

Oh cobra, I like how you look in your rough skin  
How you slither through the soft sand.  
You are inspiring with your defense,  
but it is dangerous to us humans.  
We need to be careful around you.  
To the King of all the cobras in the Sahara Desert.

## Five Senses

In Father Rigo's garden, I can use my senses like...  
I can see the wonderful flowers in his garden.  
I can smell the roses that are planted in the corner of the garden  
I can touch the soft, smooth petals on the rose.  
I can feel the spiky thorns on the rose's green stem.  
I can hear the birds chirping in the sky and landing on the rose's thorny stem.

# AnahyMacias



## **My Favorite Animal**

My favorite animal is the gray wolf because the gray wolf is part of the dog family. Gray wolves eat elk, deer, moose, rabbits, birds, and eat dead animals when they don't find any others. Gray wolves have two eyes, one nose, one mouth, four legs, and run and catch prey. They always use their nose to sniff animals. In every pack, there are 20 to 30 wolves. A female wolf can have 4 to 5 pups. The pups can't open their poor eyes until they are 12 weeks old.

## **La Luna**

Había una luna y esa luna era solitaria la luna brilla de noche y el sol sale de día las estrellas le hacen compañía. Al igual que las nubes le hacen compañía al sol la luna alumbra de noche sin la luna el mundo no sería el mismo.

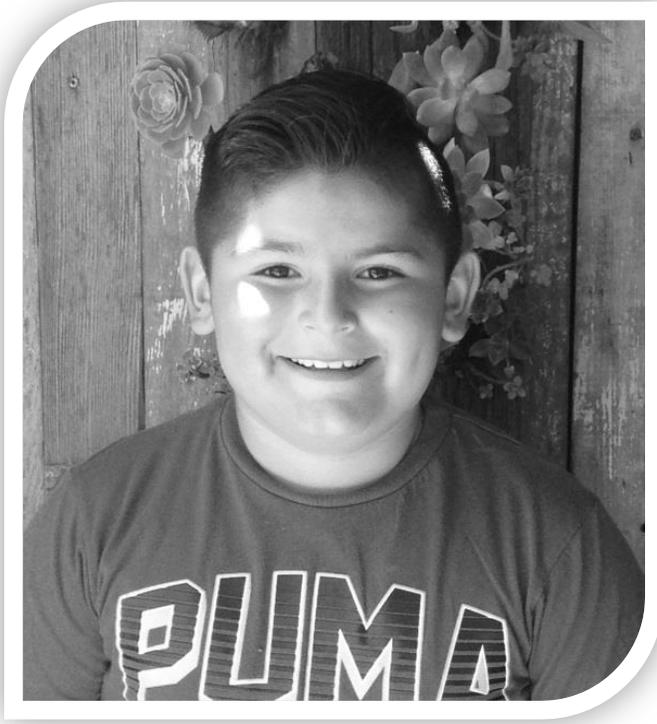
## **A Day as a Leaf**

My name is Leaf, and my BFF is my owner. I was born in a garden in a pot. My owner's name is Anahy and she takes good care of me. I remember when my owner Anahy put some water on me and it felt good because it was the first time I tasted water! My second BFF is the pot, because she is always with me and she takes care so that my roots are in a good place.

Last week, me and Pot were talking and my owner put us on the window. After a while, the air blew so hard and made me go to the floor. I felt so bad until Anahy brought another plant and saw me on the floor. Quickly she put the other plant in the window and picked me up. After two days, I realized I was in another pot because the other one was broke. I started to cry, and Anahy said, "don't cry! I am trying to fix your pot." That made me so happy.

Finally, my pot was fixed and I said, "Oh Pot, I just realized you are my base, and so now you are my BFF" So they lived happily ever after.

# Diego Martinez



## **My Animal Invention**

I invented an animal called Cristiano Ronaldo. It's a fast mammal, a flying mammal, and a hunter. They live in Madagascar. It likes to eat meat. It is black, yellow, and green. You can find Cristiano Ronaldo in Madagascar in the jungle or in the long grass. It runs more than a motorcycle. It can go up like an airplane. It has stripes, and they speak French and Spanish.

## **A Day in the Life of Me as a Dog**

I like to eat inside the house when my owner goes to work. I also go to play soccer. Why can't I sit on the couch? I like bacon, though. It's fun to go to the park. I like to play and sleep in the sun. That's what a day in my life looks like as a dog.

## **The Lonely Book**

There was a book in the shelves that nobody picked up. So one day, somebody was interested in the book and they checked it out. They loved the book, so they both lived happily ever after. And then they lost the book. And they never found it. He lied to the librarian, and he paid for the book, and then they lived happily ever after.

**Shark**

**Short**

**Hot water**

**Attack**

**Really**

**Kills**

## **My Birthday**

My favorite memory is on my birthday 204. The made me a surprise party that they never told me about. I got seven hundred dollars on my birthday; I was so proud of my mom and my dad. I had the party on Halloween because my birthday is almost the same time as Halloween. For going to my birthday, I missed my catechism.

# Angeles Marquez



## Free Write

Once there was a little girl who lives in a big home. She loves living in the big, big home. She wants a little pet dog! It would be nice to have a dog for a pet. So then, her parents went to get a dog for her. Then they went to look for a little dog. They looked and looked, then she saw a little dog and she fell in love with it. She said, "I want that little dog! It is so cute." They bought the little dog and went home. She played dolls and the little dog played in the pool. She went to play in the pool, and the dog happily played with the little girl. The little girl and the little dog are sleeping in the bed. The next morning, she and the little dog go to the park to play. The little dog got sick, and she took the little dog to the vet. The dog is ok! She is happy that the dog is alright. Then they go home, and get into the pool to play in it again. She loves her little, little dog. The end.

## I Am Who I Am

I remember when I run around.  
I don't remember people littering.  
I love when it rains.  
I hate when it's cold.  
I have always climbed trees.  
I have never played in the grass.  
I see the sky.  
I don't see flowers.  
I know it's cold.  
I don't know if it is going to be sunny.  
I wonder if it is going to be sunny.  
I don't wonder if it is going to be cold.  
I try not to play in the grass.  
I try not to climb trees.  
I want to climb trees.  
I don't want to play in the grass.

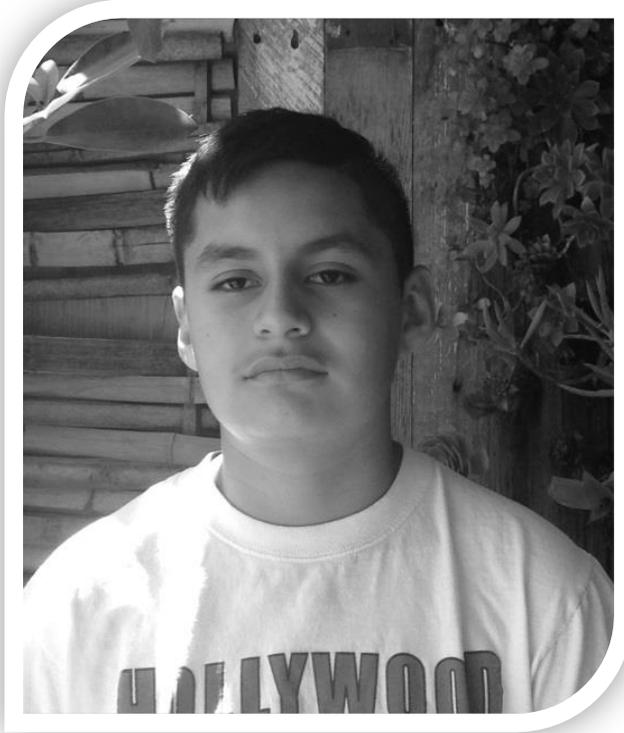
## Giraffes

Giraffes can be nice to you.  
Giraffes have spots in different shapes and forms.  
Giraffes have very long necks.  
Giraffes fight with their necks.  
Giraffes have long legs, too.  
Giraffes eat acacia leaves.  
Giraffe babies are born to be six feet tall.  
Giraffes grow to be eighteen feet tall.  
Giraffes are the coolest animal in the world.  
Giraffes are one of the tallest animals in the world.  
Giraffes can be your best friend.  
Giraffes can smile to you—it's funny!  
Giraffes have four very long legs.  
Giraffes love to run to their best friend, or walk to them.  
Giraffes' favorite thing to do is sleep.

## A day as a dog

My name is Niko. I am a Chihuahua. One of my favorite things to do is go on walks with my owner Angeles. I like to walk with her to school, and when she leaves I walk home very sad. Now I'm home alone. I go upstairs and cry. I wish my owner was here. Sometimes I go on the street and wait for her. I see her sometimes because she is at cheerleading. I love my owner Angeles. These are just some of the things that I do when my owner is gone.

# Anthony Mandujano



## **A Day as a Raccoon**

Hello, I am a raccoon. I take trash from people.  
So call me a thief.

I come at night. I can see in the dark. I am fat,  
fluffy, and stealthy. Also, I have a tail with  
stripes. I am gray, black, and white. I look like a  
cat, because I have whiskers. I have sharp teeth,  
and hands to fight against predators. I hate water.  
I live underground with nasty rats. I come to your  
house, and raid with my squad.

I am not tall—I am short. I live in North America.  
We weight eight to twenty pounds. We eat meat,  
plants, mice, insects, birds, eggs, fruits, and nuts.

## **Raccoons**

I like raccoons because they're cool, and they're not fools.  
They don't come when the sky is bright, they only come when there's no light  
They are so big, and they also dig through your trash.  
When they dig in your trash they let it rain with cash.  
They live under the surface not on the surface.  
They're so fun to watch when they're gun, not only that  
they get run over they don't get respect, only disrespect.  
They're so fat, that they are not skinny as a bat. Raccoons have enemies, but not frenemies.  
They are so fluffy, and also puffy.

## **The Griffin**

The Griffin is a creature that has the head of an eagle, and the body of a lion. It  
has a snake's tail. It has evil spikey wings. It's a servant to Hades, the god of the  
underworld. The Griffin is native to India. These winged creatures are found in  
mountains and nests with gold. Griffins protect their next from humans and  
horses. They are known for their ability to fly. Griffins and dragons both have  
the symbol of wisdom.

# Dulce Najera



## **When I See the Sky**

When I see the sky, I think about angels and the heroes that died for a long time and superstars like today are competing with their goals.

When I see the sky I think about my family and my best friends. I always love my people who like to care about me.

When I see the sky, I think about my future and my career that I will have when I grow up.

When I see the sky, I hear the birds are singing and are flying so free, and the wind is free for the birds that they can sing so beautiful.

When I see the sky, I look up and think about my education and my grades that are very important to me.

## **I Like the Way the...**

I like the way the air is touching my face, arms, and legs.

I like the way the water is very fresh, when I am tired, very tired,

I like the way the water is very fresh.

I like that the air is moving the trees when it is windy.

I like the way the rain sounds like water falling from a glass.

I like the way the beautiful flowers are very sweet like honey and chocolate, when I pick them from the beautiful grass.

## **When I think....**

When I think of my family that they care about our education.

When I think of my dogs I think that I'm playing with them all the time.

When I think that everybody cares about me I think that I love my friends.

# Guadalupe Paz



## **My Favorite Animal**

My favorite animal is a wolf, because they will protect you when you are training them. Wolves are so cool that I can go in the wild and get one baby. But if they catch me, I will just outrun them, then I will go back home with the baby wolves and I will feed him. I will just play with him, train him, and make him my own wolf. I made one out of clay. I will raise him or her, then hide him or her whenever I go, but it will be weird because all my friends will not believe that it is a real wolf. But I would just want the DNA so I can mix it with my DNA, then I will turn into a wolf whenever and wherever I want. My second favorite animal is nothing!

## **About Me**

So my dad is from Mexico, so that makes me Mexican. So when my dad and my mom were going to my grandma's, something horrible happened. My great-great-great grandma died and I was crying. But when I go to church, then I made my peace with her. I see my mom is also Mexican. My dad has two brothers and my mom has three brothers. I have two siblings. Their names are Oscar, who is the oldest. He is sixteen years old. My sister is the second oldest and she is twelve years old. I am the youngest and I am nine years old. So I have these friends who are named Victoria and Zharia. They are both the same age, nine, like me. But last Friday was sad—Zharia said that she is moving and that she may or may not come back. And it is sad. The first time I met them it was like the Three Musketeers, since kindergarten. Now it might just be the two musketeers, then lonely, because my friend is going to a different middle school. I miss my sister because she wants to go too, but now she is in middle school.

## **Robot Room**

If I was a robot, my room will look like an invisible bed and invisible chicken wings and an awesome invisible staircase. There would be a mall inside my closet, and a chocolate fountain. Also, I will have bought things to change my room to be the coolest in the world in that thing, and I have time travel potion and ginger bread potion. And there will be Christmas every day so we don't have to wait until December.

# Ana PazPérez



## **Smokey**

When I first got my dog, she was very small. He was so small that he couldn't climb up the stairs I have in my house. When he tried to climb up it, his legs would spread apart when he tried to climb. My dog is a German Shepard, and it's a boy. Right now he is one year old, and his name is Smokey. When he was small, his ears where down and he looked like a baby bear. And I'd call him Smokey the Bear. When I got him, I was happy that my other dog would have a tried that he can play with. Both my dogs are boys, and they're brothers.

## **The Bernouse**

A Bernouse is a mammal. It is a bear, a bunny, and a mouse. They can live anywhere, but mainly like to live in the Arctic. A Bernouse is a medium animal. They're not too big and not too small. They are black and white with blue or brown eyes. They are very nice, kind-hearted animals. A Bernouse only loves to eat fish and meat. I would suggest you go and buy one.

## **Bear**

I see the big, brown bear from the distance. So big and fluffy.

The smell from them is very strong. I recognized it from a mile away.

The noises they make when they wake up is very loud. They sound like they're connected to a speaker.

I can feel their soft, silky, warm furry coat. It's like they have a blanket connected to them.

I don't know what a bear tastes like, but I would never want to know—because I don't want to eat a bear!

