



## YOUTH WRITING FESTIVAL 2014

*A program of the Multicultural Institute*

[www.mionline.org](http://www.mionline.org)

**Anthology of Students' Creative Works**

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## MULTICULTURAL INSTITUTE

The Youth Writing Festival (YWF), a program of the Multicultural Institute (MI), 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 self-confidence, 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.

**Mentoring for Academic Success (MAS).** Offers academic support to students beginning in fourth grade. Its goal is to reduce racial inequality in education, leading to readiness for college success.

**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.

### Our **VALUES**

- We strive to promote an atmosphere of openness, trust and relationship, as well as participation in decisions by those affected, thus enabling all to realize, develop and share their gifts for the good of the community;
- We seek simplicity and flexibility in our operations;
- We believe in a society in which the world's resources are made available to all according to need, where all peoples share with equality, freedom and human dignity;
- We want to serve as advocates for the poor and the outcast;
- We work to be good stewards of all the gifts given to us.

# ABOUT US

## THE MULTICULTURAL INSTITUTE (MI)

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 competitively eligible for post-secondary education.

## THE YOUTH WRITING FESTIVAL (YWF)

It is the MAS program's summer academy. YWF gives students 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 with their families and friends.

## MI STAFF

Rigoberto Calocarivas, Ph.D.  
*-Founder and Executive Director*

Paula Worby  
*-Associate Director*

Merced Truax-Padilla  
*-Office Manager*

Mirna M. Cervantes, BA  
*-Health & Immigration Director*

Phurbu Tsewang  
*-Accountant*

Rudy Lara  
*-Day Laborer Program Director*

Cesar Meza-Esveile, Lic. Phil.  
*-Day Laborer Program Director*

Josué F. Revolorio Illescas  
*-Day Laborer Program Director*

Ramón Israel Gómez, BA  
*-Day Laborer Program*

Juan Carlos Ortiz  
*-Day Laborer Program*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

Jesus Méndez – *CFO and Treasurer*  
*Owner, Mi Tierra Foods*

Deborah L. Torres – *Secretary*  
*Community Advocate*

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

Les Guliasi  
*Transbaycable/steelriver partners*

Veronica Lopez  
*VP/Mortgage Loan Specialist*

Victor Weisser  
*Former ED, California PUC*

## **LETTER FROM THE RICHMOND SITE DIRECTOR**

These past four weeks have been very special to us. I 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. I 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. I can still remember the first week when I 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 students. Your work with them is very important because it will have a lasting impact in their lives.

I 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. I am particularly grateful to those of you who helped out either by donating snacks for the students or chaperoning in the fieldtrips. Without your support this program could not have been successful.

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

Sincerely,

*Merced Truax-Padilla*

YWF Program Director, Richmond Site

# Richmond Site



# Natalie Alberto

## *Monologue*

I, Yesenia feel so betrayed. Jackie did something so hurtful and unforgiveable. Do you know what she did? She was at the movie theater with some other girls from school. They went to go watch *Frozen* without me! She has been avoiding me and it's almost my birthday. I feel so lonely. She better not forget or I will never talk to her until we go to college.

## DAY 2:

It's my birthday in one day and Jackie still hasn't talked to me. I have nothing to do and I do everything with Jackie. I always match with her, she teaches me street smarts, and tutors me when I'm having trouble at school. I guess I lost my best friend and have to find a new one. I hope Jackie comes back to me or at least tells me or texts me a happy birthday.

## MY BIRTHDAY!

It's my birthday and Jackie still hasn't called. My mom asked me if I wanted to go to the movies and see *The Fault in the Stars*. I woke up to my family singing "Happy Birthday" and cake brought to my bed. I went to go see *The Fault in our Stars* with my mom and I came out with tears. When I got home, a bunch of people just popped out from hiding places and screamed "Surprise". It turns out that that Jackie wasn't talking to me because she was planning a surprise party for me and was afraid to blab it out. I feel so much better and will never lose Jackie as my BFF.



## **FILL IN THE BLANK**

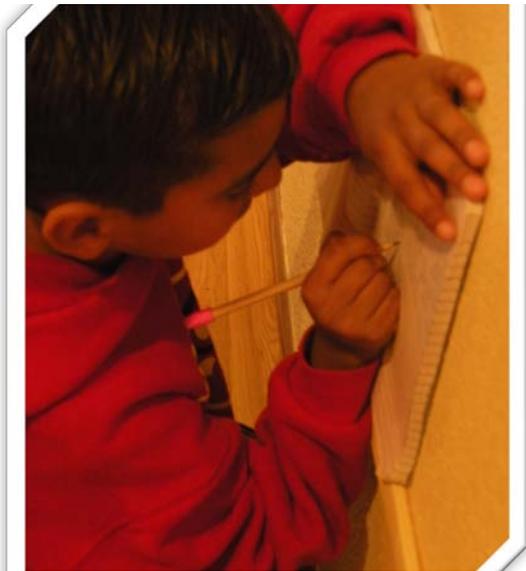
I think the world needs more protection against natural disasters. One reason that we need more protection is because many people get injured or die. Next, people lose their loved ones. Then, people also lose their homes and have nowhere to live. Finally, I think the world needs more protection against natural disasters like tornadoes, tsunamis, or hurricanes is because some people starve to death or they didn't even have a home to live in the first place, therefore they especially have nowhere to live.

# Mario Almeda



## CREATURES CAN TALK

I am Mario the robin. I live in a tree in a nest. What I do all day is fly in search for food. I also prank people by pooping on their head. I will never have to go to school. I love to eat worms and digging to find them. I take care of the birds in my nest. I have to give them food. I have to go to leave the nest and go to the park to dig up some worms with my feet. When I get the worms, I fly back to the nest and feed it to the birds. After that I just started flying around and saw the city.



## SHORT STORY

### The Longest Walk

Once upon a time there was a family who went on a trip to Alaska. Then everybody got into a snowmobile and went to the middle of the woods. When they were in the middle of the woods they ran out of gas. They were in the middle of the woods with snow, with no food or water and they were very cold. The first thing that came to mind is that we were going to die. I felt really scared. Now it was morning so we tried to find a cabin but the trees were blocking the sight. Then we saw a road and we followed it. But then we saw a bear. My dad stabbed it and we ate the raw meat.

# Héctor Becerra

## REAL HEADLINES

### “Young Pop Stars, in love”

It was a wonderful morning in Hollywood, Los Angeles; A place where all celebrities live and spend most of their time at. It was around 9 am when all of a sudden paparazzi spotted Justin Bieber pull up in front of Ariana Grande’s house in his Audi R8, one of the world’s fastest and best looking cars around. She then walked out her house well dressed and got in the car. According to reporters, the car Justin was driving was pink with a large Barbie logo on the back of the car. They drove for a while until reaching a very small shop, where they sold nothing but Hello Kitty items. According to the few words the couple felt like sharing, it was Justin Bieber’s birthday and felt like buying some Hello Kitty items for Ariana.



## ABSURD CONVERSATIONS

Me: Excuse me sir?

P.O: Yes Citizen?

Me: Why do you have a cat on a leash?

P.O: What do you mean?

Me: Isn't a dog supposed to be on your leash?

P.O: Uhhhh, No!

Me: Uhhhh, yes, dogs are supposed to be with the force, not cats!

P.O: No, be quiet!

Me: No, I won't. You are weird for having a cat as a dog on a leash that is just straight up dumb and weird.

P.O: Be quiet!! Good-bye citizen!

# Jose Cervacio

## ***I AM WHO I AM***

I do not remember my cousin  
I hate Brazil  
I have always watch the World Cup  
I have never had a dog  
I see my cousins at parties  
I don't see the gas  
I know my friends from school  
I don't know about the planet  
I wonder if I will go to my friend's house  
I don't wonder if I will go to Jack in the Box  
I try to fix my dad's car  
I try not to get hurt when I fall down  
I want to go to Disneyland  
I don't want to do homework  
I love to eat at restaurants



## **REAL AND PRETEND**

I brought my soccer trophy because it is my favorite. I also like my trophy because I won it in a tournament. It's my favorite because my other trophies are old and I don't like them. All the trophies I won are from the soccer league Eclipse. I like it because it is gold, black and white. It is interesting because it looks like the man in the statue is going to kick the ball. On the trophy it says, "Richmond, Tiburones, Fall 2012 Season."

## **FREE WRITE**

### **The Pig and the Wolf**

Once upon a time, there was a pig who lived in a farm. The pig was having fun because he was rolling in the mud, but then the other animals were annoying the pig. Then the pig stopped the animals. The pig heard a noise in the farm. He found out that it was a wolf. The pig went out of the farm. The pig started talking to the wolf. They started arguing because the wolf thought that he was better than the pig. Then they had a challenge. They started to fight. The wolf and the pig argue. They were boxing so the pig punched the wolf in the face and knocked him out. Then the pig won so he went to the farm and celebrated because the pig won the fight.

# Yesenia Cervacio

## ABSURD CONVERSATIONS

### A Professional Athlete Crying

Lebron: I can't believe I lost.  
Me: It's okay, it's not the end of the world.  
Lebron: But you don't understand.  
Me: Yes I do  
Lebron: No, you don't.  
Me: But it's okay. You have next year.  
Lebron: I know, but I wanted to win this year.  
Me: Why did you want to win this year?  
Lebron: Because I wanted to make my wife proud.  
Me: But you did, you were in second place.  
Lebron: So? She would have been prouder of me if I was in first.  
Me: No, she would've been proud of you even if you were in last place.  
Lebron: No, she would have divorced me.  
Me: But if she loved you, it really wouldn't matter.  
Lebron: That's true.  
Me: See!  
Lebron: Thank you, but I'm still sad I let my team down.  
Me: No you didn't, you made them proud of you.  
Lebron: No they were not proud.  
Me: Yes they were.  
Lebron: But i wanted to be in first place.  
Me: Don't worry, I'm still a huge fan!  
Lebron: Thanks, you made me feel better.  
Me: You're welcome!



## ALITERATION POEMS

Lupita Likes lollipops  
Lili lives like a lama  
Lili and Lupita live large  
Locks love lockers  
loly lord licks



# Jeniffer Dominguez



## FREE WRITE

Charlie and the Candy Factory

Kids around the world were searching for a golden ticket, the golden ticket was a pass to enter the candy factory. When Charlie, a boy from Mexico, opened his tamarindo bar, the tamarindo bar had no golden ticket. He was so sad. The next day, he went for a walk and he found one hundred dollars, so he bought a lottery ticket and won \$50,000. He went home and showed it to his family. They were so happy. They bought a new house to live happier.

That day he bought another tamarindo bar and he found the golden ticket. The day kept getting better and better. He went home so happy. When he got home he showed it to his grandpa and he got up from his bed and started to dance the Doggie. Everyone started to laugh.