# Amy Pérez Soto



## Free Write

I like to play with my puppy and sometimes my puppy bites me! I don't like it when she bites me because her teeth are really sharp and also sometimes she scratches me and I also don't like her when she scratches me, because her nails are also really sharp! When my mom is sweeping, my puppy barks at the broom like as if she were to get mad. We don't let my puppy go in the house. Sometimes I laugh because my mom goes outside to wash the clothes and when she comes back, my puppy comes in and my mom doesn't know, and then when she turns, she sees that she got in! And every time she tries to take her out, the puppy comes back in until finally my mom is able to take her out.

## Zebras

Zebras have stripes, but each zebra has a different unique pattern.  
Zebras run in groups when they are being chased by their enemy.  
Zebras, donkeys, and horses are like a family.  
Zebras are as fast as cars, so they are really fast.  
Zebras are herbivores, which means they only eat grass.  
Zebras look like horses, but with stripes.  
Zebras live in Africa.  
Zebras need to stay close to a water hole.  
Zebras are scared of their predators.  
Zebras remind me of horses, but with stripes.  
Zebras are in the *Madagascar* movies.  
Zebras have big teeth.  
Zebras have a lot of predators.  
Zebras live in the wild.  
Zebras sleep with one eye open.  
Zebras gallop like horses.  
Zebras also remind me of donkeys.  
Zebras are very nice to other animals.  
Zebras are bigger than humans.  
Zebras are strong.

## Snow

I like the snow because you can do snowballs and make a snowman. When I was a baby, we went to the mountains and a man saw my fingers and said that I was going to play the piano because I had long fingers.

## Flat Earth

If the earth was flat and I traveled to the other side, things would fall off. If the earth were flat you would also fall off of earth. If the earth was flat, everything would be falling except land and there would be no gravity in the other side of earth.

# Ariya Pérez



## I Am Who I Am

I remember when I got my dog.  
I don't remember when I was a baby.  
I love my family and friends.  
I hate when there's a problem.  
I have always loved the color purple.  
I have never seen an anteater.  
I see flowers and grass.  
I don't see my brother.  
I know that my mom is going to the dentist later.  
I don't know if my brother is coming back from San Francisco tomorrow.  
I wonder if there will be floating cars in the future.  
I don't wonder what my dog is doing right now.  
I tried not to be late for class.  
I want to play with my friends now.  
I don't want to go to the dentist.

## Free Write

One day, there was a space unicorn that was named Bob. But Bob was a girl. Bob lived in space, in the planet Marshmallow Laser. Everything was made out of marshmallows except the space unicorns. But one day, a villain named Cyclone that was Darth Vader came, but the unicorns called him that because his ship was a Cyclone.

## Cupcorn

The Cupcorn is half unicorn and half cupcake power. It has cupcake wings that are ten feet long. The Cupcorn is a very nice creature and it can run 150,50,203,100,300,510,100 miles per hour. The Cupcorn can live a very long life. The Cupcorn eats cupcakes that have ice cream in it. The Cupcorn lives in the clouds next to rainbows. The Cupcorn does not love anything rotten or else it will run away from you.

## I think...

I think the earth needs less dangerous bugs, insects, and animals so there's less of a chance of getting hurt. I think Earth needs more cake plants. I think Earth needs more strawberry shortcake plants. I think Earth needs more fantasy animals.

# Daniel Pérez



## Free Write

Once upon a time, there was a giant bird feeder where all the birds went to eat. But then one day, after all the birds went to bed, there was a terrible storm that lasted four hours. Then the storm knocked down the bird feeder. It fell to the ground!

After the storm, all the birds came to see what happened to the bird feeder. So then the birds started to starve because they were so hungry they started to eat their own horses! So then they called the Golden State Writing Warriors. The birds told them to rebuild our giant bird feeder. So the Golden State Writing Warriors rebuilt the giant bird feeder!

The Golden state Writing Warriors rebuilt the giant bird feeder in three days. It looked brand new! The birds were so happy to eat in the brand new bird feeder, and the birds lived happily ever after.

## Birds

Birds are beautiful  
Birds are colorful  
Birds sing to me every morning  
Birds are the best and nicest things on Earth  
Birds are friendly  
Birds are very calming  
Birds sometimes are mean  
Birds like people food  
Birds fly  
Birds run  
Birds are interesting  
Birds are my favorite  
Birds eat meat and seeds  
Birds live in the wild  
Birds are intelligent  
Some birds are predators  
Some birds are vegetarians  
Birds like to play  
Birds are fun  
Birds are the best  
Birds help each other

## Spikey Bird

Hello, my name is Spikey and I am a bird. This morning Ariya brought the light to me and gave me some food and water. After I ate my delicious breakfast, I started to sing and sing and sing. After I stopped singing, Daniel let me out of my cage. Then I started to fly. It felt like I was free. It felt like flying in the sky traveling around the world. Then after 30 minutes, Daniel put me back in my cage because he had to go to the writing program. He put some music on for me to listen to. So I listened to the music as I saw Daniel go to the writing program. So, a day in the life of a bird is awesome.

# José Sánchez



## Dogs

Dogs are playful to the babies.  
Dogs are cute and fun.  
Dogs can eat cats.  
Dogs are helpful.  
Dogs can sometimes be mean.  
Dogs are funny.  
Dogs are very cool.  
Dogs are very cool to people.  
Dogs are wild.  
Dogs are soft.  
Dogs are friendly.  
Dogs make me happy.  
Dogs are different colors.  
Dogs like crackers.  
Dogs bark loud and soft.  
Dogs eat people food.  
Some dogs like to read.  
Dogs like to sleep inside.  
Dogs are helpful to each other.  
Dogs are my favorites!!

## A Day in the Life of Bobby

Hi, my name is Bobby and I am a dog! In the morning I saw a boy eating my biscuit and I was so mad that I scratched him! And then he sent me back inside again and again, and we were like that fighting all the times.

Hi, my name is Terr, and I like to scratch my back and I want to go. I was jumping and barking and I was scratching my back. I was on the ground because I thought I was making the ground shake, but it was an earthquake! I wasn't scared because I knew it was going to happen. I was going to help them but they didn't listen to me. It was fun, and my owner was laughing too!

## Senses

I can taste the food.  
I can see the sky.  
I can hear the water.  
I can smell the flowers.  
I can touch the trees.  
I can see a beautiful bird.  
I can smell the ocean.  
I can feel the cold water.  
I love the birds.  
The birds are cute.  
The birds are fast

## I want...

I want a real Minecraft. I want a cozy bed. I want a robot that can help me clean. I want real dinosaur eggs. I want everything. I want monster trucks! And my house to be a mansion. I want very strong windows. I need a bed for my dinosaurs. It's going to be soft. My dinosaurs are going to be vegetarian. My dinosaurs are going to play in the soccer field.

# Oscar Sánchez



## Frogs

<b>Ferocious</b>	<b>Ferocious</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Rapid</b>
<b>Of</b>	<b>Often</b>
<b>Game</b>	<b>Genius</b>
<b>Sausage</b>	<b>Serious</b>

Dear Oscar Sanchez:

Hello, I was born in 2002 February 28. I like dinosaurs and Jurassic Pars 1, 2, 3, and 4. I like birds and I do movies in my head. When I hear music or see something new I see a tree, I see a movie about a child born or a tree and the boy is a tree. He looks like a human, but a tree so his abilities are to grow trees and flowers no one cares about him, even the dad who adopts the child. That's all the story is about. My mom came where my dad came from to from the center of Mexico, so that's all. I see you again in your mind.

Sincerely,

Oscar's Mind

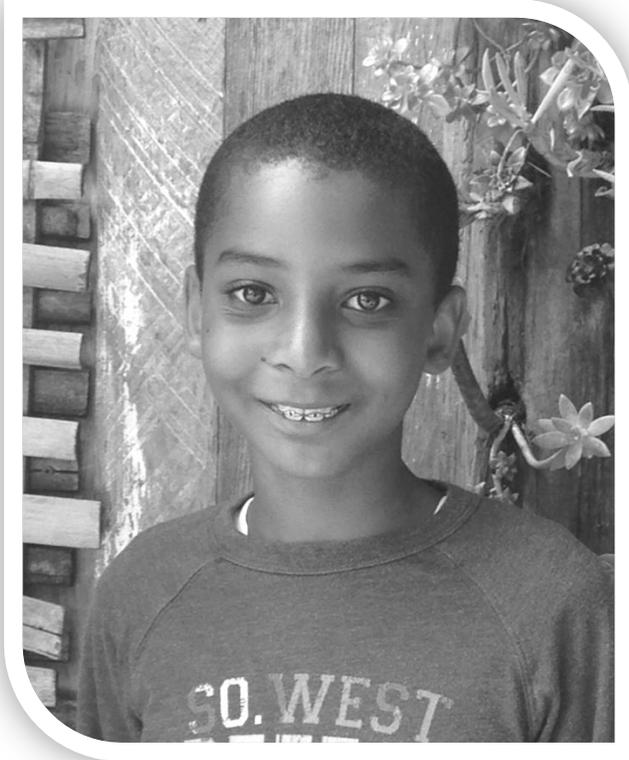
## Writing from Memory

On Sunday, we went to the store but outside. So we bought a movie and some food to eat. So we got turtles. That's the day I liked turtles. So I wanted to touch one so I took one and it got lost! We searched all over the house. It was morning, so we ate at 6:00, and we finally saw the turtle on the ground! I wondered how it got there. So I got grounded for too many days, but I still like turtles.

## I am a Robot

What am I? Where am I? A thing is coming—it's a person. Wait, am I a robot? Cool! Good-bye, scientist! It looks like nothing happened to me. I am walking like a human. Look—there is my home! It's blue and white, blue rays and the rest is white. In the inside, there is the TV and to the left is the kitchen. Upstairs is my bedroom with the bathroom. I live with turtles and cats. I got a computer in the TV future thing. I eat the pasta and salad every day. I feed the cats, and the turtles. I am 21 years old and my name is Jeff. I like bears.

# Merhawi Solomon



## Five Senses

I can smell the cherry-smelling flowers.  
I touch the rough, spiky cactus.  
I can hear the beautiful songs of the birds.  
I taste the delicious cactus fruit.  
I see the wonderful trees.  
Finally, I can feel, touch, taste, smell, and  
see the ways of nature.

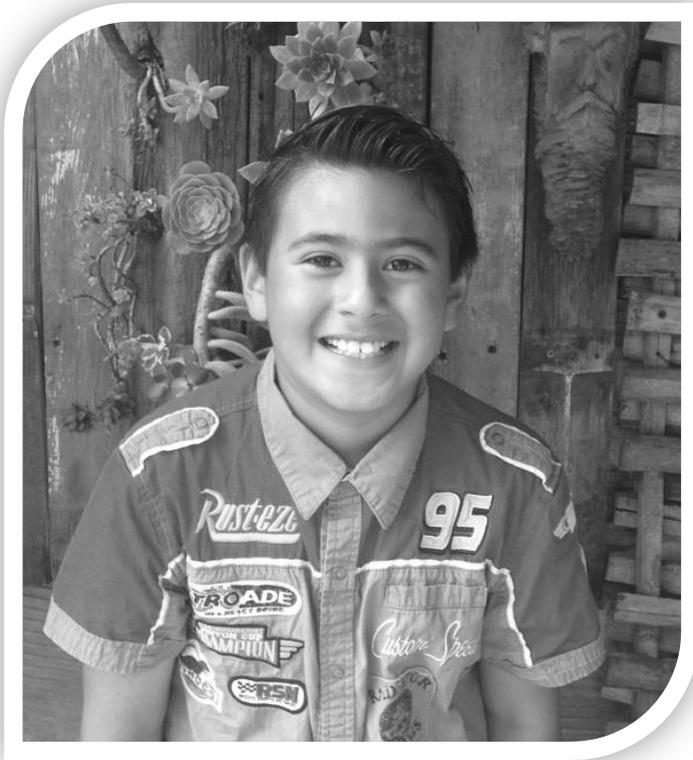
## The Leprechaun

Once upon a time, there was a leprechaun. On Saint Patrick's Day, he always robs villages in search for gold! But he always found little or no gold. He needs gold to fill up his buckets of gold to make a rainbow, like all leprechauns do. On the other world, one villager always wonders why the rainbow never comes when it rains, and then the sun comes back up. The other villager said angrily, "It is probably that leprechaun who is stopping the rainbow from coming!" On one Saint Patrick's Day, the villagers prepared for the leprechaun to rob. But this time, his leprechaun friends helped him find his gold to fill his bucket of gold to create a rainbow, just like all other leprechauns do.

## Free Write

Once upon a time, there was a Robot named Tom. He lived on a hill that was very steep. And he always thought about the person who invented him. Once day, he went to look for the person who invented him. He got very tired and he drank a ton of bottles of water and dumped them into a river that led to the SOUTHERN OCEAN! Right after Tom left, the person who invented Tom went to the ocean and river to see a horrible, unimaginable, horrifying, huge mess!!! Who would make such a huge and horrifying mess?! Wait a minute...I know what I could do with these plastic bottles! I could make a police officer puppet and name him after my long lost friend Tom...police officer!

# Joe Torres



## About Me

I am a boy named Joe and this is my life. I am going to tell you about what to eat. I like dogs. I like cats. I like fish. I like Youtube. I am a nice boy. I play with my family. I am a cat's parent. I am the best. I can cook. I can make a hot cocoa. I do not like seaweed. I like tomatoes. I like pizza. I am a boy. I am a kid. I like dogs. I love my sister.

## The Knight

Once upon a time there was a boy who was a knight. He went in a fight and we almost died, but he won. After the fight he got money and he got a Monte Carlo 360. The Monte Carlo was a fast car and it was blue. Also I was driving it with my dad.

## Mafia

There are five villagers, the detective, a healer, and the killer. The killer shot the villager, and the queen revealed the villager! He got saved! The king found a clue on a sock! The villagers went to sleep. The next morning the killer was at a restaurant.

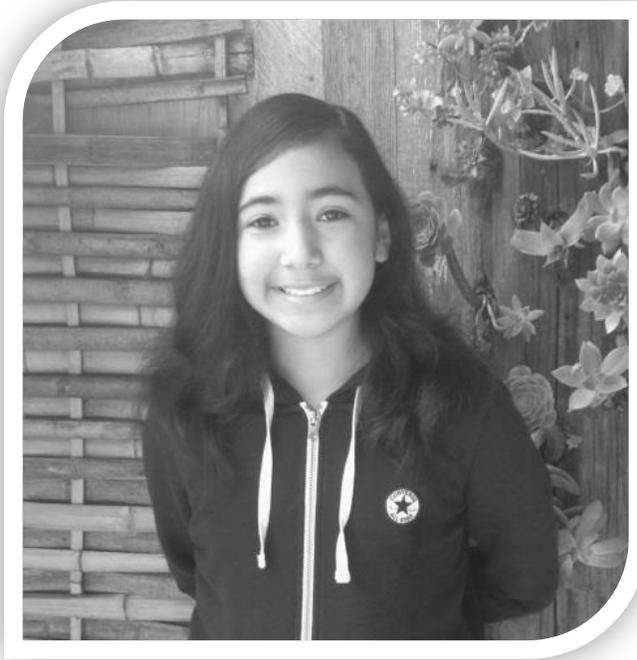
## Cats

Cats are silly  
Awesome animals  
Trouble makers

## 2080

In 2080, people only eat hot dogs. Robots help you with your homework. People wear dresses and tuxedos. The robots keep you safe. The robot reflects bullets—his name is Robocop.

# Lluvia Torres



## I Am Who I Am

I remember going to the park  
I remember building a sandcastle  
I love hearing the sounds of chirping birds  
I hate when bugs are on me  
I have always gone to the park  
I have never seen a bear  
I see acres of grass  
I don't see any bugs  
I know nature is fun  
I don't know why nature can be dangerous  
I wonder why the weather changes so fast.  
I don't wonder why it rains.  
I try to stop littering  
I don't try to exercise  
I want to go to the snow  
I don't want to go to the desert

## Dogs

Dogs can be so cute.  
Dogs are so playful.  
Dogs like to eat.  
Dogs make me smile.  
Dogs make me happy.  
Dogs are so loveable.  
Dogs and cats do not get along.  
Dogs cheer me up when I am sad.  
Dogs can be small.  
Dogs can be big.  
Dogs can be vicious.  
Dogs can be friendly.  
Dogs can be ugly.  
Dogs can get scared.  
Dogs can be black and brown and have spots.  
Dogs can have a loud bark.  
Dogs can have a soft bark.  
Dogs can live in a house.  
Dogs can live in an adoption center.  
Dogs are mammals.

## Short Story

Once there was a woman named Alice. Alice loves birds and loves to make things. One day, Alice decided to make a bird feeder. Alice put the bird feeder on her garden. Every day Alice looked at her garden to see the beautiful blue bird that would come every day. One day, the bird feeder disappeared. The bird's name was Joe. Joe was sad and hungry. Alice found out that someone stole her bird feeder so she made another one—a better one. The new bird feeder was big and it was blue for Joe the Blue Bird. Joe was still so hungry that he got very sick. Alice saw that Joe was sick so she worked as fast as she could. But since she's making it better, it took longer. Two days later, it was done. Joe ate so much bird food his stomach hurt. Finally he stopped eating and Alice was so happy that Joe was not sick. Joe was also happy that he could eat, but really Joe ate too much food. Alice and Joe lived happily ever after. The end!

# Emiliano Torres



## Koalas

Koalas are Obama's favorite animal.  
Koalas are mammals.  
Koala's mammas carry them.  
Koalas hate llamas.  
Koalas like eating guavas.  
Koalas like eating cotton.  
His mom caught him eating cotton!

## Free Write

Kim Kardashian just bought her 2015 Bentley. So the popo pulled her over, then they took her car and drove away. She walked home.

## About Me

Hello, I am Emiliano and I just woke up in South Africa. I lived with my squad. I eat mostly insects. Like, spiders would be appetizers, small birds would be the main dish, the side dish is the lizard, and for dessert is scorpion!

I was born in South Africa. I have a tribe. Every morning, we teach the young boys to dig holes for shelter. After, we teach the other kids to watch for predators. Once they make their own family, they teach their kids, too.

When the Meerkats wake up, half of them watch for predators on the hill and the other half make holes, and then they take turns. We have to beware of Martial Eagles, Tawny Eagles, and Jackals. Meerkats easily die from snake bites; our snakes predators are cape cobras.

We, the Meerkats, live in large underground networks. In the Meerkat squad we have at least thirty members. We are evolved from the mongoose. When we see a predator coming up we have a signal: we chirp, trill, growl, or bark.

# Luna Valencia



## Free Write

Once upon a time, there was a bird named Bubbles. The day was very hot, and Bubbles was hungry and starving. Then, the Golden State Warriors came and made a bird feeder, but they used stuff like bottles. Then Bubbles was happy, but Bubbles needed a home. So, the Golden State Warriors made a mansion. It took them a day, but they did it! It had a fountain, bathrooms, couches, and lots of things. Bubbles was very, very, happy, and Bubbles lived happily ever after.

## I Am Who I Am

I remember my mom likes to go hiking.  
I don't remember the first time I went to the park.  
I love Sol's kitty, Totoro.  
I hate when people litter.  
I have always liked trees.  
I have never killed a duck and stuffed it.  
I see a dog.  
I don't see a dragon.  
I know a dog's bite.

Once upon a time there was a boy named Ruby and a Cat named Tototo. The cat is 4 months old and the dog is 1 month old. So they united to defeat a witch. But they didn't know how.

## Pastoral Poem

I can taste the water.  
I can hear the water.  
I can smell the water.  
I can touch the water.  
I can see the water.  
I can see the bird—aww, it left!  
I can see the frog.  
I can smell the frog.  
I can hear the frog.  
I can touch the frog.

# Sol Valencia



## Five Senses

I can taste the candy  
I can hear the clouds  
I can hear the water  
I can smell the air  
I can touch the pencil  
I can taste the water  
I can hear people talking  
I can see a beautiful bird  
I can touch the cold water  
I can smell the leaves  
I can smell my cat's fur, which makes me sneeze  
I can see the flowers  
I can taste the water  
I can see yellow flowers  
I can see plants  
I can hear the birds  
I can see an apple  
I can see the apple (PS- apple phone)  
I can taste the paper  
I can hear Luna.

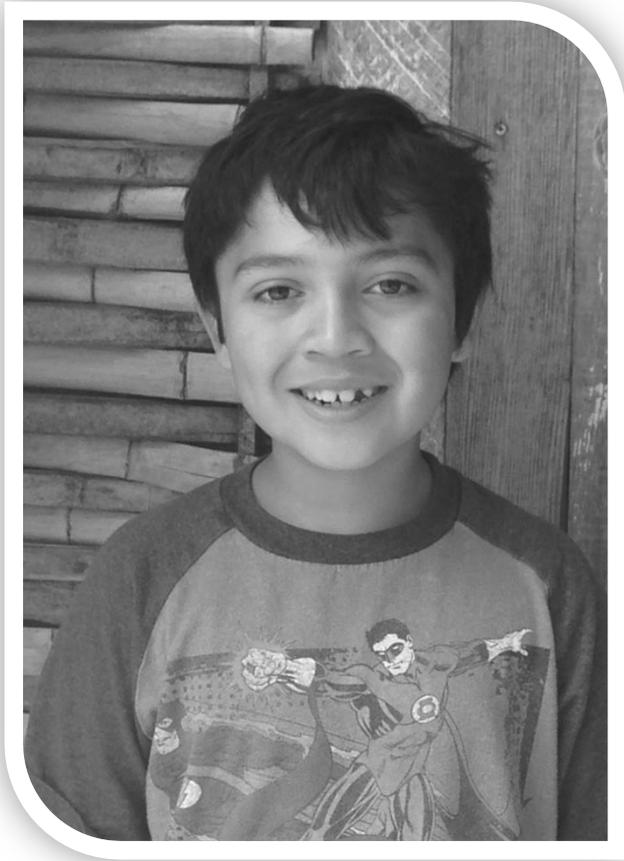
## Free Write

Once upon a time, there was a bird called Timmy. Timmy was all the colors like red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and pink. Timmy was the happiest bird in his tree because he had his own bird feeder. But one day, there was a storm. Timmy flew in his tree house, but when the storm was over he went to see his bird feeder. It was all on the floor and broken. Timmy was sad. He looked at his bird feeder and it was wet, and all the seeds were on the floor. He started to cry. Timmy did not know that next to him there were a group of kids and one adult called Cassy. There were two girls. They were both sisters, and one of the girls was 11 years old and her name was Sol. The other girl was also eleven years old and her name was Luna. There were also two boys. One of the boys was called Daniel, and he is eleven years old. The other boy was called Jose, and he was eleven years old. This group of kids was called the Golden State Writing Warriors. They felt so bad for the bird! So they went and built a new bird feeder. They used a plastic bottle and some seeds. When they were done, Timmy was so happy they became friends. Timmy shared his new bird feeder to his family and his bird friends. The End.

## I Hate Mosquitoes

Oh mosquitoes,  
How you stab me with your sharp sword mouth.  
Oh mosquito,  
How you suck all the blood in my body.  
I don't wish you were here.  
Oh mosquito,  
You give me bumps that itch.  
Oh mosquitos,  
Get out of my room!

# Alejandro Vázquez



## I Am Who I Am

I remember plants getting blown by the wind  
and creatures around me.

I don't remember how I was born looking  
around me.

I love nature, from plants to animals.

I have always stayed away from mosquitoes  
and bees.

I never have been in a rollercoaster or forest.

I see all kinds of nature around me.

I don't see soccer camps in summer.

I know all kinds of intruders and animals.

I don't know about Lego Land or the  
mountains.

I wonder how many animals there are in Earth.

I don't wonder about flowers.

I try to get more money.

I try not to hurt people.

I want to buy 500 Lego kits.

I don't want to make an actual Lego car.

## Free Write

One day a superhero named Aquaman went swimming in the ocean. He saves sea people and fights sharks. Aquaman found a starfish crying and asked him, "What's wrong?" The starfish said, "Black manta killed my cousin!" Aquaman said, "What? He is my number one enemy!" Aquaman found his hideout and so they started fighting. The black manta captured Aquaman and took his trident! Black manta said to all the sea people, "everyone must bow to me! Bwahahahahah!" To be continued...

## Five Senses Poem

I can taste lemonade.

I can smell pupusas.

I can see shows.

I can hear playing.

I can touch the table.

I can taste chicken.

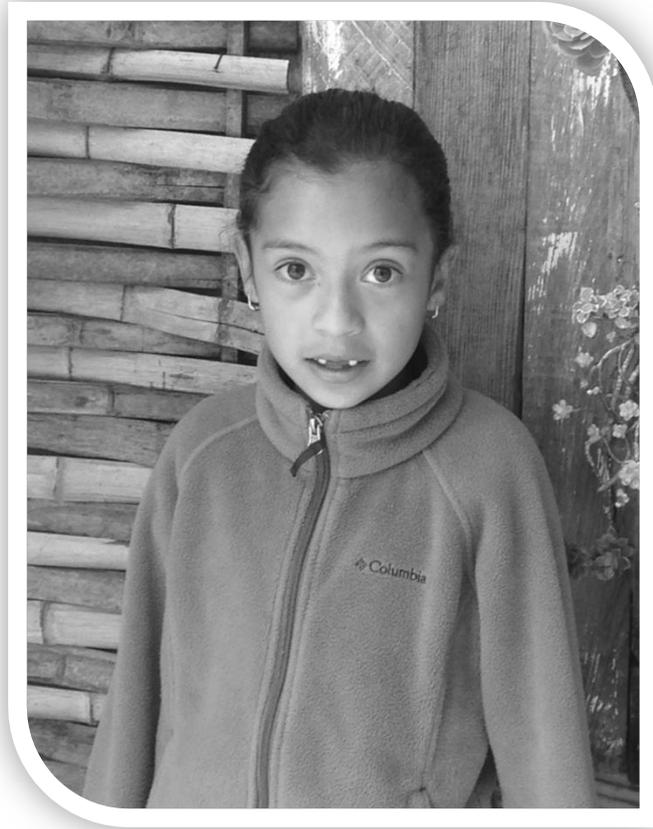
I can smell smoke.

I can see the grill.

I can hear yelling.

I can touch plants

# Camila Vázquez



## The Good Boy

Once upon a time, there was a little boy walking with his mom and his dad, and he was a good little boy, and he listened to his mom and his dad. When his mom said no, he listened, and when his dad said no, he listened. When the little boy wanted something, his mom bought it, because the little boy earned it because he did what he had to do, and he was happy.

The End.

## About Me

I am going to El Salvador. I am going with my big family to the beach. I am so excited and it is going to be awesome. I have a big giant family. We are going to stay there for three weeks and we are bringing our bathing suits. I am going into second grade. I am so happy. I'm happy to go to second grade I am ready to learn more and to get better and write more.

## What I Love

I love puppies. I am a little girl. I have a brother. I like stuffed animals. I hate cats. I love Costa Rica. I love nails. I love Harry Potter. My name is Camila and I love Mexico and El Salvador. I go to Cragmot and I live in Berkeley. My favorite colors are green and orange and purple and yellow and red.

## Free Write

Once upon a time, a little girl lived in a cottage with her mom. The little girl was a good little girl. She was awesome.

# April Vega



## Cheetahs

Cheetahs are fast  
Cheetahs have spots  
Cheetahs live in hot places  
Cheetahs growl loud  
Cheetahs eat zebras  
Cheetahs make me feel happy  
Cheetahs have sharp teeth  
Cheetahs live in the jungle  
Cheetahs jump high  
Cheetahs have fur

## Five Senses

I can hear the home bird sing.  
I can see the flowers.  
I can smell some food.  
I can eat with my mouth.  
I can touch the tree.  
I can smell some candy.  
I can touch some flowers.  
I can hear some animals.  
I can see some butterflies.  
I can talk with my mouth.

## Disneyland

Disneyland Park is fun. You can play and it is far away. You ride a car or bus to get there. When you go to Disneyland Park, you can meet lots of friends. You can swim a lot. I like to swim—it is fun to go.

## The Fair

I like to go to the fair. We get cotton candy and you can go to the roller coaster. You get to win prizes. You get to have ice cream. You get lots of things.