The next day, Charlie and his grandpa went to the candy factory. At 11:00 in the morning they entered the factory, and went to a room filled with Mexican candy, and a fountain of chamoy. They discovered lots and lots of rooms that were fun and cool.

It was getting pretty late so they went back home, and told their family all about the candy factory.

## CRAZY HEADLINES

10-Year-Old Girl Lost in the Moon

She had met an alien friend. Her clothes were so dirty. She had a hard life. Her dad had died from cancer years before. Her mom was rude, then she started to sing the song "Rude." She ran away because of her mom.

Ten years later, she was 20 years old. An astronaut went to the moon and found her dead. She had died because she didn't have food or water. When her mom heard the news she started to cry. Then she said it was her fault.

Jenny is short for Jennifer  
Eats to much  
Normal  
Not boring  
Interesting  
Forgets stuff  
Emir is my cousin  
Running is my least favorite sport



# Erandi Escobar

## FREE WRITE

I learned to do art. I did cupcakes but they are not real I used pipe cleaners, beads, cotton balls, cupcake wrappers and straws. I thought, and thought, and then I finally came up with an idea. My idea was about how good cupcakes are, which made me create cupcakes and also made me hungry!

## SONNETT

I went home to my house  
I saw a fish  
And a mouse  
They were both on a dish

## MIXING UP METAPHORS

Hot as a summer's day  
Hard as a soccer player's attitude  
Cold as a cheater's heart  
Soft as a mother's hug  
Slow as an old lady crossing the street  
Fast as an ER waiting room  
Strong as a diamond



## CREATURES CAN TALK

I am cat and I go in vases. I sometimes stare and stare and stare out a window. I don't like to be wet but I love to drink milk. I jump fences and run through yards. When they want to take me a bath I run away. I love to sit on the couch. I love soft and warm places.



# Madeline Gamboa



## Popular Story Starters: Charlie and The Chocolate Factory

“Charlie and his family live in a small house and they are very poor. One of Charlie’s favorite things in the world is Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory which is right in his neighborhood. His family always buys him a chocolate bar for his birthday. This year Willy Wonka is giving away Golden Tickets in chocolate bars to visit his Chocolate Factory. When Charlie opened his chocolate bar...”

When Charlie opened his chocolate bar he ate it. Once he ate it, he began to turn purple. He had forgot about the spell he had put on the chocolate bar. His stomach started to hurt. He had to go to the hospital. The doctor said there was something weird in the chocolate bar. Charlie remembered what the spell was for. The spell was for a girl that he liked, it was supposed to make her like him back. Since he ate the chocolate bar, he now likes himself. Charlie can no longer like anyone but himself.

## If I Had a Talking Dog

If I had a talking dog, I would teach it to sit and other tricks. It would be fun because it would be able to tell what it thinks about. If I had a blind friend and their guide dog was sleeping I would have my dog help my friend. I would ask, “Can help my friend, please?” Then my dog would say, “Yes”. When we get home the dog would say, “I am hungry. Can you get me some human food?” When my dog is finished eating we will go out and play. We will either play with a Frisbee or a ball. After playing, we will go inside and watch TV or go to sleep.



# Liliana González



## FREE WRITE

The Haunted Blanket

I am a haunted blanket.  
I like eating dead people.  
I live on the bed at a hotel.

I work by covering people.  
I like to scare people.  
Spiders love me, they leave  
their spider webs on me.

When I see dead people  
I feel like I am in heaven.  
Ghosts are my friends.  
I get happy when they visit  
because we like to play with people.  
We like having pillow fights  
with them but for some  
reason they get scared and  
complain to the manager

I love my life, it's fun, funny  
yum and delicious!

## I AM WHO I AM

I don't remember when I was born  
I hate my hair  
I have always lived with boys  
I have never killed someone  
I see the TV  
I don't see fairies  
I know how to put my makeup on  
I don't know what to write  
I wonder why my brothers are annoying  
I don't wonder how to dance  
I try to be nice  
I try not to be mean  
I want less hair  
I don't want to listen to the song "Let it go"  
I remember when I fell off a chair  
I love my family



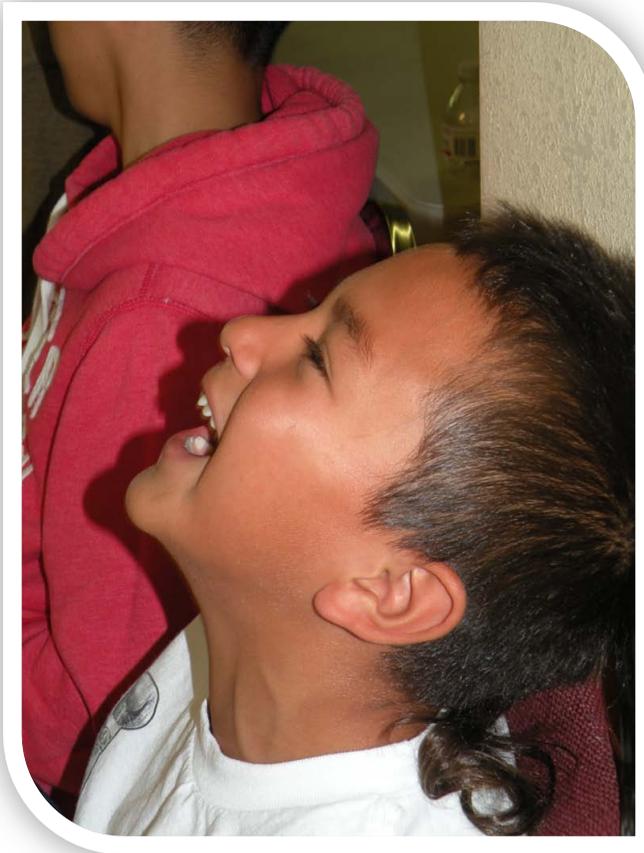
# Manuel González



## FREE WRITE

Manuel Gonzalez

I played a soccer game, it was boring because they were small and I am fast, and we were scoring goals on them. When the game finished, I just want to look at Martin play call of duty Black Ops 2. When he got off the PS3 I started to watch my babysitter's a vampire and then I started to play FiFa 13 and then I went to sleep for an hour. Then I played more PS3 . Then I went to sleep and the next day I went to my sitter's event and after I went to the pool to swim.



## FREE WRITE

Dear principal,

I love sports especially basketball. It is played by two teams of five players on a court. We shoot a ball through a hoop on the other team and if you make it, then you're still in, if you miss it, then you're out.

I like to play flag football because you have to capture the other team's flag or else you have to get back to your spot and it is still your turn and you can go again.

# Martin González



## REAL HEADLINES “Tomato Wars”

Today, San Francisco seemed to have started as a normal but chilly day. As the day warmed up, so did the excitement at the “Slide Through.” “The Slide Through” is a place in San Francisco where people volunteer to help the homeless by providing food and shelter.

Josh, a homeless veteran, was walking towards his table with a tray full of food when all of a sudden Juan bumped into Josh and spilled all of the food on Josh. All of a sudden, Josh’s friends threw their food at Juan. This caused Juan’s friends to start throwing food at Josh’s group. Out of nowhere, Juan and his friends found some tomatoes and started throwing those all over the place. The next thing you know, “The Slide Through,” became a battleground for a full out food war.

Eye witnesses remember looking up and seeing nothing but the color red of all the tomatoes and food that was being thrown. Because of this messy incident, “The Slide through” committee and owner has officially announced that they will completely shut down for the next 3 days.

## FREE WRITE

Dear Adan,

I was born in Berkeley but I was raised in Tahoe and in Richmond. For elementary school I went to Ocean view in Albany and for fifth grade I transferred to Black Pine Circle in Berkeley. Now I am going to El Cerrito High School. Some of the things that I like include girls, Soccer, movies, music and swimming.

I like soccer because it is fun, and as a matter of fact I play soccer too. The position that I play in is center defender. The last season I scored 2 goals which helped my team end in 2<sup>nd</sup> place that season as well. I prefer to play soccer rather than have to watch it because I like the rush and fun I get while playing soccer with friends and family.

My favorite types of movies are action movies because I find scary movies scary and romantic movies boring. However, if a girl invites me to watch a scary or romantic movie with her then, I will go with her. My favorite movie has to be “End of Watch.” My least favorite movie has to be “Dora.”



# Rodolfo Gonzalez



## SHORT STORY

The ominous clouds were covering the dusk sky, wind blowing the leafless trees on the small hill of Redwood Blvd. A bell ticked slowly in a distance, leaves spreading through the empty roads.

The neighborhoods were dead silent, fuming the chimney's smoke from the brick house roofs. No one appeared to be in sight. In a lit up house, not that far from the other neighborhoods, the front door opened slowly. A young, thin boy about 10 years old walked down the steps from his house and ran across the grass, wind blowing his hair. The leaves on the grass hill blew him, as he fell on a pile of leaves, giggling at the sky.

The clouds circled up, when he heard a yell from the distance. He stood up from the pile and turned to see his mother on the front porch. "Carter? Carter where are you?" He waved his hand, seeing his mom folding her hands in a serious face. "Now carter" shouted his mom "you get back here in an hour, the wind is getting stronger." "Alright momma," he replied, "will do!" "Now you go have fun, darling." She gave a crooked smile and immediately closed the door. Carter ran down the hill and before lying down, he gave a glimpse at the steep slope, leaves all scattered. He gulped and had second thoughts. Carter decided to go back, but a strong wind blew the leaves onto his face and tripped him down falling of the hill. He screamed as he fell on a pile of leaves. Slowly standing up, his legs felt paralyzed, and he felt like a bursting into tears when he turned to see someone across the pond looking at him.



# Héctor Guerra

## HEADLINES

Tomato Wars.

Hello I am a reporter and I report actions for my fellow people of the United States of America. Today I will talk about the most expensive tomato I have ever seen go on auction. The tomato I am talking about was owned by Michael Jackson. The tomato even had a bite mark of him which matched his own teeth.



This is where it all began for the tomato becoming the most expensive one in the world. The way the expensive tomato came to be was in downtown LA where Michael died. The next day one of Michael's brothers found a half bitten tomato in the closet backstage. Michael's brother wanted it gone so he threw it away. A dumpster diver named David found it and took it to an auction. He got it specified that it was Michael Jackson's tomato so he put it in the auction. It started at one hundred dollars and ended up selling at ten thousand dollars. The people called it a tomato war for the best tomato in the world.