# Alexa Villacruz



## I Am Who I Am

I remember going to Yosemite  
I don't remember going to the snow ever.  
I love family trips to the beach, forest, etc. etc.  
I hate bugs, spiders, slugs, caterpillars, etc.  
I have always loved to go to the park  
I have never been to the snow  
I see a world where there is no drought in California.  
I see a world where no one is in need of anything  
I don't see a world where littering was a fantasy  
I know humans  
I don't know humanity  
I wonder about life  
I don't wonder about death  
I try to understand  
I try not to underestimate  
I want to live for thousands and thousands of years  
I don't want to die ever

## Five Senses

I see the bright yellow shining to my eyes, reflecting on a sunny day from a bright yellow lemon hanging off a beautiful shady lemon tree. When you get closer and closer you can smell the sweet fragrance of lemon.

As your hand reaches and touches it you can feel the rough smoothness of the skin; it has such a thick texture.

When you get a piece and place it in your mouth, it is burning of the sourness; it is intense but still sweet.

When you squeeze it into a pitcher with sugar and ice, pour it in a cup on a hot summer day, it will do the trick to cool you down.

When you just see the whole lemon there all yellow, bright, tasty, small and rough and as you experiment, you can hear the sweet noise of SILENCE.

## My Dream Room

If I could make my room, my floor would be white fur. My walls would be beige. My bed would be queen size and my mattress would be made out of memory foam. My blanket would be white with mint green sheets on bottom and top. My pillows would be some white, some black, and some with words on them like "LOL" and "DREAM", etc. etc. On top of my bed, there would be picture hangings that I've taken with my camera. My ceiling would be the universe in glow-in-the-dark. I would have a chandelier with clear crystals on the top and mint green on the bottom. My dresser would be white with light on top and my makeup laid on top.

# Madeline Villacruz



## **Dogs**

My favorite animals are dogs because dogs have cute eyes. And I like puppies too, and I like when they wave their tails. And I like dogs because they are soft.

## **A Day as a Chihuahua**

My name is Coco. I am a Chihuahua. I got married with a girl dog and she had one puppy. I like going for walks and my owners do not take me, so I go by myself. I feel good and bad and I lay down on the rug. The reasons why I feel good is because they do not have to pull my leash. The reasons why I feel bad is because I feel lonely. This is my life!

## **Five Senses**

I smell the flowers; they smell like strawberries.  
I hear the wind blowing.  
I see the birds flying when I go to the park.  
I run my fingers through the wave grass.  
I love the taste of fresh-picked tomatoes

## **I Am Who I Am**

I remember the play turtle.  
I don't remember seeing natural disasters.  
I love when it's sunny.  
I hate when it rains.  
I have always played in the grass.  
I have never climbed a tree.  
I see the sun.  
I don't see the wind.  
I know that the sun is sunny.  
I don't know if it is going to rain tomorrow.  
I wonder if it is going to get cold.  
I don't wonder what's going on in the news.  
I try to climb trees.  
I try not to get hurt.  
I want to go play.  
I don't want to run.

## Letter From the Richmond Site Director

These past four weeks have been very special to us. We have seen all the students grow as creative writers. They were able to express themselves in free-writes without being constrained by grammar, spelling or syntax. Even in more structured writing activities, which included poetry, short stories, parodies and commercials, students were encouraged to use their imagination and go beyond the boundaries of conventional writing prompts. We believe that creativity is a fundamental component of education, which is why our highest priority was to let students play with their imagination and not be afraid to express their voices.

Congratulations to all of the YWF participants. We can still remember the first week when we met all of you and how hard it was for you to get your creative minds flowing. Now, four weeks later, you are all unstoppable and have learned to trust yourselves and have fun with your writing.

Special thanks go to the tutors and volunteers for their incredible dedication, energy and patience. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and seeing how you developed special bonds with your tutees. Your work with them is very important because it will have a lasting impact in their lives.

We also would like to thank the participant's parents for their commitment. Thank you for believing in our program, giving us ideas, and communicating with us about your children's progress. We are particularly grateful to those of you who helped out either by donating snacks for the students or chaperoning in the fieldtrip. Without your support this program couldn't have been successful!

A final word goes to the MI Board of Directors and Staff for their unconditional support. Thank you for making the YWF a beautiful experience and an incredible success. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Merced Truax-Padilla*

Richmond Site YWF Program Director

# Richmond Site

# Alonso Aguilar

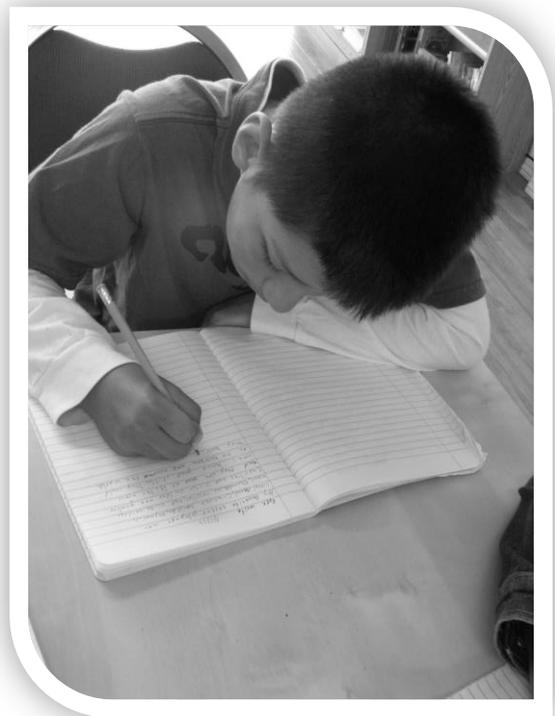


## **Birds**

Birds fly all around the world.  
Birds have colorful wings with small feet.  
Birds do not hurt people because they hurt people.  
Birds love to play and fly around.  
Birds have really small beaks.  
Birds have nests in trees.  
Birds take care of baby birds.  
Birds teach baby birds how to fly.  
Birds are small and have warm wings.  
Baby Birds chirp when they are hungry.

## **Alliteration Poem**

I saw a red robot throwing rocks at a rainbow.  
There was a red big berry who could rock climb.  
The red robot was rotten because it was raining.  
    The red robot fell.  
I saw that a rat was friends with a rattle snake.  
    A blue rug could talk and play tennis  
        with four racket.  
    The rug went to the park to ruin the park.  
        The people ripped him.  
The rain robbed the bank and raccoon police came.  
The ravine crashed with Mr. Ravine and went to rain  
    jail.  
    Rain jail is rotten and stinky!  
    No one can resist in there.



# Dorian Becerra



## Sonnet

We are going to the Golden Gate park.  
There are a lot of insect eating Frogs.  
There will be a lot of dogs that will bark.  
In the Golden Gate park, there will be  
dogs. There will be many birds in the  
sky. When we go to the park, there will  
be trees. In the park, there will be many  
bumble bees. When we go to the park,  
we will go play. In the park we will see  
many flowers. In the beach, water will  
begin to spray. Spanish people kill cows  
to get power. In the park there will be  
bunnies. In the park, people are really  
funny.

## He said She Said

Football Player: Oh, hello madam.

Cook: Hi young man, what brings you here?

Football Player: I just came for a walk.

Cook: Well, I'm just cooking with some flowers I got.

Football Player: No! Why did you do that?

Cook: Well, I need to cook.

Football Player: Well, that's not cool.

Cook: Well, I don't care, and by the way you're not cool!

Football Player: You better plant the flowers back.

Cook: No! I'll keep on cooking them, and if I can't cook, then it gets really boring.

Football Player: Why don't you play a sport?

Cook: I think sports are boring and they're not cool.

Football Player: I play sports, and you're boring.

Cook: Why do we have to fight?

Football Player: You're right.

Cook: Why don't we just be friends?

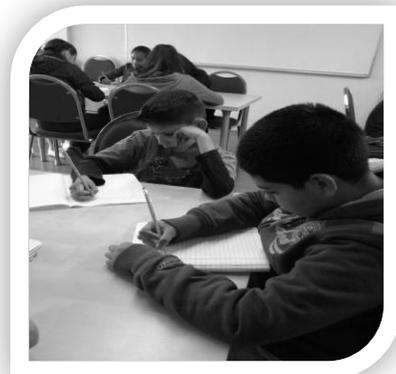
Football Player: Okay!

Cook: Yay! I finally have a friend.

Football Player: Just promise me that when you

pick a flower, also plant a new one back.

Cook: All I needed was a friend.



# Erica Castro



## **Nature**

Nature is green  
Don't cut the trees  
I smile at the sky  
While it looks down and cries  
Keep it green

## **My Dreams and Aspirations**

My dream is to be a doctor, specifically one that works with babies who are sick or newborns. Babies are the only things that bring me happiness and although some are annoying, most are calm.

I would help the babies that are sick by first discovering what they have and giving them medicine. The parents could come see them and see the way I take care of them. I would be very sad that the babies are sick, but I would take

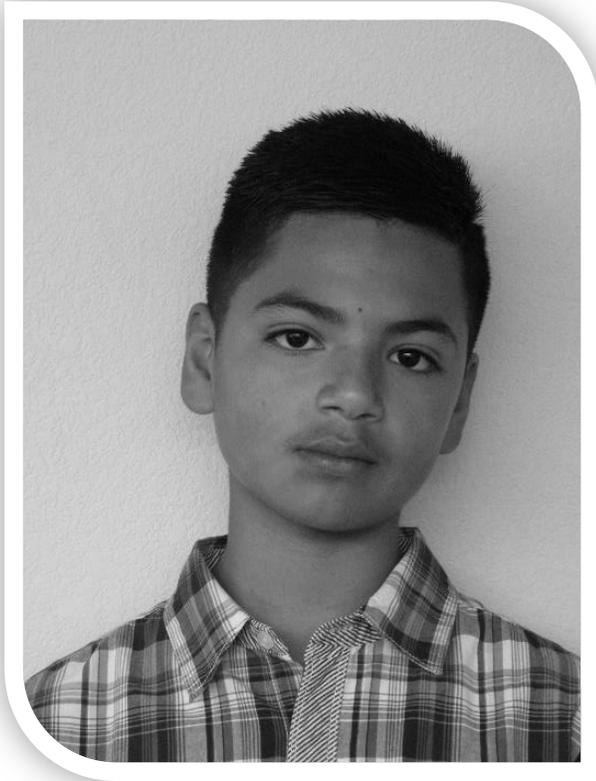
comfort in knowing that I am helping them. Hopefully, I can give proper care and have them out with their families within a week or two.

I would also like to be the doctor who delivers the babies. The reality of giving birth is that some babies come out alive and some come out dead, but I hope that by giving proper care, they can all survive. My favorite is when babies are very small, specifically newborns. The only thing they do is cry and I could deal well with that. When a baby cries it is simply because they want to be changed or fed. As a doctor, I would check their weight and length at birth.

I would take care of the babies: keep an eye on them, make sure they are all okay, fed and changed. My greatest happiness would be for them to all be well and healthy and that I would be able to return them to their parents.

My goal is to attend a community college for two years and then transfer to a four-year university.

# Luis Castro



## The Rhyme

I can taste food.  
I can eat in the hood.  
It's stasty, but sometimes nasty.  
I can smell food because it always has a good  
smell.  
I can see the tree, it smells like pee.  
I like cheese, just like the sea.  
I can hear bears.  
And I ain't scared because I eat pears.  
I can touch the couch.  
It's washable and I like pineapples.

## Lucky

Luis likes lollipops and likes being a lawyer. Once a lion and a leprechaun were fighting over Lucky Charms. Then Luis did a lemon challenge against the leopard. Luis owns a lot of landscape because he's a lawyer. Luis lives in Louisiana.

## Athletics

I really like baseball and basketball because they are great sports. I like baseball, slightly more so baseball is my favorite sport. My favorite baseball team is the San Francisco Giants because it is in the bay. Also because it's the best team. My favorite player is Buster Posey because he's really good. Buster Posey's record of home runs in one season is 24 home runs. My favorite position in baseball is third base. My favorite basketball team is the Warriors because they are dope and because that's my home team. My favorite player is Stephen Curry because he's the best player in the NBA. Stephen Curry's record is 54 points in one game I am proud of the Warriors because of their hard work this year. Klay Thompson is the second best player in the Warriors team. I like the Warriors and the San Francisco Giants the most because they are my home team. I could have like the Oakland A's but they are a bad team (that I hate). I am really proud of these two teams because of their effort. Buster Posey and Stephen Curry together are better than the Oakland A's.



# Priscila Castro



## My Puppy

My big and cute puppy,  
He sees a cat,  
Likes to watch bubble guppy,  
And he hides in a hat .  
Then he gets all nutty;  
He loves to play.  
My big puppy,  
He likes to play on this day.  
My delightful puppy  
My puppy gets muddy.  
When he fights he gets bloody.  
He's the understudy.

## The Recycle Problem

Once upon a time there was a bird king that loved to recycle things. He threw away all of his things, he wanted no junk in his house because he needed to exercise. The queen also needed the house so she went to the pool because she was bored and there she made a house out of cardboard. She was happy because she could now take showers inside instead of at the shower store.

## Rhyming Cat Poem

I saw a cat.  
It played with a rat.  
It was a brat.  
They saw a bat.

There was a stranger.  
He is crazy.  
It said danger.  
It is lazy.

There is a rollercoaster.  
His name is Roar.  
There was a toaster.  
You get soar.

My name is Priscila,  
I rap with Briscila.

# Jose Cervacio



## Free Write

Hello, my name is Jose Cervacio. My favorite sport is soccer. I like soccer because we could have fun. My favorite colors are blue and green because blue is the color of the sky and green is the color of the grass. My favorite subject is math because it is fun to do. My favorite animals are monkeys because they eat bananas. One day I would like to have a pet Monkey so that it could play with the awesome kids.

## My Pet Fox

I want a pet Fox because of the color red. I also want a pet Fox because it can run really fast. A fox can eat whatever it wants as well as eat it's food really fast. I want a pet bear because it roars. I also want a pet bear because it can scratch a lot of animals. Bears eat berries and can also run really fast.

## My Favorite Movie

My favorite movie is Fast and Furious 7. How it goes is that in the beginning, these two guys race for what I can remember, money. So, then when these people were going somewhere and they were putting their baby in the car, the guy forgot something. So then this guy had a bomb and it exploded near the car that the baby was in. A couple of minutes later, two bald men start fighting. In the middle of the movie, there was another race that happened. In the end of the movie, I thought that it was really sad because someone died.

## My new school year

In my new school year, I want to be on a basketball team. I want to be on a basketball team because I want to learn how to play basketball. I also want to learn new skills through basketball. I want to be on a soccer team as well because I want to get even better at playing soccer, and also make a lot of goals. I also want to play baseball so that I can learn to make some home runs. I want to learn how to catch a ball as well. I want to play football if there is a football team at my school. I want to learn how to catch a football and make some touchdowns. I also want to learn how to tackle someone when I'm playing football if I join a football team.

# Yessenia Cervacio



## Dialogue

*Danny:* Hi my name is Alex, I am 10 years old and I am going to travel all around the world.

*Felipe:* That is so cool man. My name is Felipe and I love flowers, but shhh don't tell anyone it is embarrassing.

*Danny:* It's okay, I won't tell anyone. I wouldn't think you liked flowers, you look so muscular and strong. Do you play any sports?

*Felipe:* Yes! I play football. I know I look muscular, but I love the smell of flowers.

*Danny:* Well nice to meet you! I have to go now. Bye, see you later.

*Felipe:* Goodbye, nice meeting you too. Thanks for keeping my secret. Hope to see you soon.

## My Poem

I walk on the ground.  
I hear the sound.  
The trees are swinging;  
As if I was singing.  
It makes me happy that we are bonding;  
And I can hear my heart pounding

I really enjoyed singing and whistling.  
Thanks for listening!

## Sonnet on Nature

I cannot wait to see the sky,  
And tomorrow I will see nature.  
I will go up high,  
and dream like I do with literature.

I am often dreaming with the sun,  
and with the day I will be at the park  
with my dog.

I am having so much fun;  
All of a sudden I see a lot of fog.

I wake up and fall asleep again,  
I dream with the day  
That I get a dog and name him Harry.  
I know he will love to play  
Everyday by the prairie.

After playing with my pets I use lotion  
That is scented like the ocean.

# Jennifer Dominguez



## Sonnet of Nature and I

I like all types of trees,  
but people cut them for wood.  
They have lots of beautiful leaves,  
and I save them as much as I could

I see the beautiful sun,  
with its powerful light.  
I play and have fun,  
outside in the sun that is very bright.

I live on earth,  
and love to play.  
My mom gave birth,  
to me on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May

I love my cow but have no clue,  
why these beautiful animals moo.

## I Am Who I Am Poem

I remember how earth was green.  
I hate when people pollute nature.  
I have always cared for earth.  
I see, with a frown in my face, how earth  
is getting polluted.  
I don't know to get people to care for  
earth.  
I wonder how earth will look in the future.  
I WANT people to care for earth!

## Reflection Poem

I think earth/nature needs more love and care.  
We should get more trees.  
We are in need.  
The trees have little leaves,  
and no water to feed.  
  
Earth needs more love,  
but some people really don't care.  
It's sad that we won't see the flight of a dove,  
and it's just not fair!

It needs to rain!  
Soon, the landscapes are going to look really  
plain.



# Jorge Ivan Flores



## **Favorite Animal Poem**

German Shepherds are nice pets.  
German Shepherds are important.  
German Shepherds have nice soft hair.  
German Shepherds are very play-full.  
German Shepherds are good friends.  
German Shepherds listen when you are talking.  
German Shepherds can protect you.  
German Shepherds can run around.  
German Shepherds can run really fast.  
German Shepherds can have good hearing.

## **Free Write**

I want to see the pixels, Fast and Furious 7, and the Minions movie. I like those movies because these are action movies and they are really funny. What I also like is Five nights of Freddy's, Minecraft, Lego Halo, Lego Land, Universal Studios, Disneyland, MineCraft War, and Mortal Combat. My favorite games are Halo, Call of Duty, Pokemon, Soccer, and Ball tag.

## **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

We should recycle because we can help the world. It is good to work to help this world because when we grow up, you can see the help you gave this world make a difference. It is better to help the world than cutting many trees because if the world is not good and we cut the trees, we will die and so will the grass. That is why it is the best option to help the world and to try your best in helping the world. You can also make things out of what you reduce, reuse, and recycle.

## **What I like to do**

What I like to do is play soccer and play with my friends. I play at the playground and have fun because of the nature when I go on walks. I fly kites, play tag, and play more games. I like to sleep in the grass when it is cold. I like to do my homework as well as go camping in the summer at different parks. I also like to eat food. The grass is really dry now and the animals that I usually see at the parks are birds, cats, and dogs. I also like to ride in my scooters and my bikes.

# Diana Gonzalez



## Sonnet of the Forest

Every morning I hear the sound of the river.

All the time I walk in the forest I see blueberries.

When a snake passes by I get the shivers, but I feel better when I see good cherries

In the forest there is a hungry cougar.

To get his food he climbs the trees.

The cougar gets stopped by the intruder.

The lion that hides behind the leaves.

The king of the forest is the fiercest predator.

He roars loudly on top of the mountains.

A lion has a strong character.

That makes him a great leader and captain.

In the same forest there is a cute goose.

It was afraid, but got help from a nice moose.

## Short Story- Kelly's Adventures

In nature there are many dangers, such as death, loneliness and sickness. One day, Kelly went all-alone to nature (forest). She did not expect something was going to happen to her and she was not prepared. One animal attacked her and she did not have anything to defend herself. Then she thought: "I cannot fight or it will get worse".

The next time she visited the forest, she took her dad with her. This time was also dangerous. Kelly's dad got so caught up with the beauty of the forest and walked away without noticing. He was next to her, but left somewhere else to observe and she didn't know where he went. She tried calling him for a long time; she was alone and scared. Kelly was lost, and had no one to guide her out of the forest. She could not go home to get food and she was starving. Kelly did not know how to get food out of nature and she also needed water to drink. There was a river near by, but she thought: "the water might not be clean enough to drink".

Things got worse! When she was looking for food out in the wild, she realized that she was getting sick. She had an allergy! Kelly felt so bad and she wanted to go to the doctor. She walked and walked, and saw a light. Kelly was happy to find a helping hand. Her experience taught her that nature is beautiful, but can be dangerous and should be respected.

# Manuel Gonzalez



## Rhyming Thingy

There were nine parts to the tree  
There is Bart!  
I like to eat peas  
Bart is chasing a dart  
I have toes  
I like birds  
I like to write O's  
Some people are nerds  
I called my mom  
There is a stranger  
But my principal Tom came in and sang a  
song  
Run its danger!  
There is a person that is crazy  
That is lazy  
There was a hairy  
Principal named Tory  
There were lots of players  
I am tornby a horn.

## I can...

I can taste gum, it is minty. I can smell perfume, it smells like a rose. I can see hummingbirds sucking the nectar out the flowers. I can feel the wind going back and forth. I can hear people having fun in the playground.

## Crazy Party

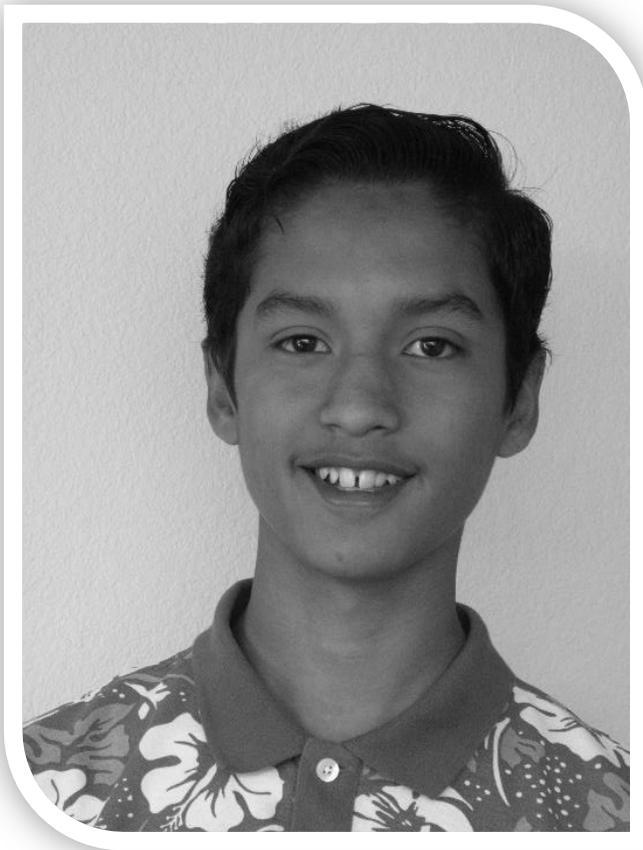
Dear Parents,

At the party I'll go swimming with the sharks. I'll win 9 million dollars and buy a mansion. I'll jump of a cliff, buy an xbox, and get all the games.

If you let me go I'll do all your chores and everything you tell me to. I will be extra nice to you and the rest of the family. It will be a once in a lifetime chance. Let me go, please!!!

--Manuel

# Roberto Guerra

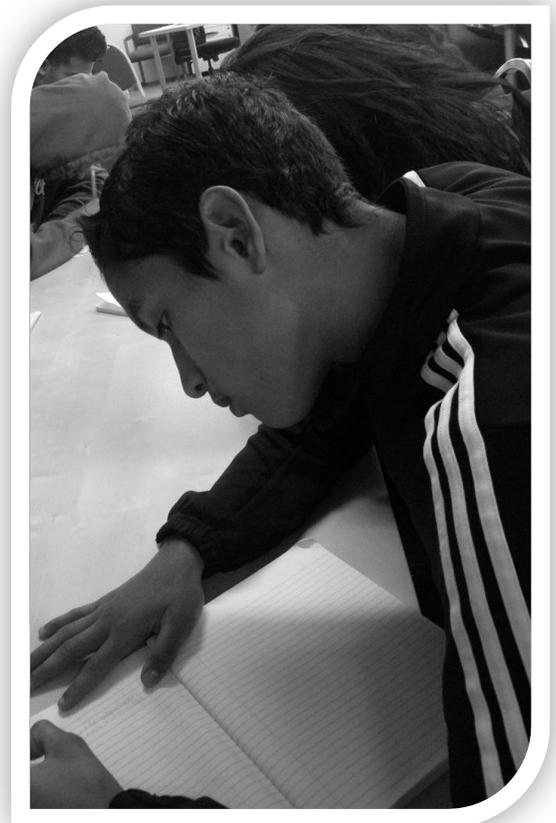


## **I Am Who I Am**

I remember yesterday  
I don't remember last night  
I love to be outside  
I hate when I can't  
I have always been loud  
I have never been quiet  
I see people  
I don't see nature  
I know little  
I can learn lots  
I wonder why  
I never wonder how  
I try to see sunshine  
I try to evade the dark  
I want to smile  
I want to never cry

## **Nature**

Nature is life  
I am just living within it  
Next to a tree  
Watching tv  
The leaves fall  
And I am tall  
Life is nature



# Eric Gutierrez



## Sonnet on Nature

I wonder what is nature,  
and why nobody likes bees.  
I also want to find out in the future,  
why bees don't like cheese.

I see that the money is green.  
But money doesn't grow on trees.  
I will buy a huge screen,  
that I can see from the streets

To see a cliff and a falling dog.  
Like a rollercoaster and getting stuck.  
But no one noticed because there was  
fog.  
He escaped because he had luck.

I look the other way and see no grass.  
I feel I am in a race and I am about to  
pass.

## Short Story- Effort

All I know about boxing is that you fight with only one opponent. In boxing the coach teaches you how to fight. My coach taught me a lot of self-defense things. Also, my coach made my stamina last longer. His routines made me stronger and faster. Soon I might learn more about boxing legends.

One boxing legend is Floyd Mayweather; he is the best boxer. He has forty-eight wins by knockouts and zero losses. He is undefeated. Mayweather started boxing at the age of fourteen, because he wanted to help his family. One day Mayweather told me his story. He said he had many mistakes in life before he went to the ring (started boxing). He was bullied; people made fun of him all the time. He trained really hard and six years later, he has twenty-seven knockouts, straight in a row.

Mayweather planned and gave a speech about effort. In the speech he said: "The people that bullied me said I couldn't make it, with effort you see I did". From his story I learned that when you follow the things that you love, then you can accomplish them.

# Yesenia Gutierrez



## The Park

I can see the playground.  
I can see the tree.  
I can hear people playing soccer.  
I can hear the birds tweet.  
I can smell the scent of beautiful flowers.  
I can smell the Elotero man.  
I can taste the elote.  
I can taste the watermelon with Tajin.  
I can feel the monkey bars from the playground.  
I can feel the grass when I lay down.

## The Animals

The brown bear bought a burrito from Beronica.  
Then Beronica bought a bee from a bald eagle.  
He bought a banana at the bridge.  
The baby bird got a banana from a bat.  
The bat got a butterfly from a bear.  
The bear got a burrito from the bunny.  
The bunny got baking soda from the banana slug.  
The bat went to bake at the balloon store.  
Then the bunny wanted a balloon for his birthday  
so he bought one.  
The bee dancers got beverages from the bunny.  
The bunny got a banana from a bird.  
Then the bird got a bow at the bats house.



# Alvaro Hernandez



## Animal Poem

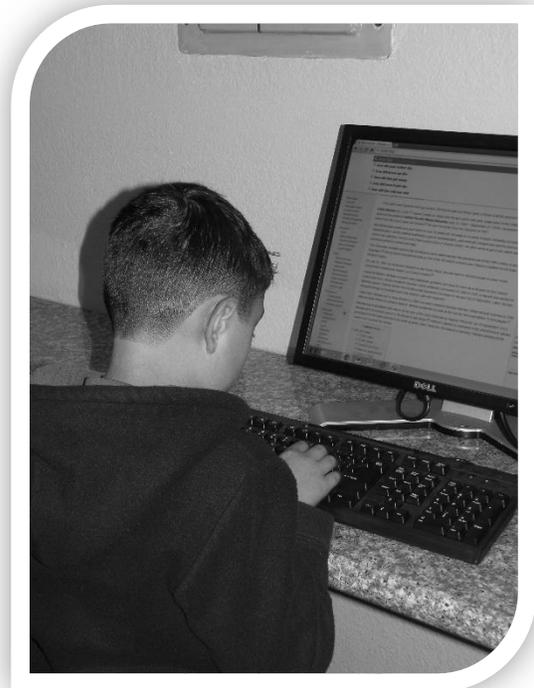
Monkeys like to climb trees.  
Monkeys eat bananas.  
Monkeys are mammals.  
Monkeys are aggressive  
Monkeys can climb almost everything.  
Monkeys might be getting extinct.  
Monkeys might eat bugs.  
Monkeys live in trees.  
Monkeys are used in some movies.  
Monkeys are smart.