## RAISING VOICES

I hate McDonalds; I should have never worked here. For you who don't know me, I am Steve, Steve Universe. I am 43 years old and I work in McDonalds. I can't believe a 43 year old is working in McDonalds. I should have never left high school to move with my girlfriend, who ended up leaving me. So now I have been working in McDonalds ever since and I've never even been manager. Oh on my way to my car I see that it has been broken into, so all I have left in my car is the driver seat and steering wheel. I hate this; my job doesn't pay me well enough to get my car fixed up. Then when I get to my house I see that it has also been broken into, so now I'm broke. I hate living in the ghetto. I want to quit my job but I can't since it's too late for me to find another job. I just hate this. So just to clear this up I live in Los Angeles but I grew up in San Francisco. I ran away with my girlfriend in high school but she left me for her other boyfriend who she was cheating on me with. My family never came to find me when I left home. I think they were happy I left but who cares. At least I have made some real good friends who have now become my family.

# Roberto Guerra



## SONNETS

I couldn't breath  
Keef is the only chief of the teeth  
Through these teeth  
And he likes to breath  
There was a van  
There's only one Juan  
That was hit where was with a pan  
That makes her own pan  
The tree is a set of three  
There was a magical folder  
They all have a lot of bees that pee  
That was crushed by a boulder

The kid likes mud  
So he took a cold bath in a big tub.

## REAL HEADLINE

“Home Runs Down, but not out”

The A's vs the Giants, one of the most anticipated games of all season gave spectators a truly amazing game. The Giants felt like they had the game in their pocket, but the A's had other plans in their mind. All the A's had to do to win was to hit one out the park, with runners on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The man who everyone knew was going to make this happen was the great “Jackson.” Jackson was so confident he was going to score the winning hit, fans remember him walking up to the plate with his head up high and a confident walking stride. On the first pitch, Jackson hit the ball so high, that everyone lost sight of the ball. As Jackson ran to first base, all of a sudden he fell and got a taste of the dirt as well. As Jackson tried to get up, after a couple of steps, he managed to stumble and fall yet another time.

While all of this was happening, the outfielder finally saw the ball in the air coming full speed towards him. Carefully, the Giants' outfielder caught the ball and the Giants won! Never before seen, Jackson began to cry! Not only that, he was later notified he was kicked out the team. In shame, he arrived home to only find out that his pregnant wife kicked him out the house. Sadly, reporters say that Jackson is now weak, homeless and a broke baseball hen we woke up we went on a hike and Roberto broke his IPod, when they started on this hike Isaac got mad at Robert because he's not supposed to bring his IPod with him but he didn't listen to him and Robert was mad at Isaac so when they went on the hike Robert put on his earphones and didn't listen to Isaac and Robert keeps on walk his own trail until Isaac got mad and pulled out a map so they couldn't get lost. Isaac thought Roberto was behind him and he started to scream his name out loud. Roberto kept going downhill instead of up the hill. He bumped into a park ranger keeps him until Isaac came.

# Julissa Hernández

## FREE WRITE

### My favorite shirt

I brought a shirt that is blue, yellow and dark green. I got my shirt in a summer reading program; the program is at a library, which is also running this year as well. My shirt is important to me because it inspires me to read more, learn more, and reach my goals. I don't like what my shirt says but I still like it because it is about reading and I love reading. My parents know it's very special to me ever since I got it. When the lady at the library gave me the shirt I got other things with it as well, she gave me a ticket to the swimming pool, a library card, and a bookmark. I never use my shirt because I don't want people to know that I like reading or mistaken me for a nerd. My favorite color is on my shirt and its blue; I like the fact that it has stars and clouds. In my house my shirt is folded neatly, my shirt brings me a lot of memories of that program



## FREE WRITE

### My weekend

On Saturday I was supposed to go to the pool but my mom and I decided not to because the weather was cold. I stayed home watched TV and went to my neighbor's house to play, later on I came back home and showered then went to sleep. On Sunday I had planned to go to the pool but my dad decided to go to the lake instead of the pool since we would have plans next week when we were originally going to Berryessa Lake. The ride there was boring because it took us two hours to get there, I took clothes for my dad, my sister and myself just in case we wanted to swim which we did and I ended up having a lot of fun.



# Kassandra Ibarria



## FREE WRITE

### A Blind, Ten Year Old Wins \$1000 Lottery Ticket

I am singing because I am so happy. I woke up this morning and turned on the TV to hear if I won the lottery and I did. My mom always told me to never give up, so I kept buying lottery tickets and I won. I'm rich! I can finally pay for the operation that will help me see again. Woo! Best day ever! I am never going to forget this day. I don't have to be blind for my entire life. I am so happy. I said to my mom, "Guess what?! I won \$1000 dollars! Woo! Great day!". Then I said to my friend, "Guess what friend? I won a \$1000 dollars! This is the best day!". I don't have anything else to say. My operation is tomorrow. Wish me good luck!



# Dianna Millan



## CRAZY HEADLINES

Just Reported: The Flash and Spiderman Team Up and Become the Best Superheroes on Earth! Read All About It!

Last Friday night, the Flash was battling the Joker. The Joker kept shooting him with a gun and the Flash couldn't take it. Suddenly, a piece of web landed on the Joker's head. When the Joker looked up, he received a kick from Spiderman. Spiderman then lifted Flash and they finished the Joker together.

The Joker was put in jail. Two days ago, on Saturday, at a conference, the Flash and Spiderman declared their partnership. When the president of the whole world found out, he declared them as the best superheroes on earth



## FREE WRITE

My dream machine was a phone booth. I picked a phone booth because it represents me loving my phone. I can just go inside it and get away from everyone and everything. I t would take me far, far away. I would want to go to never land where it's peaceful and quiet. And no one can bother me...

I really liked how my dream machine turned out. It was hard at some point but after a while I got a hang of it. I used mostly paper, tape, and cloth. Also a straw and some type of plastic tube. This project was entertaining. I would like to do this more often.

## Betty Kruegar

When I was little, I had a fantastic life. I actually lived like a normal kid, but one night I fell asleep, and my great, great uncle, Freddy Kruegar entered my dream. He died many, many years ago. Some say he enters in people's dreams and turns them into nightmares. He ruined my life. He killed me in my own nightmare...

He made me into Betty Kruegar, the second boogieman alive. After my uncle destroyed my life, I've been living in my own world. 24 years have past since I've seen my uncle. Last time I saw him was in my dream, when he stabbed me with his three claws.

I'm so similar to my uncle. Instead of having three claws, I grew three long nails. I don't like what I do, but I'm the boogieman, it's my job. I always feel bad about entering a child's dream, and I hate the feeling when I have to stab them with my own nails.

# Isaiah Morejon

## HEADLINES

Home Runs Down, But Why?

Home runs are going down. Some people say it's because drugs. Others say it's because players aren't good. Then others say it's because the players are getting weaker and are stressed. They need to work out more. They just need to clear everything they have on their mind. They have to many adds to go to, practices to attend and the pressure from the fans, so all the things are hard to do. They also have kids they need to take care of. So many reason but which of them is the correct one?



## FREE WRITE

Creatures can talk

A lot of people may think that my life as a rock may be boring, however, I live a truly exciting life! I get to be a witness of a lot of amazing things. I am unbreakable and strong. I am a gigantic rock, just as big as an island. I float in the sky, and have all types of animals. New animals, old animals and even exotic animals. I have dogs, turtles, elephants, dolphins, lions, dragons, gazelles, owls, whales, Nemo, mamoths and even cheetahs. Best of all, the weather is always nice and warm.



## NAME WRITING

My name is Isaiah Mauricio Morejon Perderio Garcia Martinez. My name Isaiah, comes from the bible. My middle name comes from my dad's name. I just noticed that my full name is six letters long and I have six names within my full name. I was named Isaiah Mauricio Morejon, but I like to include the rest of my name as well. I like to add in the other three names because it includes my mom and dad's last names. Although I am not completely sure of who I was named after, I think I was named by my mom and dad.

My grandma likes to call me "Orejas." My mom sometimes calls me "Chaparro," because I used to say that I was short. Eventually, the name "Chaparro," stuck with me. Then my family called me "panzón," because I used to be skinny when I was younger then I started to get "fluffier."

# Eunice Rodríguez

## FREE WRITE

Fourth of July

On the fourth of July last year I went to the fair, first we ate then I went to play. I got on the diamond ride and I also got a shirt with my name on it, next I continued on to more rides. At night there was fireworks I remember afterwards my parents told me I could go on one more ride so I choose the diamond ride. When it was finished I got out and couldn't find my parents, I got scared as I saw a policeman so I ran until I found my parents. This year I'm going to get on the zipper ride to watch fireworks.



## STORY STARTERS

The witch and the kids

Once upon a time there was a girl and a boy, there was a witch that wanted to turn them into cookies. The girl and boy went to the witches' house; she wanted to make them fat so she fed them. When they finally got fat she was getting ready to cook them. Luckily they found a way to escape together they destroyed her home and they were happy they made it out alive.



## I AM WHO I AM

My name Eunice, one thing I cannot remember is when I was three. I have never been in a zoo and I dislike school. I love Mexico because my mom dad is from there, I remember being four or five years old because that's when I learned how to read and write by myself. I remember recently going to great America with my cousins. I want a baby sister because I don't like boys; I want somebody to play with. I also love the movie frozen because it has princesses and my favorite one is Elsa, Ana, and Olaf because they sing my favorite song "Let it go".



# Yahir Rodríguez



## FREE WRITE

### SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL, SOMETHING UGLY

What makes flowers beautiful? Is the smell and their pretty colors

What makes pigs ugly is their nose and what they eat.

What makes babies so beautiful? Is that they're soft and cute.

What makes mud ugly? Is that it's squishy and brown.

Why is this leaf ugly? Because it is dead and has no color.

Why is this leaf beautiful? Because it's green and alive with youth.



## Dear Principal...

I think the teachers should give out less homework because it's a difficult task and because it's largely affecting trees. One of the problems with homework is that it's hard. This is because it takes out a lot of thinking power to get through at least one page so imagine how hard 2-4 pages would be. For example, I've stayed up all night doing my homework, thinking and trying to figure out what the correct answer is.

Homework kills trees because teachers overuse it by handing it out to those who have "lost" it. This is because at the end of the day they have a ton of scratch paper. And they throw it away. For example, my teacher once had a lot of it and I asked him what it was and he responded with "scratch paper".

# Ashley Saavedra



## FREE WRITE

### My Dream Machine

My Dream Machine is a TV. I can go in and out, and it takes me into the TV. If I want I can go wherever I want. My family can watch me on TV and I can go to different places too. That is my Dream Machine. You can watch me on TV, if you have your TV on.

## FREE WRITE

today we were playing a funny game. It was so fun and funny they were picking some people to smile and if they smiled they would lose and have to come up and tell it to another person. They did not call me good, because I don't want to tell someone that. I was sitting next to my sister. But they almost got my sister but not me. And we stop playing because we had to do something but it was so fun.

## I AM WHO I AM

I do not remember about my shoes  
I hate baseball  
I have always played things  
I have never had a dog  
I see people  
I know my family  
I wonder if I am going to a different school  
I don't wonder if I am going to the same school  
I try to be happy  
I try not to be mean  
I want to go with my family  
I don't want to go with my friends  
I remember about my sisters  
I love my family.