## Free Write

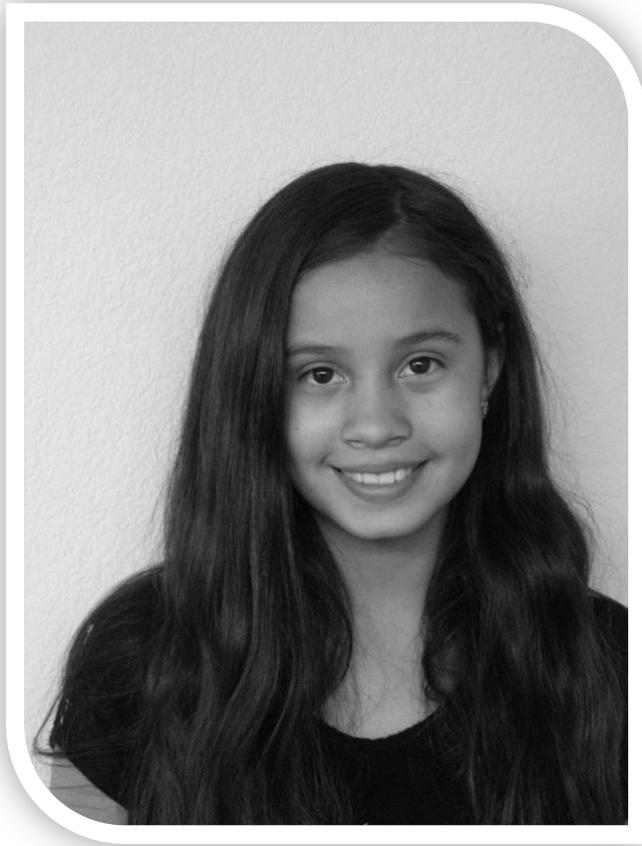
My favorite animal is a Monkey. I am not sure if monkeys are being hunted. Can Monkeys climb anything? If they can, that would be very awesome. I don't know if Monkeys can swim. I think Monkeys are really cool because they are like humans.

## Five Senses

I can taste fresh air, food.  
I can see homeless people,  
I can hear babies crying.  
I can smell cheeseburgers.  
I can touch the air, food.  
I can taste s'mores.  
I can see trees and bees.  
I can hear deer running.  
I can smell leaves, trees.  
I can touch the grass.  
I can taste chips.  
I can see people.  
I can hear birds. I can smell gasoline.  
I can touch my phone.

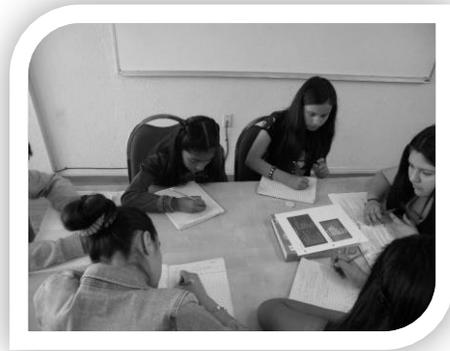


# Kassandra Ibarria



## Dogs Poem

Dogs are as loyal as a best friend.  
Dogs are as loving as a teddy bear.  
Dogs are as helpful as a guard.  
Dogs are as friendly as a dolphin.  
Dogs are as kind as a friend.  
Dogs are as cute as a bunny.  
Dogs are as intelligent as Albert Einstein.  
Dogs are there for you as a parent.  
Dogs are fluffy like a pillow.  
Dogs are as small as a baby crawling.



## The Fox in the Park

There was a chubby bunny in the box.  
But the small chubby bunny had a hat.  
Along the way there was a sneaky fox.

The fox got the box and put it in the mat. In the middle of nowhere there was a park. They had a lantern that had no light. So the scary park got really dark. Campers were hiding in the cave very tight. They saw a famous little apple tree. Then a lost chipmunk wanted to eat. He was found eating apples and was free. Then a fox came and ate the chipmunk's meat.

The sun was beautiful, sunny and bright.  
Even though everything was going to be alright.

# Marisol Martinez



## Nature

In the forest you see wild thing  
You can see animals, fruit trees,  
and you will find leaves everywhere.  
The trees will have tree branches  
You will find rocks near the waterfall.  
You will smell pine trees, and wild daisies.  
You will hear wild squirrels, and bird chirping.  
In the forest you can touch big trees,  
green grass, and tree bark.  
You can taste fruit from trees and  
bring food. That is the forest

## I Am Who I Am

I remember squirrels running free  
I love the animals we saw  
I have always loved to see animals  
I see nature things and animals  
I know things about the forest  
I wonder what animals live in the forest  
I tried to climb a tree  
I want to be able to climb a tree

I don't remember how I got to the forest  
I hate the bobcat eating the squirrels  
I have never seen a lion in the forest  
I don't see flying squirrels  
I don't know things about tree bark  
I don't wonder how fast a lion can run  
I try not to find a bear  
I don't want to walk up to a bear den.

## Sonnet

A rat sat on a log and started to look he made a friend it was a frog and they started to read a book.  
A duck in a tree there was a lock and a truck that is free on a very small rock.  
That dress was worn then I wear a hat. With a big thorn and a very little rat  
A rat in a tree. Oh I just want to be free.

# Dianna Millan



## **Giraffes**

Giraffes are really tall  
Giraffes have nice fur  
Giraffes are beautiful  
Giraffes are mammals  
Giraffes are located in Africa  
Giraffes eat leaves  
Giraffes have different patterns  
Giraffes have long necks  
Giraffes have small heads  
Giraffes are my favorite animal

## **What Are Your Dreams and Aspirations?**

My dreams and aspirations are of becoming a detective and I want to go to Stanford University. Preferably, I would work in New York City and start a life there. I want to make it big in life. I know I can achieve it if I set my mind to it and work hard.

After high school I am planning to go straight to a University. My top choice is Stanford University since I have heard so much about it, and I would like to study Criminology. I also want to go to the police academy and grasp a better understanding with the requirements of a detective.

Ever since I was little, I wanted to move to New York and work there. I wanted my own apartment and to live on my own. I know to get everything I aspire for I have to work hard and excel in school.

I want to be known, be respected, make lots of money and be able to pay my own bills. After college and the police academy I want to succeed. I want people I went to school with to say, "Wow, that's Dianna - she made it!"

In conclusion, I want to graduate high school at the top of my class and attend Stanford University. I would also like to go to the police academy and start my career as a detective very soon after graduation. I have no doubts that with hard work, my goals will come true.

# Brandon Monroy



## Sharks

My favorite animal is a shark.

What I know about them is that they can have 150 teeth. Sharks can smell blood from 161 feet away. Warning! Don't go in the water with blood on you. There are 159 sharks like a blue shark, a great white sharks and a lemon shark.

## Senses Poem

I see the sun

I see the trees

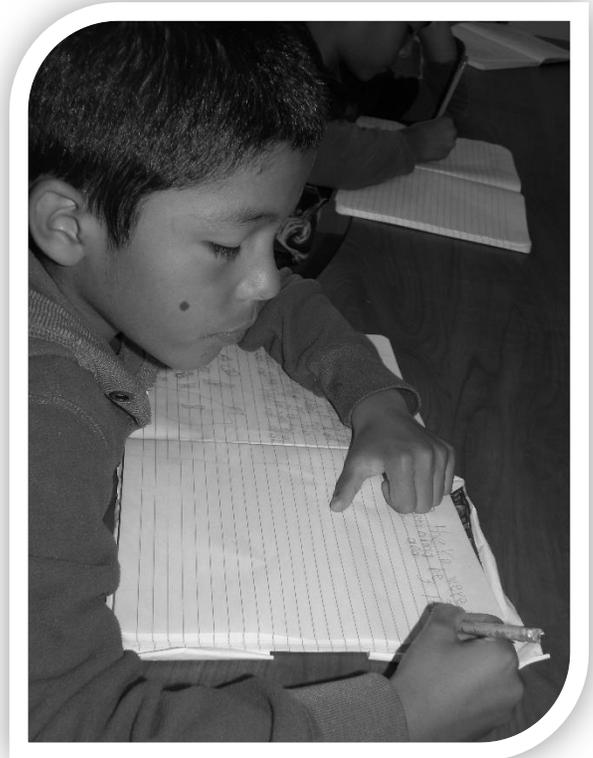
I see the sky; it was dark blue

I see deers, too

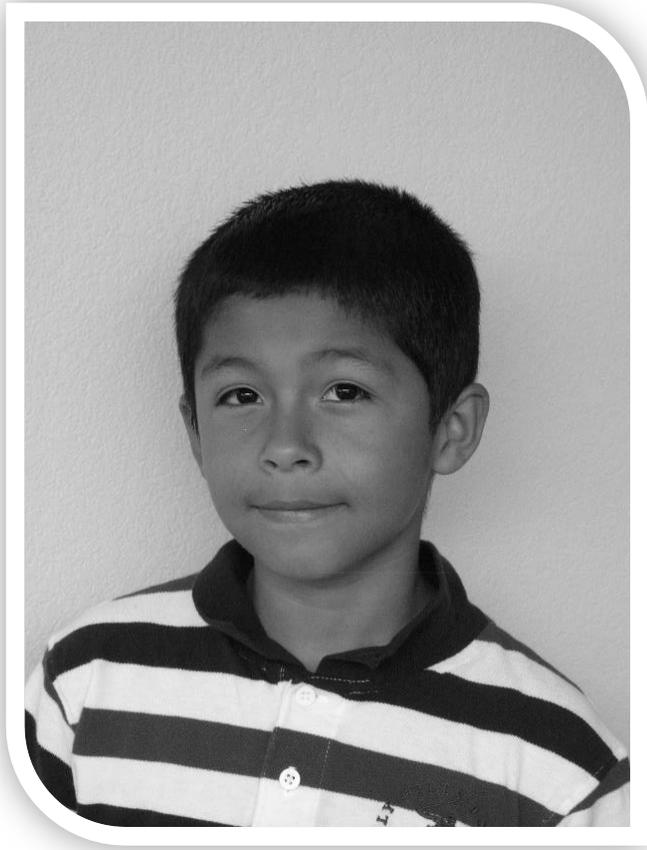
I smell strawberries

## I Am Who I Am Poem

I remember that I made a swing and I fell  
I don't remember the color of the swing  
I love nature and the green trees  
I hate snakes  
I have always been looking for dead birds  
I never saw a roaring lion  
I see kids looking down the side  
I can't see any police shooting their gun.  
I know about animal's body parts  
I don't know that there's any secret animals  
I wonder if they can talk to eachother  
I don't wonder if they take baths  
I tried to climb a big tree



# Brayan Monroy



## Poem To Nature

The grass is green  
the sky is blue.  
The sun shines; its beautiful  
The Earth is meant for nature  
and all living creatures.

## Sonnet

I saw a sail  
While I ate with a spoon  
When the boat stopped, I found a pail  
After the sail made a toon

I saw a cat  
On top of a tree  
It was wearing a hat  
And it had a flee

I saw a log  
That had a toad  
After the toad there was a frog  
And they made a heavy load

The contest was a fail  
It was a fail because I slept on a tail

## I Am Who I Am Poem

I remember when I went bike riding at the park  
I love a Megaladon  
I had always thought I didn't know  
how to play baseball  
I see trees  
I know how to play games  
I wonder how it will feel is I break a bone  
I try to get on a tree  
I want to sleep

I don't remember when I fell over a rock  
I hate home works  
I don't want to write  
I have never been in a plane  
I don't see air  
I don't know to eat a coconut  
I don't wonder if I get thrown in a puddle  
I try not to get distracted

# Brenda Monroy



## **Nature Poem**

I love roses  
I hate pollen  
I can smell flowers  
I wonder if flowers die  
I try not to be scared of bees  
I don't cut flowers  
I try to plant  
I try not to cut grass  
I want to plant  
I remember to water plants  
I hide in bushes

## **Informational Essay about the Monarch Butterfly**

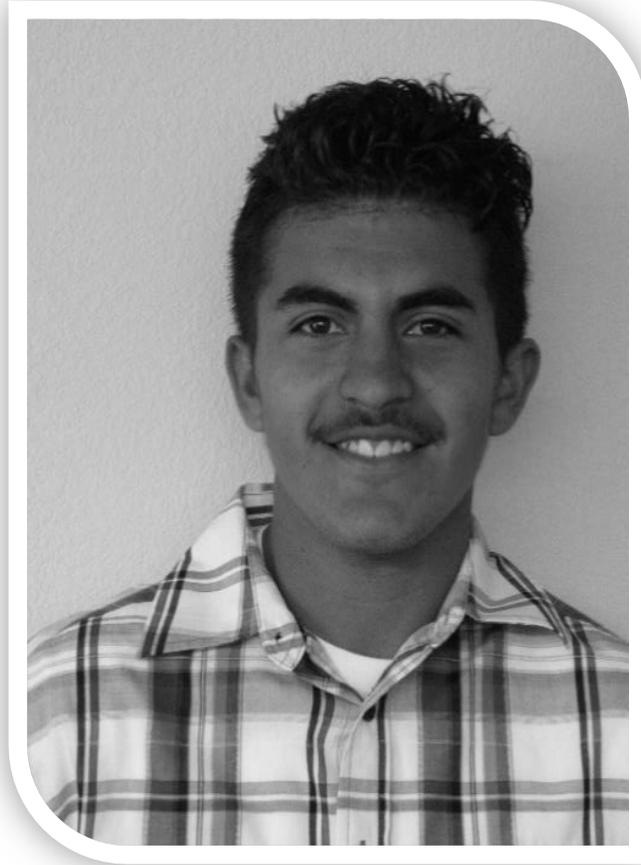
Here you will learn about Monarch butterflies:

Monarch butterflies can shoot venom to scare away their predators. Their venom is very poisonous; if one bites your arm it will swell, so be careful. They can also trick you into thinking they are another animal because of the patterns on their wings. Sometimes they look like owls especially when they don't want to be disturbed. When monarch butterflies die they want the butterfly cycle to continue. They leave something before they die and then a new caterpillar is born. When it is ready to transform into a butterfly it goes into its cocoon and stays in there for 10 days. After the tenth day the caterpillar dries its wings and starts to fly. It has become a beautiful orange and white butterfly. I hope you have learned about the Monarch butterflies and learn much more!

## **Dessert**

I like to eat ice cream. My favorite kind is cookies and cream. I like cookies and cream because it has Oreo pieces and I like frozen cream because it melts with the Oreos. I like chocolate because it has so much melted fudge; I don't like that it has a lot of sugar. I like vanilla because it mostly has milk in it and a little bit of sugar. Sometimes it is soft to eat if it stays in the fridge the right amount of time.

# Leonardo Muñoz



## Bee Cool

Bee, that's what I am  
Bees are the best  
Bees put all the animals to rest  
Bees are so fly  
Bees love the sky  
Bees sting you with pain  
Bees can't fly in the rain  
Bees love flowers  
Bees fly every hour  
Bees are so fly

## Humpty Dumpty: Never Fall

Sitting outside  
Enjoying nature  
Watching the leaves fall  
Playing outside with my ball  
Going to the mall  
Stand tall, never gonna fall  
Yeah, I got heated  
Waiting for the winter  
You already know  
I can't wait to play in the snow

## Change

Imagine a day with no struggle  
Every day is sunny  
Happiness, ain't no need for money  
I'm just a boy that has a dream  
Only 15 'tryna change the world  
Trying to make a better place  
People not judging by the color of your face  
People dying on the streets  
Killing their own brother  
"Boom!"  
There goes another



# Oscar Muñoz



## **The Recycle Superhero**

There was a superhero named Bobby, he recycled everything quickly because that was his power. Then an evil villain named Cayce threw a lot of trash on the floor and Bobby got frustrated. Bobby recycled everything and took Cayce to jail. 10 years later he came out of jail and wanted revenge, so Cayce dropped every recycling trashcan all over earth. Bobby called his two buddies named Jojo and JJ, with their help he took Cayce down and the cops put him in jail. Eventually the whole world was clean.

## **Free Write**

If you recycle you can probably make a lot of money, so that is why you should clean up our earth. Also if you recycle you can help the environment and the animals, because birds, fish, and many

more eat trash and die. A lot of people don't like to clean up because they are lazy, but if you don't recycle, it pollutes our water. People should recycle water bottles, cans, and paper to help the environment. People shouldn't buy water bottles everyday, they should buy reusable plastic bottles. You can pour different beverages in the bottles. I think everybody should buy plastic reusable bottles instead of buying water bottles and throwing them on the ground, destroying our world with trash.

## **All-Star**

When I grow up I want to become a professional baseball player. The reason I want to be a baseball player is because you make a lot of money and it's fun playing baseball. Baseball is one of my favorite sports because it's awesome. I love it!

If I become a baseball player, I want to play with the Oakland A's or the San Francisco Giants because they're both good teams. The positions I would pick would be outfielder, catcher, or second base because it's fun playing all those positions. I hope if I'm with the A's or Giants I don't do bad so they won't trade me and send me to an awful team. It will be awesome if I can be an all-star at least ten times; the all-star team is where they send all of the best players.

# Alondra Rodríguez



## I Am Who I Am Poem

I remember playing with my brother  
I don't remember when to the park  
I love flowers  
I hate the roots because I can trip  
I have always gone to the pool  
I have never seen a tiger in the forest  
I see birds in the forest  
I don't see tigers in the forest  
I know my birthday  
I don't know when my sister  
I wonder when my sister was born  
I don't wonder how flowers grow  
I tried to explore nature  
I tried not to get close to poison ivy  
I want to go to the forest. I don't want to eat mushrooms.

## Recycle Poem

You can recycle cans  
You can reuse and make a pencil holder  
Cans come in different shapes and sizes  
And come in different colors like blue,  
yellow, green, pink.

## 5 Senses Poem

I see trees; the trees are moving  
I see plants; the plants are bending  
I see rocks: the rocks are still  
I see birds; the birds are flapping their wings  
I see the sky smiling with the sun as its  
partner  
I see the clouds; the clouds are moving  
I smell the beauty of the daisies and roses  
I smell fresh air I breath in and out  
I hear birds chirping like a song  
I hear butterflies flapping their wings  
Woosh, woosh, woosh.



# Erica Ruíz



## **Animal Poem**

Dogs are soft like a teddy bear.  
Dogs are very nice and caring pets.  
Dogs are always there to listen to your  
problems.  
Dogs could become family to you.  
Dogs are sweet as candy.  
Dogs are really soft.  
Dogs have beautiful eyes.  
Dogs could be nice or mean.  
Dogs are just the perfect animal.  
Dogs are my favorite animals.

## **Writing from Memory**

Memories are like a story. A memory is when you go to the past and remember a little story. A memory is something that you remember that was in the past and you just remember it. Memories can be important sometimes because they might be exciting, or sometimes it could be a sad memory that you will not forget. An example of

a memory is when you still remember when your baby brother was born or when it was the first day of school.

## **Best and Worst Memories**

One of my best memories is when my little brother was born. I still remember that day, I woke up and I couldn't find my mom. I asked my dad and he said that she was in the hospital. I told my dad that I wanted to go see her. Then, my dad, my brother, and I went to go see her. My brother and I entered the room where my mom was, and then I saw my new little brother. He was so small and so cute, and he was as red as a little shrimp. Another one of my best memories is when my baby cousin was born. I can still remember when my aunt was pregnant. I remember when my family and I entered the room that my aunt was in, and my little cousin angel was in her arms. He was really small and he reminded me of my little brother when he was born and he was that small. I carried him when he was really small and cute. The time passed and now he is 7 or 8 months old. Now he is a little destructive, but I still love him.

# Fabio Ruíz



## Monkey Poem

Monkeys like bananas  
Monkeys live in the jungle  
Monkeys like hanging in trees  
Monkeys live in trees

## Nature/Earth

Once upon a time there was world  
where there were no trees.  
Then a rabbit came and planted trees.  
*Reflection:* I think the Earth needs trees.

## The Park

I went to the park with my cousin  
and my brother. We played soccer.  
My cousin was goalie. Then my brother  
kicked the ball hard and scored a goal.  
After a while my cousin and I swung on swings  
and he pushed me high.

## Letter to Obama

Dear Obama,

I think we need more water because we are in a drought.  
Without water we could die and that is bad that everyone could die.  
If we want to fix that we are supposed to have a lot of money.  
It's hard to get a lot of money but we have to work hard.

Sincerely,  
Fabi

# Leslie Saavedra



## Polar Bears

Polar Bears are as white as snow.  
Polar Bears are smooth as a sweater.  
Polar Bears are friendly.  
Polar Bears are big animals that live in the snow.  
Polar Bears have a lot of fur.  
Polar Bears are friendly like a Panda.  
Polar Bears are chubby like a Bunny.  
Polar Bears are my favorite animal.  
Polar Bears are nice to you if you are nice to them.  
Polar Bears are smart like a person.

## Senses

I can see deer running around the meadow and the colorful rainbow.  
I can smell roses in the air.  
I can hear birds chirping day and night on rainy days and sunlight.  
I can touch the trees and flowers day and night. I can taste an apple hanging off the tree branch.

## Sonnet

There was a chubby bunny in the box.  
But the small chubby bunny had a hat.  
Along the way there was a sneaky fox.  
The fox got the box and put it in the mat.  
In the middle of nowhere there was a park.  
They had a lantern that had no light.  
So the scary park got really dark.  
Campers were hiding in the cave very tight.  
They saw a famous little apple tree.  
Then a lost chipmunk wanted to eat. He was found eating apples and was free. Then a fox came and ate the chipmunks meat. The sun was beautiful, sunny and bright. Even though everything was going to be alright.



# Juan Carlos Sánchez



## **Hippo**

Hippos are some cute animals  
Hippos are also like pigs  
Hippos live, breathe and eat mud  
Hippos weigh about 10,000 pounds  
Hippos are ugly, fat and old  
Hippos, I can see why one might like them  
Hippos are the animals I don't look like  
Hippos are bad  
Hippos are fat  
Hippos are terrible

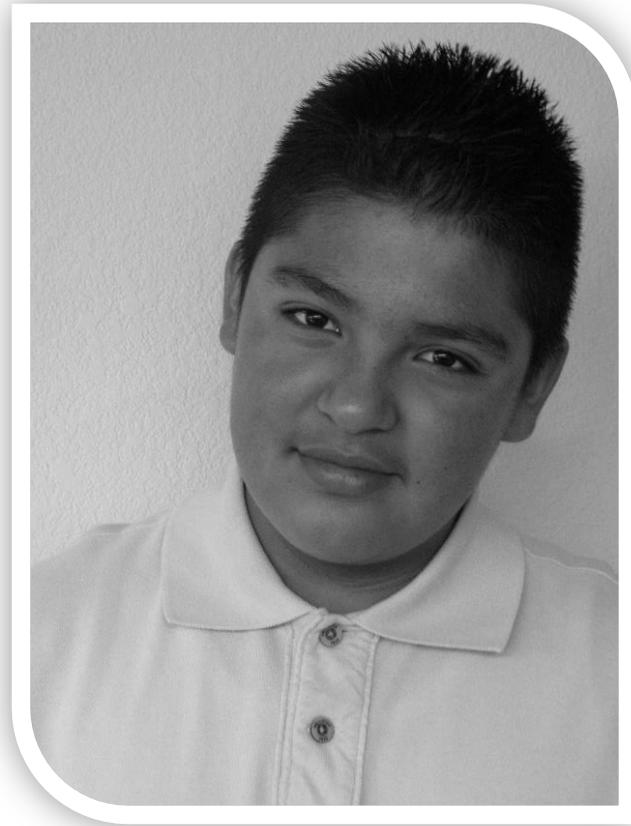
## **My Feelings**

My favorite animals are dogs because they are a man's best friend. I wonder what Leo is rapping about. I want to go to the park and play baseball, it looks easy to hit the ball. I can picture myself hitting it, but I can't quite do it. Every Monday I go to the park and take a little walk, while all the adults go and play baseball. I want to play, but they always say I'm too young. However, when I do help I at least help and they win.

## **Furious 7**

Furious 7 is the best movie you'll ever see! The movie is based on action, comedy, and I think thriller, too. The main characters are Brian, Toretto, and more, but these two are the stars. In the beginning, they see Shaw's brother talking and he destroys the hospital - he's obviously the bad guy. Towards the middle of the film, Tyronne saves the day with his plane and they are able to escape by means of fast cars. At the end of the movie, Toretto is just there in the car at the stop sign and Brian shows up. The movie took this opportunity to give a touching tribute to the late Paul Walker by showing a final ride. I would recommend the movie 1000%!

# José Sánchez



## Five Senses

I can taste air and the pears.

I can see trees and bees.

I can hear babies crying  
and people trying.

I can touch the floor  
and the bathroom door.

I can smell the grass  
and the dirty trash.

I can taste PeptoBismol.

I can see cops stunning.

I can hear deer running.

I can touch train tracks.

I can smell tasty snacks.

## When I go to the Park

When I go to the park, I like to play baseball but not a lot. I like to play on the swings or play tag with my cousins. I go to the park that is not too far from here, it is called Nicole Park. There is a skate park at Nicole park where I can

see the people skate or make tricks. I can see people play tennis or see people ride their bikes. I can also see people exercise and people walking their dogs. And lastly, I can see some birds too.

## Sonnet

We are about to go to the small park.  
There are a lot of animals like frogs.  
There are a lot of dogs there that will bark.  
At the park, we can go play with the dogs.  
When we look up, we can see the blue sky.  
We like to go and hang out at the tree.  
At the park, a flower has a little bee.  
Kids like to go to the grass and go play.  
At the park we see a lot of flowers.  
We went to the park on a good fine day.  
When you play soccer, you can have power.  
I like to pet my friends bunny. Sometimes I think he is funny.



# Sandra Sánchez



## Nature

I remember nature is wonderful.  
I don't remember all the things in nature  
I love puppies  
I hate cats  
I have always been in school on time  
I have never been to Mexico  
I see the sky in nature  
I don't see houses in nature  
I know the three R's  
I don't know everything in nature  
I wonder a lot  
I don't wonder about gross things  
I try not to fall in nature  
I want to go to swimming lessons  
I don't want to drown

## Ponies

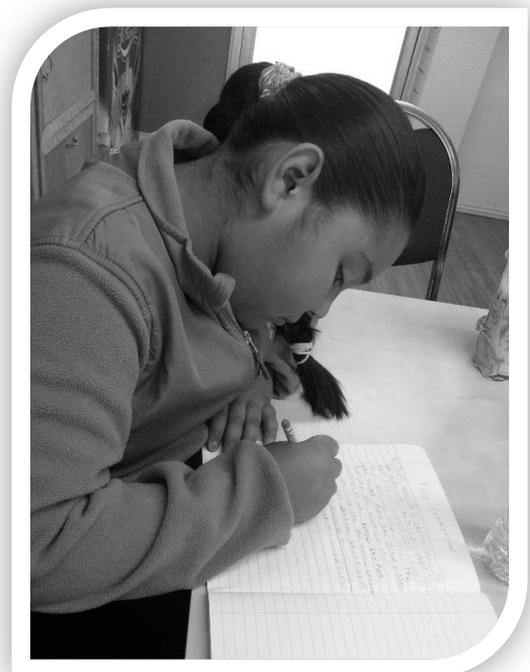
What I like to do is draw. I love drawing! I can draw everyday. I like to draw ponies from my little pony and my own ponies. One of my ponies is called Leslie, and she is beautiful.

## Rhyming Poem

There was a big-o tornado,  
at the park, and a kid eating a tomato.  
It was dark.

While Oscar was playing baseball at the park, his mom was praying, in the house, in the dark.