# Leslie Saavedra



## STORY STARTER

Charlie and his family lived in a small house and they are very poor. One of Charlie's favorite thing in the world is Willy Wonka's chocolate factory which is right in his neighborhood. His family always buys him a chocolate bar for his birthday. This year Willy Wonka is giving away Golden Tickets in the chocolate factory. When Charlie opens his chocolate bar at the store he finds a golden ticket. When he saw the ticket some other people were saying "I would give you money for that ticket". But the cashier told Charlie to go home and show his parents. So he went running and when he got home he was screaming. The next day they were opening up the chocolate factory. Him and his grandpa, along with the other golden ticket winners, entered the factory and took off their sweaters. Finally by the end of the day they were the only ones left.

## CREATURES CAN TALK

I am a dolphin. I live under water. I eat little fishes. I like to swim under water. Sometimes I am smart. I like to dance when I see lots of people. I love to communicate with my trainers. I am a very soft and shiny. I perform in six flags and I get rewarded with fish when I do well. I perform in marine world as well and I get rewarded as well. I have a lot of friends at Monterey Bay. I see lots of tourists looking at us and taking pictures of me. I love pictures.



# Emiliano Torres



## ABSURD CONVERSATION

Me: What happen?!

Cook: I burned the kitchen down!

Me: How?!

Cook: I as cooking some fajitas, and I went to the bathroom. When I got back it was burned down!

Me: Are you okay?

Cook: I am fine.

Me: okay that is good. Now what are going to do about the kitchen?

Cook: I do not know, but if I cannot cook I will need to work at Walgreens as a cashier. Where it is safe.

Me: Okay, just don't burn the down...I am just kidding. Good luck with that any ways. Have a nice day sir.

Cook: Thank you, have a nice day too.



## FREE WRITE

On Monday we did so much work, and a lot of writing. We did free writing, and I wrote three pages on "My Name Writing". On Tuesday I wrote about my key chain and my religion. I was tired and bored on Wednesday. On Thursday my hands were getting tired already. On Friday, Ernesto came and had us sitting down. He gave us history about music. We made music and other people would dance, and that was the most fun I had all week.

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# Yesenia Verdín



## CRAZY HEADLINES

### Life Found on Mars

Life has finally been found on Mars! Can you believe it? They sent two astronauts out there, they found distinct creatures from the ones we knew. They also found humans! Yes humans from earth! We thought it was all fiction like a movie “John Carter”, but to our surprise it is true! Yes, TRUE.

They found small villages. It seems like aliens are very smart. Do they know more than us? It could be that they do. They might even be smarter than Albert Einstein was. Everyone is very excited of this great discovery. Reported from ABC News.

## FREE WRITE

My Life as a Bunny

I am a bunny

I love to hop and chase butterflies

I am cute, cuddly and fuzzy

I love to eat grass, vegetables and carrots

I make a friendly companion and am friendly to everyone

I live in the hills and in grasslands

They consider me cute with my hazel-brown eyes

I am fast and sometimes slow

I love how I am white as snow

Some people use me as a messenger

I hide from carnivores

I am also afraid of wolves, cheetahs, and lions

I personally think that monkeys are weird

I am mean to people who want to eat me

I hide eggs and candy for children who believe in a holiday named “Easter”

I can easily become a pet

Some people make accessories and clothing out of my fuzzy skin

I am who I am, and love who I am.



# Edwin Zarza

## ABSURD CONVERSATIONS

ME: Are you okay cook? I saw your restaurant burned down.

Cook: I am fine, and thanks for making sure.

Me: Well that are you going to do now that your restaurant is burned down?

Cook: I do not know. I need another place to work.

Me I can help you get a new job.

Cook: You would do that for me?

Me: Yes!

Cook: Thank you, Pal

Me: You are welcome.



Taste really good  
Pouring out of the bag  
Feel the rainbow taste the rainbow  
Love them

## FREE WRITE

Last week we mostly did writing. Every day it got me more tired. The day I got more tired was on Friday. A person came on Friday. He turned music into history and at first I thought we were going to make instruments or art, but we just learned history at the end of the day.



# Berkeley Site



## **LETTER FROM THE BERKELEY SITE DIRECTOR**

Four weeks went by too fast! I have truly enjoyed this month to the fullest. Just like everything that starts, the beginning of the program was something new for us. Not all the students knew each other and the first few days everyone was too shy to talk. Now after four weeks they all get along and we experienced wonderful positive changes in the behaviors of some of the writers. The same change happened in their writing. Starting the program their writing was often short and written at the surface level. But, as soon as the students felt more comfortable with their fellow writers, tutors, and myself, they blossomed. We all saw the students grow as creative writers. Through free-writes, short stories, poetry, and among other writing techniques they were encouraged to explore their creative minds. The Youth Writing Festival strives to give students the freedom to express their creative thoughts and imagination. And we succeeded.

I congratulate all of the YWF writers! Thank you for allowing us to help you explore your creative minds. Many of you have gained more confidence in your writing and found a style that allows you to be creative, while others of you just began to let your imagination fly and that is the beginning of a journey for a great writer. Always remember writing is fun when you let your creative mind flow.

All YWF tutors and volunteers showed tremendous passion and dedication, and were always extremely patient. So, I thank you all for making this month a true success. I enjoyed watching every single one of you create special bonds with your students. You have created an impact not only in their writing but also in their lives. It was a great pleasure working with all of you and I sincerely thank you for wanting to create change in our youth.

I would also like to thank the students' parents for allowing them to explore their creativity. Thank you for always believing that our program can help your students, and thank you for always communicating with me on a daily basis. Without your support your student wouldn't believe in themselves and programs like ours wouldn't be able to create change in our youth. You are where your students' success begins.

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 having this vision for our youth. Thank you for making the YWF a great step towards their success.

Thank you!!!

Sincerely,

***Mirna Cervantes***

YWF Program Director, Berkeley Site

# Alexander Ayala

## Who am I?

I don't remember what I do.  
I hate doing chores.  
I hope I become a professional soccer player.  
I hope I don't become a teacher.  
I see the ocean.  
I don't see sharks.  
I know I'm a human.  
I don't know how to drive.  
I wonder if aliens are trying to help earth.  
I don't wonder how creepy things happen on earth.  
I try to be better at soccer.  
I try not to get sick.  
I want to go to a big mansion.  
I don't want to see a alien.  
I remember who I am.  
I love to use my Ipad 5.



## My Name

I am writing about my name. My last name is Ayala, my dad has the same last name. My nickname is Alex and my real name is Alexander. My dad picked Alexis for my brother. My dad's name is Ignacio, but my mom calls him nacho. My mom's name is Maria. My aunt has the same name as my mom. My dad's nickname is from a movie called Nacho Libre. My cousin's nickname is Alex, Coco. My cousin's real name is George. My nickname is from a book called Wolf Creek, a boy named Alex.

## Good Versus Evil

Bad guys are evil  
Good guys are nice  
Bad guys are dangerous  
Good guys are safe  
Bad guys are scary  
Good guys are not  
Good guys will win  
Bad guys will lose



## I Want to Be...

I want to be a professional soccer player or a police or a boss or a doctor. I want to be a professional soccer player because I can get a lot of money. Leonel Messi got 1 million dollars per year. Leonel Messi makes 2 goals in his team. He plays in two teams. I want to play in two teams because I can make a lot of friends. I will be in two teams soon. I will get a lot of playtime. In one team I got a little playtime, but my dad says I will get more playtime. I can play two soccer games in a weekend.

# Alexis Ayala



## I am Who I Am

I do not remember when I did something bad.

I hate school.

I have always seen the animals.

I have never seen a whale.

I see a dog.

I don't see nice movies; it's boring.

I know I'm 10.

I don't know when I am going to get a car.

I wonder if I will get a mansion.

I don't wonder if I will get a phone.

I try to think that dogs won't die.

I try not to break things.

I want to go to space.

I don't want to go to Mars.

I remember when I broke someone's window.

I love scary movies.



## The Cat

I don't like the black cat. Why was he bought?

He has a black hat, with a crazy big knot.

It has a big white fluffy bed, in the back of the house.  
It always hits its head, when running towards the mouse.

The cat is always cold; maybe it's made out of ice.

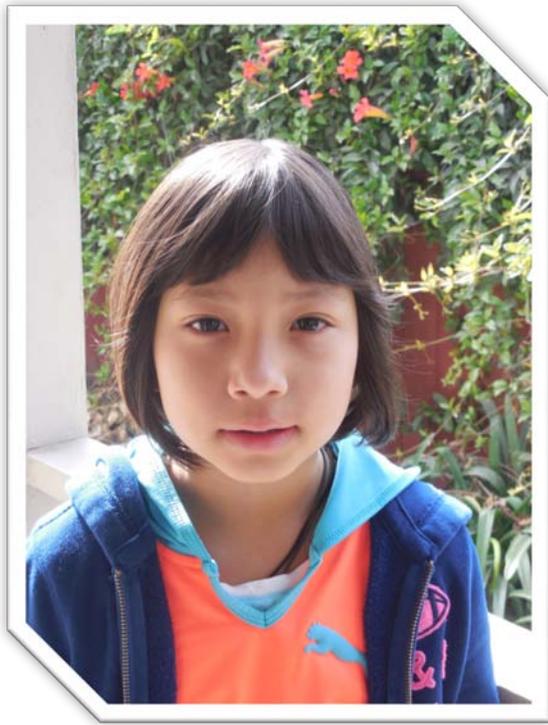
That explains why it's cold, but not why it chases mice.

The cat gets in a lot of trouble, always making its owner work double.

## My Favorite Place

My favorite place is home because I live there, and I eat there. Also, I can play and do whatever I want there. In addition, I really like that we have stairs, because I can just run down stairs whenever I want. Not only that, but there are many other things that I can do while at home. Lastly, I like living there because I have been living there since I was two or three years old.

# Emily Burgos



## Carina: Cal Student

Carina Lopez, 20, Cal student. During free time my friends and I go to the swimming pool and the Campanile. At lunch I eat tacos and ice cream. My favorite color is blue. I got home and I talked to my buddy. My classes are in Music, Science, Chemistry, and French. I play basketball and run. I have to study to get an A+ in all my classes. My favorite class is music class because I like to play piano. I read and write. I don't have classes on Friday at Cal!

## The Robot Dog

There was a dog he had a bow tie. He saw a hot dog. Turns out that he could fly. They went to Six Flags. The dog was so hungry he ate the hot dog. But he fell down. I found the dog on the ground. I took him to the doctor because he was fat. Turns out that the tiger was his doctor and he wanted to eat him. But he is a robot so the tiger almost ate him, but the mom came and she said, "You're a vegetarian."



# Ricardo Camacho

## Persuasive Letter

Dear In-N-Out,

I want to ask if your company could move closer to my house, please.  
If there was an In-N-Out closer  
I'll try to go twice a week.  
I also like the animal fries.  
Most of all I really like your hats at In-N-Out.

Sincerely,  
Ricky

P.S. Please and thank you!!!



## Ricky

I got my nickname by my father. I want my name to be Ricky because my dad, my cousin and I all have the name Ricardo. When my dad and my cousin are all watching soccer and my mom yells out "Ricardo!!!!" We all say "What??"



### I am who I am

I hate hot weather  
I have always liked warm weather  
I have never eaten wasabi  
I ee a bird  
I don't see a bird's nest  
I know  $1+1=2$   
I don't know  $9,000 \times 12 = ?$   
I wonder if I cn go to Mexico  
I try to learn basketball  
I want to play on my computer  
I don't want to eat wasabi  
I love my family

## In my culture

In my Mexican culture we celebrate "*Dia de los Reyes*" and "*Dia de los Muertos*", because my mother would celebrate her brother's death. Dia de los Reyes, myself and my family enjoy special food and we all cook.

# Giovanni Campos



## Names I Know

My name is Giovanni. My nickname is Gio. I like my name. My mom and my dad named me Giovanni. I like my actual name better than my nickname. My dad's name is Pedro and my mom's name is Maria. My big brother's name is Pedro and my other brother's name is Jonathan and his nickname is Jonah. My last name comes from my dad. My mom's last name is Chaves. My german shepherd's name is Chiko.

## Soccer Games

Yesterday I played soccer outside with my brothers. It was really fun. When my brother and I played against each other, he kicked the ball really hard and his shoe went over the neighbors' fence. But then we were still playing. When I was about to score on my brother my dog came and got the ball, he popped it. Then we got another ball, but my brother won. Then I had to be the goalie for my brothers while they played against each other and my big brother won. Then it got dark so we went back inside and I was really tired. It was really fun.

## I Am Who I Am

I do not remember when I went to Disney land for the first time  
I hate rats  
I always liked dogs  
I have never broken a bone  
I see trees  
I don't see Superman  
I know what 1+1 is  
I don't know why the sky is blue  
I wonder what I am going to do tomorrow  
I don't wonder  
I try to remember last year  
I try not to step on snails  
I want to go to Disney land again  
I don't want to  
I remember when it was yesterday  
I love my family



# Jonathan Campos

## Letter to Principal

Dear Principal,

I believe that we should have more recess. I think that we should have more recess because we spend time learning for a long time so we should have recess for a long time. We need more recess so we can rest our brains because reading and writing for too long is a lot. So if we get more recess our brains will be rested and when we get back to class our brains will be ready to work. I will use my recess to play soccer before I go to my soccer practice.

Also, people want to spend more time with their friends because you might not get to see them afterschool.



## I think the world needs more Dogs

I think the world needs more dogs because dogs are nice and playful. Like my dog, he is very nice and very playful. My dog also likes to lick my beautiful face with his tongue. If everyone has a dog they might be happy to be with a dog. And a dog might be happy to live and play with you. You can also exercise with your dog so you and your dog can be healthy. My dog always wants to go for a walk so my dad and I take him sometimes, but we are still healthy even if we just go walking sometimes. This is why I think this world should have more dogs.

## UC Berkeley

I can't wait to go to UC Berkeley. I think it will be very big. I also wonder if we are going to get to see the classes and how big the classrooms are. I have also been to one of their soccer games and they also won. I wonder if I will get to go to the college UC Berkeley. When I went to the UC Berkeley game I could tell they are a very good team.

## Careful and happy

If you're careful you're happy  
So don't run in the hall or you will fall.  
Ask for help to get good grades or you will get kicked out of 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

# Nancy Cervantes



## My name is Cat

My name is Cat. I am 14 years old and my job is baby-sitting. I wake up, I dress up so I can baby sit. I don't like baby-sitting because the kids always mess around. Some kids break lamps and picture frames. They live in Los Angeles. Some kids go in their room and mess it up. They also go in the bathroom and mess it up. They mess up the whole house. I have red hair, and I always wear pink dresses. I am skinny. I like to ride my pink bike. It has a basket and a big horn on it.

## I Am Who I Am

I do not remember how to do a cartwheel.  
I hate flies.  
I have always wanted a red car.  
I have never wanted to jump off a cliff.  
I see a cat at my neighbor's house.

## Nancy the Doll

My doll is important to me because my big sister gave me her. She helps me a lot. She helps me carry my eraser, pencil and hat. I want to ride a pony with her.

While we are on the pony, we will go to the forest to see the animals. Nancy the doll asked me if she can touch the monkeys and elephants, but she does not want to touch snakes.



## In My Culture

My family's favorite tradition is celebrating Christmas. We make food outside and invite other people. Other people go to my house and give me presents. My brother bought my parents a big T.V. David bought me stompys. My brother got me a Barbie in a festival. She also came with a popcorn machine.

# Maria Isabel Contreras

## Dolphin

One day in the summer, I was supposed to go shopping with my mom. My dad said, “do you want to go somewhere?” I said “sure.” Then when we got there he said, “It’s going to rain.” When I got out of the car I saw that my dad took me to Six Flags. I just looked at the rides and said, “Why are we here?” Then he said, “It’s a surprise.” When we got inside my eyes got big because that was the first time I have ever been there. The first thing that we did was get on one ride and then went to my surprise. While we were walking I heard dolphin sounds. My dad said, “Here we are.” I turned around and what did I find? I found dolphins swimming and splashing. I asked my dad, “Why are we here?” he said, “We are here to ride on the dolphins.” I started to jump up and down like crazy. A manager came and took us to a room she showed us a video of a dolphin having a baby. She also let us touch the teeth of a whale. The she took us to the locker room and I had to change into a wetsuit. When I got outside it started to rain, before we got to ride the dolphins. She taught us some tricks and how to make dolphin noises. But then it was time to ride the dolphins!!! When that was done, my dad and I went to get on the rides. And then went home!



## I Am Who I Am

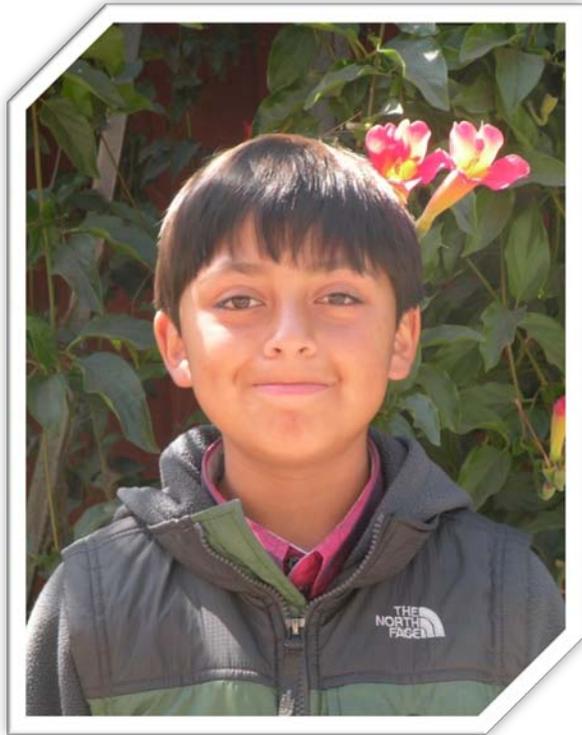
I do not remember my childhood  
I hate television, nail polish, and swimming  
I have always loved sports  
I have never been to Florida  
I see nature  
I do not see air  
I know math  
I don't know why people are small  
I wonder what I am going to do in 10 years  
I don't wonder why there are twins in the world  
I try to be kind  
I try not to be mean  
I want to be famous  
I do not want to give away my dog  
I remember when I rode a dolphin  
I love everything

## My Life

Dear Giselle,  
When I was 2, my dad taught me how to swim.  
He also taught me how to skateboard. I had to sit  
on it, then stand for a while, but then I fell.  
My brother taught me math in an hour on the couch.  
My mom taught me how to cook pancakes and  
quesadillas. My dad was the one who bought me all  
my pets. For example, my dogs, birds, spider, fish,  
snakes, and other things.  
My mom is the one that buys me my clothes and  
shoes. My brother helps me with sports and math.  
My favorite animal is a dolphin. When my dad and  
I went to Six Flags, I got to ride a dolphin.  
Right now for pets I have 2 birds, 1 dog and 2  
rabbits.  
From Maria Isabel

# Adrian Fernandez-Lopez

## Soccer



Soccer is my favorite sport. I play in a soccer team named “Brazil”. We train twice a week and play matches over the weekend. Adults, teenagers and kids are allowed to play. The two of my favorite teams are FC Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

I watch the World Cup every four years. Mexico beat Croatia three to one. The World Cup is basically about that only one team from around the world that can win the cup. The World Cup only happens every four years.

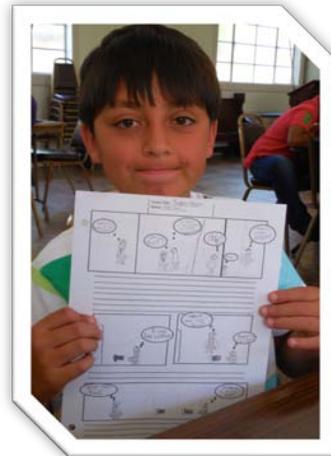
The goal I set for myself is that if I work hard I can make it to Bayern Munich or FC Barcelona.

## Castle

I want to live in a castle when I grow up. It will be big and wide. It will be a 20 room castle. It will also have a huge garage that can fit my cool cars. My castle will be in Mexico. I will buy a house for my mom and dad to live in. It will also be next to my castle. I will have a TV room and it will have all my games.

## Poem

I do not remember my old house.  
I hate being bullied.  
I have always played soccer.  
I have never bullied anyone.  
I see my future.  
I don't see myself pictured.  
I know how 5<sup>th</sup> grade is like.  
I don't know what 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be like.  
I wonder how my future will be.  
I don't wonder of being poor.  
I try to do my best in school.  
I try not to get bad grades.  
I want to be a professional soccer player.  
I don't want to be bullied.  
I remember cracking my head open.  
I love my mom's Mexican food.



## Happy

When I'm happy I think about my Xbox. When I'm joyful I play with my dog.  
When I'm wonderful, I think of colors. When I'm grateful, I help my mom.  
When I think of something fun, I think of ice cream. I like to play!

# Elisa Gonzalez

## The Dog

There was once a dog named Crazy and he was 5 years old. He is a pitbull mixed with a grandhog. He has 10 eyes and 5 noses. He likes to play catch and kick the ball to China. He also likes to talk to little kids about his feelings. But adults can't know that Crazy talk. One day he talks to an adult on accident. So then he goes to Mexico. While he was in Mexico he saw his grandma and stopped by the store and he got candy. When he went back, the girl told the mom that she was just dreaming. When Crazy went back home, he made a friend named Snake, and they became best friends forever.