After that Luis was on his knees,  
in his house, eating some peas.  
His dad caught a cheese-eating mouse.  
Oh what a day, full of rhymes.



# Gianluca Verdín



## Senses Poem

I see green trees  
I see blue lakes  
I see deers and green frogs  
I see a blue sky  
I smell tree  
I smell meat and mint  
I hear cows and deer  
I feel raff trees  
I feel soft deers  
I taste hot mints because of the trees  
I taste meat

## Poem About Dogs

Dogs drink a lot of water  
Dogs are furry  
Dogs are playful  
Dogs are funny  
Dogs hate cats

Dogs love different kinds of food  
Dogs are different  
Dogs love playing dead  
Dogs love their owners  
Dogs need home

## Sonnet

I sat on a log  
And was reading a book  
There was a lot of fog  
It was hard for me to look  
I saw a dog  
And he started to bark then I saw a frog at the park  
I saw a duck on top of a tree  
I hope I have luck because I saw a bee  
Finally I saw a bunny  
Eating a lot of honey

# Yesenia Verdín



## I Am Who I Am

I remember when I went to Hawaii as an 8 year old.  
I don't remember when I ate Oysters fresh from thesea.  
I love to play the violin and sing in the mariachi.  
I hate seafood because it smells bad.  
I have always been a great student at school withgood grades.  
I have never eaten pig feet, pig ears or duck.  
I see the future ahead of me.  
I don't see a unicorn riding off into the rainbow.  
I know how to play tennis.  
I don't know how to surf on the ocean.  
I wonder if i'll become famous one day.  
I don't wonder if i'll meet a crocodile.

## The Beach & the Meadow

I can see a beautiful green meadow by a beach.  
I can hear the birds chirping a joyful song.  
I can smell the scent of spring with a bit of summer.  
I can touch the pretty flowers and see their true colors.  
I can taste the hazelnuts hanging from the trees.  
I can see the meadow in memory of a famous actor who loved to drive the fast motor cars.  
I can hear the kids laughing and blowing their kites in the wind.  
I can hear the engine of a loud car starting up and racing with another.  
I can taste a piña colada in my mouth within a hot day in L.A.  
I can see children playing in the sand and building sand castles.  
I can see the sunset uprising and painting colors in the beautiful sky.  
I can taste the sea salt in the blue sea.



# Sbeidy Villaseñor



## Life Poem

Earth is green.  
Earth is life.  
Earth is beautiful-in my life

## Sonnet on Myself

When I look to the flowers and the sky,  
I see the bees making honey.  
The bees can fly.  
They work hard but don't have money.

I do not want to play.  
The poor bees are afraid of the cat.  
This is the worst day.  
I need to rest in a mat.

Dad has a nice pink pig.  
I took him to class.  
I also have a horse so big.  
He likes so much the grass.

My best friend told me to do a drawing with  
my favorite animals for you!

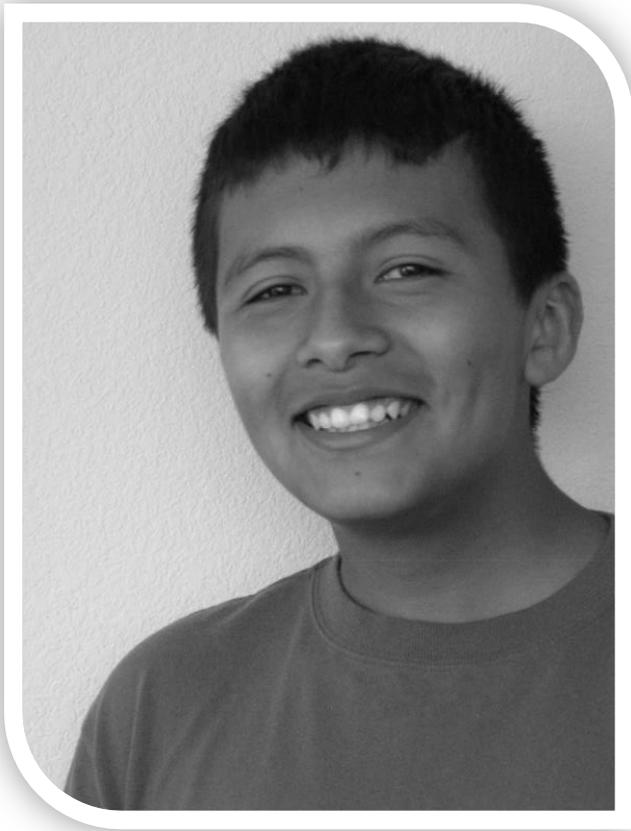
## Not Enough Nature

I think earth/nature needs more water and trees. There is too much technology. One day, a baby was born and her mother chose the name of Jose. At that time there was not water or plants, because people did not take care of nature. On top of that, war came to the village and the boy's mom died. Jose was very sad, alone and hungry.

After the war ended, Jose thought that war destroyed everything and the place was not cute. He made plants and trees with paper and imagined they were real. He left to the city. When the boy went to the city, on a horse, he started inventing things. He invented a machine and he became famous. Then he invented the telephone and became rich.

In the city he met a woman and married her. He was happy and two years later they had a girl and named her Nissia. Nissia became the wealthiest girl in the world. The girl was not happy because the city was also ugly. There were no plants or trees there and that made her sad.

# Edwin Zarza



## **Pollution Poem**

The ocean is a deep blue.  
The land is a bold green.  
The smoke covers their rich colors.  
It hides their clean smell.  
How sad for nature lovers!

## **Sonnet on Nature**

Today I saw a small and clumsy duck.  
It tried crossing the street, but fell  
in a hole full of dust and got stuck.  
Luckily, being stuck he found a ball.

I went to the beach and took my friend.  
There we played with sand.  
We left at the end, of the day to see the sun  
set on the land.

In the park I saw a cat.

This cat had orange hair.

That is why I made a hat,  
with the colors of a grizzly bear.

All this happened when I went hiking.  
Oh, but I also love to go biking.

## **Protection on Parks- Reflection Story**

I think earth/nature needs more people that care about it and take action to conserve it. If we do, then earth will have less natural landscapes covered in pollution. Also, this will help protect water resources, so we have more to drink. With care, there will be flowers everywhere and less trees falling or having to get chopped off.

Bad things happened in Robin's neighborhood, when her neighbors were covering yards with cement. Then no plants/grass grew to shine every day. At the beginning, Robin had a yard that was full of flowers and plants. The next year, the town had a huge drought and she decided to cut all her yard. She then put cement and rocks all over it.

The next year it rained so much that the town got flooded. The rocks piled on her door. Robin was upset and since that day she has been trying so hard to break the cement and plant some flowers again. She always says, "I should have taken care of nature from the beginning".

# Youth Writing Festival Staff

Berkeley  
Program Director  
Mirna Cervantes



Richmond  
Program Director  
Merced Truax-Padilla



Berkeley  
Site Coordinator  
Kelly Lonergan



Richmond  
Site Coordinator  
Oscar Macias



# Berkeley Tutors



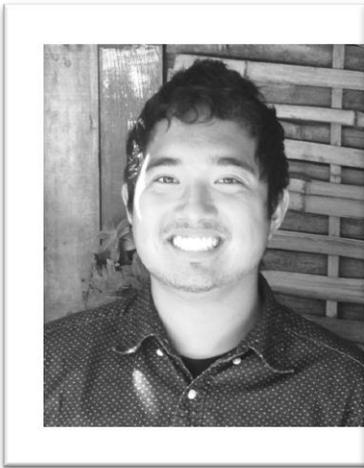
Adriana Campos



Lupita Guerrero



Valerie Kong



Julian Lindelli



Cassandra Lopez



Alejandro Manujano



Jessica Rodriguez



Kinnari Shah



Alexa Vasquez



Miriam Yarde

# Richmond Tutors



Erick  
Domínguez



Sharon  
Garcia-Vega



Leslie Garcia



Iris Ocampo



Marlene  
Rodríguez



Omar  
Verdín

# A Word from the Students

*Thanks for everything you've done for the program and for us. For all the snacks and the paletas. I love the garden; you put so much work into it and it is beautiful. It is so big that you must have put lots of time into it. Thank you for all the tutors you gave us. They are all great tutors and very nice. Thanks for letting us work inside and outside with your garden and for all the supplies for the whole program, like the projects. Thank you for all the field trips you planned and thank you for letting us go to the parks. Love, Jonathan*

*Thank you for allowing me to be here. Thank you for the snacks and for all of your hard work. Thank you for this writing program. Sincerely, Oscar Sanchez*

*I think this program was great, because the teachers taught me new games for writing. The program is really helping me improve my writing so when I go back to the fifth grade, I am not going to be stuck thinking, since I didn't lose my education in the summer. I like how the teachers teach us with patience. Sincerely, Diana Gonzales*

*I appreciate you because you gave us this space and the ice cream and for letting us be in this program. I will keep doing better, and thank you. Sincerely, Jason*

*I would really like to thank you everything you've done. If it wasn't for this program, I probably would have been watching Netflix, not moving around at all and stuffing my mouth with junk food. The space you provided us with is beautiful and amazing! All the flowers and the water fountains are really gorgeous! I really, really appreciate everything! Sincerely, Kelly Camacho*

*Thank you for providing this wonderful program in our community every year. I improved my writing by being more persuasive and going deeper in every sentence. Now, going to high school, I see the importance in all types of writing and I will sail through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Sincerely, Yesenia Verdin*

*I really like the Youth Writing Festival, because it's really fun and it also helps me with my writing. I make new friends every time I come. This was my third year and it feels like every year it gets better and better! Sincerely, Jessica Dominguez*

## A Word from the Tutors

As a returning tutor, I have been a continuous witness to the great work of the Youth Writing Festival. This program gives students the opportunity to have a fun and educational summer by keeping them engaged in themed weeks and activities. The kids who participate not only improve their writing skills, but also learn the importance of community. It has been a wonderful experience to once again be a tutor and work with an amazing group of students. I truly appreciate being part of a program that fosters learning. The group of tutors and volunteers all have a wonderful willingness to make this program interactive. I hope that the Youth Writing Festival keeps bringing kids every summer a change to be in a learning environment in which they cultivate active learning and friendships.

–Jessica Rodriguez

I am really thankful and happy working in the Youth Writing Festival this summer. Getting to know each child is so special because you get to learn how each student works differently. It allows me to learn how to make sure each student learns and gets their work done according to their abilities, creativity, and knowledge. It is also very fun and heart-warming to interact with each student. They really brighten up my days and I hope the program does the same to them as well! This is definitely a very rewarding program, even for tutors.

–Cassandra Lopez

The Youth Writing Festival has been a wonderful, inspiring, and humbling experience! The greatest reward, as a tutor, is seeing the student growth and the development of mentee-mentor relationships. The program allows students to use their summer time productively, as well as allows them to create strong bonds with students from other schools. Programs such as these are the programs that change lives, and allow students to exercise their full potential. The program has allowed me to develop my skills, not only as a person, but as a scholar and a leader. Without any reservation would I continue working for the Youth Writing Festivals!

-Oscar Macias

# Our Heartfelt Thanks to Our 2015 Youth Writing Festival Supporters

Alameda County  
Alameda County –*Food Bank*  
Alameda County –*Health Care Services Agency*  
Atkinson Foundation  
Bank of the West  
*Bernard & Jean Elissagaray --Family Charitable Fund*  
Black Pine Circle School  
Chevron Richmond  
City of Berkeley  
Dagma Abbott  
Deborah Lee Torres  
*Helados La Tapatia*  
Ian Linford  
Jesús & Elizabeth Méndez --*Mi Tierra Foods*  
Martín & Rocio --*Gonzalez Brothers Landscaping*  
National Parks Presidio San Francisco  
*Philanthropic Ventures Foundation*  
Richmond Community Foundation  
*Roberta & Gerald Deis*  
San Mateo County  
San Mateo County Sheriff's Youth Program Fund  
*San Mateo Credit Union*  
Second Harvest --*Food Bank*  
Sergio García --*S. G. Auto Repair*  
*Sharon & Barclay Simpson*  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
St Mary's Work-Study Program  
St. Lawrence O'Toole - St. Cyril Parish  
The Fairy God Mother's group  
The San Francisco Foundation  
UC Berkeley Work-Study Program  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley  
West Berkeley Lions Club  
Western Digital Foundation  
Y&H Soda Foundation

# Summer 2015 Writers

Alonso Aguilar  
Brian Arellano  
Jason Arellano  
Alexis Ayala  
Alexander Ayala  
Dorian Becerra  
Kelly Camacho  
Giovanni Campos  
Jonathan Campos  
Aiden Canales  
Diego Canales  
Erica Castro  
Luis Castro  
Priscila Castro  
Jose Luis Cervacio  
Yesenia Cervacio  
Herson Chavez  
Maria Isabel Contreras  
Alfredo Cruz  
Evelyn Cruz  
Jennifer Dominguez  
Jorge Ivan Flores  
Diana Gonzalez  
Manuel Gonzalez  
Roberto Guerra  
Marco Guerrero  
Ericka Gutierrez  
Yesenia Gutierrez  
Alvaro Hernandez  
Kassandra Ibarria  
Juan Diego Lopez  
Jose Lopez  
Anahy Macías  
Angeles Marquez  
Diego Martinez  
Marisol Martinez  
Anthony Mandujano

Dianna Millan  
Brenda Monroy  
Brayan Monroy  
Brandon Monroy  
Leonardo Muñoz  
Oscar Muñoz  
Dulce Najera  
Ana Paz  
Lupe Paz  
Amy Perez  
AriyaPerez  
Daniel Perez  
Jose Sanchez  
Oscar Sanchez  
Merhawi Solomon  
Joe Torres  
Lluvia Torres  
Emiliano Torres  
Luna Valencia  
Sol Valencia  
Alejandro Vasquez  
Camila Vasquez  
April Vega  
Alondra Rodriguez  
Erica Ruiz  
Fabio Ruiz  
Leslie Saavedra  
Jose Sanchez  
Juan Sanchez  
Sandra Sanchez  
Yesenia Verdin  
GianlucaVerdin  
Alexa Villacruz  
Madeline Villacruz  
Sbeidy Villaseñor  
Edwin Zarza