## Dear Principal

We should have P.E. once in a while because we barely get P.E. You should let us play by ourselves once in a while because sometimes we all don't want to play together because other people might laugh at us. We should also get more books in the class because we don't want to be reading the same book every time. Also, we should get more grade level books. For example, I saw a boy reading the same book every time. An example for getting more grade level books is that we have 4<sup>th</sup> grade books in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes. So more P.E., and more grade level books in the classes.

## I Am Who I Am Poem

I do not remember my first birthday.  
I hate some cats.  
I have always lived in California.  
I have never been to Alaska.  
I see dogs every day.  
I don't see snakes under my bed.  
I know Fabiola is Fabulous.  
I don't know how Texas looks.  
I wonder what I'm going to do when I grow up.  
I don't wonder why snakes are mean.  
I try to work hard.  
I try not to goof off in class.  
I want to be a Veterinarian when I grow up.  
I don't want to be a teacher when I grow up.  
I remember my 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
I love dogs



# Marco Guerrero



## **Name Writing**

My name came from my mom because she had a brother named Marco and he passed away. When he was nineteen years old, God took him to the sky. I wish my name came from Pokemon because I like Pokemon and it is fun to play. I wish I were in an avenger with all of the EX and the most powerful Pokemons.

## **I Am Who I Am**

I do not remember,  
how to draw a tree.  
I hate when I lose a soccer game and when Mexico loses.  
I have always wanted to get all the EX Pokemons and the big pokemon EX. I have never gone to Brazil.

## **The Magic Soccer Dog**

I had a magic soccer dog that could fly.  
I named him Chicharito. He went to Brazil to play for Mexico.

Mexico won 4-2 and he scored all the goals, but they gave him a red card. The next day, there was another game but he didn't play and he just watched it on T.V. at his friend's house next to the stadium.

## **I am a Dolphin**

I am a dolphin. I like to eat a lot of fish.  
I think the water is hot and cold.  
I like to jump in the water and swim in the ocean.  
I like it when I see a ton of fishes in the water.  
I like when I touch the other dolphins.  
I swim fast in the water in the ocean.  
I like to see the people when I'm in the water.



# Andrew Henriquez



## About Me

Dear Brenda,

I am 10 and I was born in Walnut Creek February 8, 2004 8:30am. My favorite hero is Batman. My favorite Batman suit is Batman Beyond from the animated series. I like to play with my bird and two dogs. My favorite sport right now is football. Also I really really want to play it. But I have to be in high school to do it. I have a bunch of friends I always loose count. I think that it was awesome getting this bundle of both Batman Arkham Asylum and Arkham city. My life is fun.

Sincerely, Andy

## The Three Little Pigs

The wolf ate two little piggies. But couldn't blow down the brick house. So he went after Little Red Riding Hood. He sneaked in grandma's house and locked her in the closet. Later when Little Red Riding Hood went to her grandma's house she thought it was the wolf and said, "Are you a wolf" but wolf said in his best grandma voice, "No I am not a wolf". But Riding heard some noise in the closet and opened it. She saw grandma and she said, "That is the wolf. He is an imposter!" Wolf ran out of the house and never came back.

## A great white shark

I live in the ocean. I sleep in a cave. I eat dolphins. I watch my favorite show that is the annoying orange. I like to go get fishes and eat them yum yum. I am a single shark, I am also the king of the great white sharks. My job is to be the best king of the world. I hate to see people not following my orders. My name is Andy. Spongebob is my cousin and sometimes I get a kraby patty at the crusty crab. Spongebob told me the secret formula.

## Happiness

When I am happy I think about my Xbox. When I am joyful I play with my dog. I think the sunset is wonderful. When I am grateful I play with my bird. I like to eat strawberry ice cream. I like to eat burritos. I play games with my big brother.



# Daniel Henriquez

## I am who I am

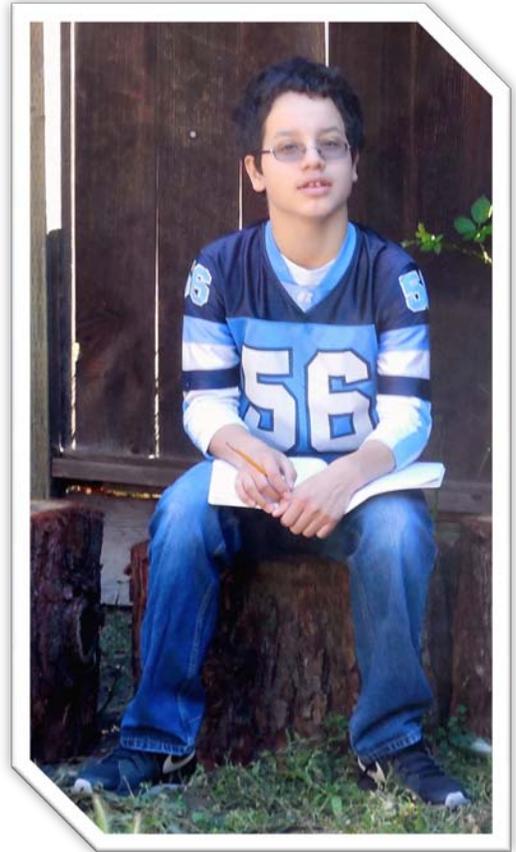
I do not remember being born  
I hate beans  
I have always been a dog person  
I have never eaten worms  
I see all the colors of the rainbow  
I don't see ultraviolet  
I know that white is made up of all colors  
I don't know what infrared looks like  
I wonder when time travel will be invented  
I don't wonder what red looks like  
I try to live  
I try not to die  
I want to play video games this afternoon  
I don't want to have beans for dinner  
I remember yesterday  
I love my pets

## Xeno

It is midnight on planet X-426 and Commander James Hickson is on watch duty. He thinks about how he ended up here. 20 years ago a starship heading back to Earth notified a distress call coming from X-426 and decided to investigate. They found a crashed ship and upon investigation found a large alien corpse with its ribs caved outwards. Sometime after, a crewman exploring the planet's surface found a large cave filled with eggs. One of the eggs hatched and a creature that would later be known as a "face hugger" clamped onto the crewman's – you guessed it – face. When another crewman went to investigate half an hour after losing radio contact, he found the crewman with the alien and brought them back to the ship. When the crew attempted to remove the alien, they found that it was clamped too tightly and that its bodily fluids were a strong acid so they could not safely cut it away. Eventually, they gave up and left to eat dinner. But as they were finishing their meals the crewman with the alien came looking alive and well. However, a few hours later, he began experiencing chest pains and when they took him to the medical room an alien burst out of his chest. *To be continued...*

## The Invasion

Roy lives on planet B-62 and likes to watch TV. He also frequently participates in robot gladiator fights. He plays video games and has a starship. He likes to travel and visit the zombie deserts. He has two dogs and a bird who he likes to take hunting. He has a suit of battle armor and a bike. His favorite ice cream flavor is vanilla. He plays Minecraft. He thinks about all he has done today as he watches TV. He has flown his starship around all 27 of B-62's moons and has bought a Newton cannon for his battle armor. Suddenly an alarm sounds. "It has been years," he thinks. "When does the alarm sound?" He asks himself. Then he remembers. The alarm sounds if an alien invasion is underway. Sure enough when he goes outside he sees alien warships opening fire on the human settlements. *To be continued...*



# Jose Lopez Madriz

## Water

Why is the earth mostly covered by water?  
Why does the ocean have to be dangerous?  
Why is there 1% of fresh water on the earth?  
I don't know but all I know is this. We  
should take care of our fresh water. We  
should not waste it. Some ways you could  
help is by not leaving the water going on  
when you don't use it. Most of the water on  
the earth is salty and I wonder why.  
We cannot get fresh water back so that's why  
we need to take care of our water.  
We need to share our food and water with  
animals.



## Rhythm

I bought a snake  
And it shakes.  
I went to the shop  
And bought a clock.  
I went to the sun  
And saw his son.  
The stop sign said stop.  
I added salt  
to my sandwich.  
I sunk Superman  
into the water.  
I got a sniper  
And shot a diaper.

## Dear Principal,

I know homework is important, but there is too much homework. If you could change the limit of homework most people could have time to play soccer, video games, and draw. I believe we should have one to two pages of homework.

Soccer is better than homework because you get to go outside to play a sport and exercise. With homework you have to stay inside, looking at other people outside playing a sport and having fun. Also, if you could make lunch longer instead of 45 minutes it could be one hour. We want more lunchtime because we are really tired of class and start having energy to get back to class ready to learn. A lot of parents request a lot of homework and class time so that more kids can be high achievers.

# Diego Martinez



## “World War Z”

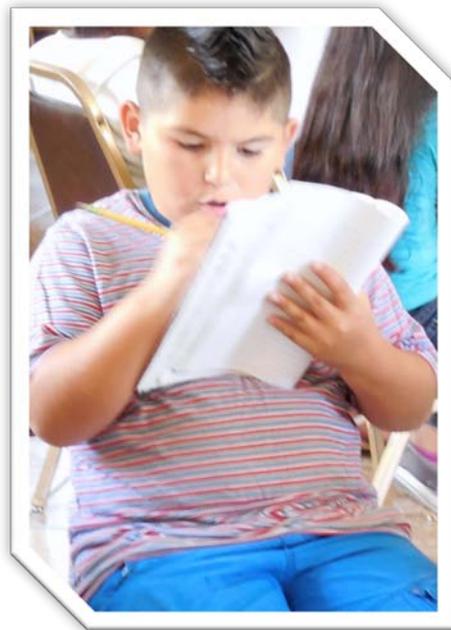
Once upon a time there was a zombie named Beabe Guy. He was bad and he turned people into zombies. Zombies fell from the sky and jumped on the back of their spines and zombie people were revived because the army went to back-up the zombie people. The zombies in the city were attacking the other zombies, so the city people made a wall to protect themselves. The zombies got up to the wall, so one man went on a special mission with some army guys, but the army guys died. The last man got on an airplane and flew home and a lot of zombies were killed. They also start rebuilding the city. The End.

## Real and Pretend

Ash is a character from Pokemon. His job is to protect the city from time rockets. Every time they battle, they have ten pokeballs. He is eight years old and he never gives up. His Pokemons are powerful for battle. When the battle starts, he talks and does a match against somebody. Ash and his friends play a lot and they train together. Time rockets are bad because they destroy things.

## In My Culture

I like my birthday because it was big! I celebrated it with my entire family. I got presents. My first present was money and a lot of Pokemon cards because my mom already knew I like Pokemon. I got a lot of presents.



## Cheetah

I'm a cheetah.  
I eat gazelles and I live on a tree in Africa.  
I run fast and I can crawl to get food.

# Faith Penman

## I Am Who I Am Poem

I do not remember when I was one.  
I hate when my mom tells me to clean up  
my room.  
I have always wanted to skydive.  
I have never liked cats too much.  
I see me in a tent camping.  
I don't see a world without dogs.  
I know cats are vicious.  
I don't know if cats are nice.  
I wonder what babies think.  
I don't wonder why cats are vicious.  
I try to avoid vicious cats.  
I try not to avoid dogs.  
I want to get a dog when I grow up.  
I don't want to get scratched by a cat.  
I remember I used to have a great grandma.  
I love my family and Fabbie.



## Real and Pretend

I have a pillow pet that is a unicorn and I names her Unnie. She is 4 years old because the time I got her I was 4 and now I am eight. You could tell that she is 4 because on her tag all the words are erased and there are old stains on it. She is pink and purple. She is so soft and her mane is pink. Her eyes are brown like mine. She has a horn and it is pink. Her head is purple and the back is also purple. Her stomach is pink. She has a white snout and a big smile and two nose holes to breathe.

## Brave The Dog

There once was a dog named Brave. He lived with the King and Queen and together they owned a kingdom called Kingdom Perfect, ooo it was so perfect. Rivers had beautiful gold fish and some kids had them for pets. The Queen and King had a pet gold fish too and it had rainbow scales, eyes that looked like night stars. But Brave couldn't go outside because he had to be perfect. Brave had to be perfect so that he can stay clean. Later that night Brave snuck out he saw the world's stars. There was so many flowers the air smelled like perfume.

# Justin Penman

## Found Poetry

Vegan hippy, Nissan leaf  
Bumper sticker, Berkeley  
Idiot  
We garden  
Waste of a good car  
Idiot driver  
Cash into car  
Get off the road  
Car on fire  
Life ruined.

## If I Were A Lion Fish

I would literally eat everything.  
Yesterday I stunned a two leg.  
I destroyed a fishing net because I was angry.  
I saw a tin can and scared myself half to death  
when I saw how I look.  
I saw a giant floating whale with some two legs  
in it. It had three spinning tails. I was horrified. I  
was being an idiot when I saw a bag of bile with gooey stuff oozing out of it. It was so hot I  
burned myself. So I ate a little fish. A two leg jumped out of the whale. I injected a spike in to  
his skin, which stung him. I'm very happy!



## Free Write

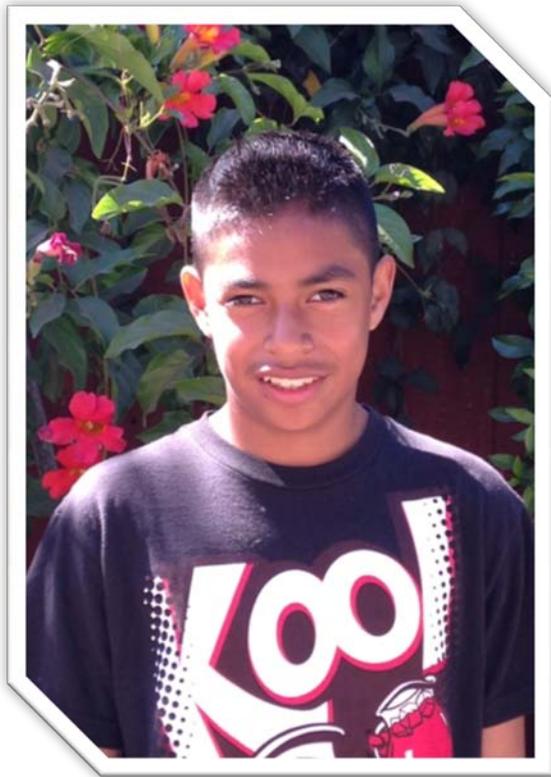
The Dump. Such a stinky biohazard filled, nasty, smelly and dirty place.  
Yet people still have to work there to get rid of what we see as trash. Who knows what can be in  
the black bag that has a radiation sign on it. Maybe it could be a bag of needles. That toxic.  
Maybe there's a zombie infested Lysol bottle in there. So much for keeping clean. So the nex  
time you see a worker at the dump, thank them and give them gratitude.

## Letter about the Principal

Hello board of directors,  
I would like to inform you of this principal for excessive screaming. This principal curses  
excessively. I realized that there is an extremely limited amount of people who are willing to do  
this particular job. However, I think that people who are viewing those people should put safety  
before profits. Thank you for your time. About the cursing, kids might learn this bad language.  
He makes a very bad influence, which is not fitting as the head of the school. In addition about  
the villain, this might influence bullying resulting in a more violent school. I also encourage that  
it comes from a younger person you probably won't believe. But I encourage you to gain newer  
staff for the kids who have been yelled at. I admit to further proof, I have an academic record of  
one of these incidents. I thank you for your time.

-Justin

# Brayam Peralta



## Gorilla Trip

I went to outer space on a gorilla. There was no gravity in space. The gorilla used a fire extinguisher to move around in space. He went to the sun. He had a fire resistance power. But I died because I didn't have any powers. After I died I reincarnated into an alien ware wolf in the planet GTA. Living in this planet is a bad thing because you can get killed. Since I'm a werewolf I can survive because I don't have any money and I live in the forest. Then the gorilla crashed into the world and the world exploded and everyone died

## My Play

Yesterday was kind of fun because of the play. I was in 2 plays. I got to the part where Dale dies. Carl is playing in the woods and found a walker but he wouldn't move and the walker got free. Carl left and attracted the walker and at night Dale got opened by a walker. I wonder what happens after that.



## Maral

I am Maral I got mad at Tdog then I started punching him. Rick got mad and hand cuffed me to a pipe and then everybody left me alone and I was wondering why. Then some walkers got in and ate me when I woke up I was all bloody and had a feeling that I wanted to eat guts. I saw walkers and I saw a gun and I killed the walker but the other walker just looked at me weirdly and then I had a feeling to eat carrots and I found a market and ate every single vegetable and Rick came up behind me and killed me.

# Brayan Sanchez



## Zombie

One day there was a zombie entering the border. The police were being racist and not letting him cross. As we all know, they don't know how to function the brain. Obviously, the guards haven't watched Walking Dead and they weren't smart enough to shoot the zombie in the head. So the zombie got a taco shell and stuck it in their guts. I live everywhere I don't care where I sleep. My hairs are flies.

## Nemo Bubble Blower

This only happened once. My Nemo Bubble Blower was put in my closet. I was bored so I went to my bed. I start looking at Nemo and realized it started moving and making faces and I screamed. I told my mom so we threw it away. To this day, it still haunts me.

## I am who I am

I do not remember when I started my YouTube channel.  
I hate cheese.  
I have always played MK9.  
I have never gone to Mexico.  
I see colors.  
I know how to eat.  
I don't know how to burp.  
I wonder about stuff.  
I don't wonder about other stuff.  
I try to ignore my bite.  
I try not to write or do math.  
I want to play video games.  
I don't want to do math.  
I remember Raging Waters.  
I love my family.



# Johnathan Sanchez

## My Penny

I got my penny yesterday and I love it because it is brown like the color of my skin, which means that the penny and I have a lot in common. I got this penny buying elote con crema y queso y chile yesterday, so it means a lot to me.

The penny looks circular and it says “In God we trust, Liberty, 1993”, with Abraham Lincoln on it. The White House is white and big, and Obama lives in it now. My penny is worth at least one cent.



## Barack Obama

Hi, I am the first Black President of the United States of America. It is hard to be President. There are many papers to sign and many laws to veto. It is also very dangerous to be President because many people want to kill me, and the reason for that is because I have a lot of power. I also have a lot of security around, which kind of stinks because I have no privacy.

The White House is huge. There are so many bathrooms, so I don't have to wait for someone to come out. I thought being the President would be great because of all the love and freedom there is, but people talk a lot about where I was born like if I was either born here or in Africa, and they compare me to a lot to Hitler. You have to understand this is very demeaning to me, since I am nothing like him.

When I was running for President, I was very surprised with the amount of votes I got. I thought I wouldn't be able to win but I made it. All in all, I think being President can have its positive parts, which you can take advantage of, but you will always be hated.

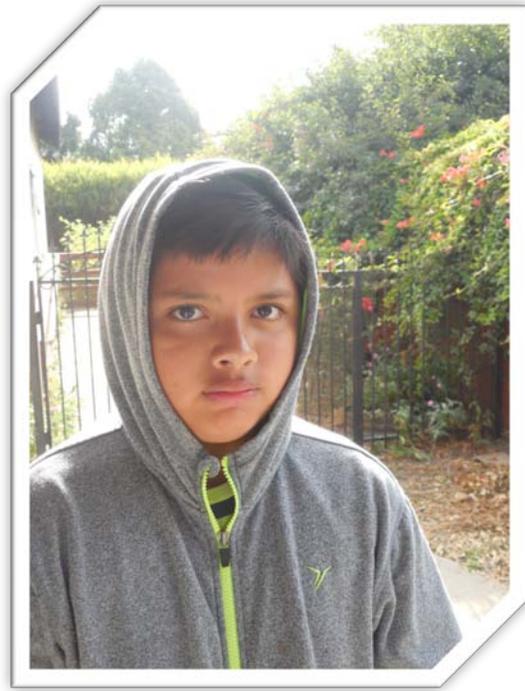
## Fly

Hi, my name is fly and I am going to tell you a little bit about my life. As a fly life is great, except for the fact that we get swatted. It is great to fly. We can get out of our enemies reach, the best part about being a fly is the food, especially the warm delicious brown stuff that comes out of hairy creatures. The two best things about that food is that number one, it's already cooked and number two, the flavors! It is a wonderful combination of all the food the creatures have consumed. The taste is just too complex to explain and the extra brown stuff make it a delight. Well now that you know a little bit about what we eat, I should tell you about our biggest and most feared enemy....the frogs...*to be continued*

# Miguel Sanchez

## I Am

I do not remember when I was born.  
I hate +4 cards in Uno.  
I have always liked video games.  
I have never died.  
I see everything.  
I don't see anything.  
I know stuff.  
I don't know stuff.  
I wonder when I will meet my Grandpa.  
I don't wonder when I'll die.  
I try to have fun.  
I try not to be bored.  
I don't want to not have fun.  
I remember the 6th grade.  
I love video games.



## Christmas

In Christmas my family goes to my aunt's house to celebrate and unwrap gifts and eat. All my cousins and uncles come, its really fun. Sometimes we stay the whole day there. I usually go to my cousin's house because it's only across the block. When I go to his house we play on his Xbox 360 and play Minecraft, Call of Duty Black ops, and watch movies. Also sometimes we play soccer. Then we go back to my aunt's house and unwrap our gifts, it cool, we have a lot of fun. My cousins and I go to the park at night and play tag and do crazy things. That's what me and my cousins do at the parl. The food we eat is usually posole, rice, beans, and soup. Sometimes my aunt gives gifts to everyone that comes. Last year I got some slippers from my aunt, they're so comfortable and warm, I wear them every morning. My dad got me a bunch of clothes, but I'm glad he did. My sister gave me a sweater; it's so comfortable. This is how I spend my Christmas.

## Bongos Adventure

The great flamingo moved silently through the night water, propelled by short sweeps of its crescent tail. It was heading to New York City. The great flamingo was named Bongo and he was the meanest and pinkest flamingo in all the land. He was hungry so he went to Bongo Burger to eat. He ordered 19 hamburgers, 7 sodas and 4 packets of fries. He ate them really fast so he ordered again and again until the cooks didn't have any more ingredients, but he was still hungry so he went to all the restaurants around the world. Since he ate all the food in the world he exploded and everyone got their food back, but it had a bunch of goo from being in the flamingos stomach. The End.

# Sebastian Ventura

## About Me

Dear Brenda,

I was born in 2003, 4 October. My name is Sebastian Ventura. I live in Oakland. I hate Oakland because too much gun shots and too much graffiti. I like rap music. My favorite singers are YG, Drake, Little Wayne, Eminem. I love animals. My favorite animals are dogs. I have a dog named Fluffy. My parents are the best. They buy good clothes and an iPhone. I'm 10 years old!

-Sebastian



## Poem

I do not remember to feed my dog  
I hate school  
I have always been funny  
I have never been to NYC  
I see my dog  
I don't see monkeys  
I know about cars  
I don't know about girl nails  
I wonder about cars  
I try to be funny  
I try not to be mean  
I want to be a rapper. I don't want to be an artist. I  
remember my mom. I love my dad

## My Dog

My dog's name is Fluffy. He is 11 years old. He likes his dog's toys. I love him and he loves me. My mom and dad got me Fluffy when it was my birthday!!!

I play with him. I take him for a walk.  
One time I was riding my bike with Fluffy.  
It was fun! We have fun!

## Happy

When I'm happy I play with my dog  
When I'm grateful I play with my PS3  
When I'm joyful I eat tacos  
When I'm wonderful I play with  
my dad or my dog.

# Arline Villagres

## I Am Who I Am

I do not remember anything from last year  
I hate reading  
I have always loved my parents  
I have never liked writing  
I see people enjoy their life  
I don't see people fighting  
I know some people love the sun  
I don't know why the water in Hawaii is so clear  
I wonder if I am going to college  
I don't wonder why we have water  
I try to do my best  
I try not to get bad grades  
I want to go to Mexico again  
I don't want to die  
I remember when I went to Mexico  
I love my family



## Christmas

On Christmas we celebrate. You need to have presents and a tree. To make a tree you need to buy one, set it up so it's not all over the place, put the lights on, put the ornaments on, and put the star on top, so Santa can see us open presents and make a mess with the wrappers at my uncle's house. He puts a Ferris wheel with Santa on it and we give out candy bags.

## The girl who didn't like to dance

Once, a girl named Emily, she took a lot of dance classes, when she was little. But the problem was that she didn't like to dance. Her parents tried to get her to like dancing. Every day she didn't want to go to class. They told her again and again. But she still didn't like it. Then one day she got annoyed, so then she tried her best. When she tried her best she learned a lot of new dance moves. One of them was her favorite. After she thought it was fun she decided to tell her parents she liked dancing.

# YOUTH WRITING FESTIVAL STAFF



**Merced Truax-Padilla**  
Richmond Program Director



**Mirna Cervantes**  
Berkeley Program Director



**Bryan Rodriguez**  
Richmond Tutor  
Volunteer



**Omar Verdin**  
Richmond Tutor  
Volunteer



**Pedro Campos**  
Berkeley Tutor  
Volunteer



**Diego Martinez Caloca**  
Berkeley Tutor  
Volunteer

# BERKELEY TUTORS



Jimena Cuenca



Jorge Padilla



Gissell Jimenez



Chantal Lim



Emerson  
Roberts-  
Donnely



Fabiola  
Martinez



Natalie Ortiz



Brenda Ortiz

# RICHMOND TUTORS



Guadalupe Garcia



Adan Alberto



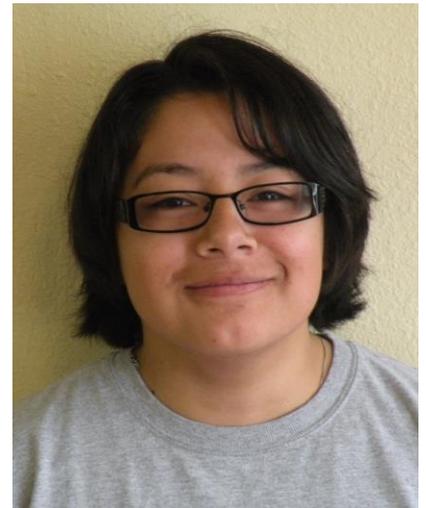
David Morejon



Erick Dominguez



Kimberly  
Pariyavanh



Zoila Sanchez-  
Saenz



Lucero Vera



Viane Garcia

# A WORD FROM THE STUDENTS

Thank you for having this program for those who enjoy writing! This program helped me in reinforcing my writing. Whenever, I write I feel like if I'm expressing my feelings through my writing. Because of this program, I have learned how to compose a poem, a story and a persuasive essay. I plan to next year be in the program again. I love this program and its benefits. With the benefits this program has taught me and I hope to graduate middle school with a 4.0 in both SBP and HOW. Thank you for everything! I hope you find this letter meaningful.

Sincerely, Yesenia Verdin

The writing festival was amazing. This year was my first year in the program. My favorite part was when Ernesto Olmos came. He did an amazing job on the music and he draws great. Thanks for an amazing four weeks.

Love, Yesenia Cervacio.

Thank you for this great time in MAS/YWF. I learned a lot of writing. I am glad I came. It was fun to make new friends and along with people. This was the best year ever. I got to meet a lot of different people. Thank you very much.

Love, Lilly Gonzalez

The youth writing festival was a great experience. I learned many things this year. I really like this program. It helps me express my thoughts and feelings on paper. This has been the best program. I'm planning to come back next year.

Sincerely, Dianna Millan

We had fun. Well at least I did. The YWF was awesome and so were the tutors. The tutors really supported us and helped us when we needed help. I want to give a shout out to all the tutors and Merced for making this as fun as possible.

My tutor Lupita was very optimistic, fun, and helpful. We really enjoyed our visitors too because they really had the YWF kids engaged into what they were trying to teach us. Our trip to Cal was awesome too.

Thank you, Natalie Alberto

I have had a very fun time at the camp. The games we played were really fun. I had a fun time writing. The trip we went to was very cool. I learned how to write poems. I also learned how to write short stories and menus. My tutor was awesome.

Giovanni Campos

What I love about YWF is that it teaches us things we never knew and we make friends, lots of friends.

Love, Faith Penman

## A WORD FROM THE TUTORS

Thank you for a wonderful experience this summer. I would have never thought that four weeks could fly by so quickly. In these four weeks, I have created many memories that I will cherish such as the conversations with the students and tutors, the bonds that we all have created, and all the laughs we have shared.

As this program is coming to an end, all I can say is that I cannot wait for next summer and only hope to participate in it again. In the future, as I look back on the summer of 2014 all I can say that this will be the highlight of the summer, especially the visit that Ernesto Olmos made. Thank you for this incredible opportunity. Thanks. Lupita Garcia

I have really enjoyed working with the Multicultural Institute. When I first began I did not know what to expect, I just remember being very nervous. After ridding myself of the nervousness, I really began to enjoy working with the students. As I reflect on my time with the organization, I realized that it has allowed me to become more patient and considerate of others.

Since I was younger, and even until today, giving back to the community has always been strongly emphasized. From time to time, I would wonder what I could do possibly to do to give back. Through the Multicultural Institute I have been given an opportunity to give back to my community. Although we have not yet met, I would like to express my gratitude to you. Thank you Father Rigo, Kimberly Pariyavanh

Dear padre Rigo,

I just want to say thanks again for giving me this great opportunity to work at the Institute again. I just love working with the kids and for this program.

It has been a blast working alongside these wonderful tutors and especially Merced and Mirna. I hope to work for this program a long, long time. There are no words I can say to thank you for all you have done for me.

I really appreciate everything you do. I don't know how many times I have needed help, and you are always there. You are such a wonderful person. I admire how dedicated you are to your work and truly admire how you are with people. You are a real role model to me. Thank you again. Sincerely, Erick

This year was my second year working as a tutor for the Youth Writing Festival and this year brought me many pleasant surprises I will take with me wherever I go. Once again I worked with the older group of students, who at first showed little sign of wanting to write. However, as the program progressed so did my students. Martin, Hector, Roberto and for a while Isaiah, all improved their writing skills in one way or another.

Some people see this group of older students as irritating at times, lazy or even careless. But, I saw just the opposite in them from the beginning. The trick is simply putting myself in their shoes. I was exactly the way my students were at their age.

Therefore, my job as a tutor is to help them transition from that stage into a more educated, mature and dedicated student. As much as I felt like I taught my students something new this year, they too taught me more about myself. They taught me that I am truly patient. They helped me show my creative side in activities we did, and they reminded me of how everyone has something unique to show the world. Knowing that in some sort of way I was able to help these students out, means the world to me.

My time working as a tutor in the YWF was even richer as I worked along amazing and talented staff. Co-workers that are able to offer an extra hand when needed, or spending some time to really get to know them, made working alongside them great. They taught me that even tutors need help at times –humility. Working as a team is much more effective than trying to do everything without help, teamwork.

From the bottom of my heart, to you father Rigo, and all the staff of MI, thank you.

Sincerely, Adan Alberto

It has been a pleasure to be part of this year Youth Writing Festival. I loved getting the opportunity to work along great students and tutors.

Programs like this are truly needed in our community. It's a better alternative than staying at home all summer. I know these kids will do great because of the help they are receiving right now. I hope I can continue making a difference in kid's lives like this program has done.

Warm Regards, Natalie Ortiz

I have enjoyed this program once again. This year has been much more challenging than two years ago when I worked here. Most of the campers in the group Jorge and I work with are very difficult.

This has probably been the hardest group I have dealt with in the many years I have worked with youth. However, I have gotten much out of the challenge such as patience and dedication to the cause of helping the youth.

I have always admired the Multicultural Institute. Non-profits such as yours are needed in the community, and this is the type of work I would like to do once I graduate college. Thanks once again for the opportunity.

Sincerely, Emerson Roberts-Donnelly

Thank you for allowing me to work at the program for another year. This past month with the kids was a lot of fun and I learned a lot from the kids just as much as I feel they learned from me. Its great to see how much the program has grown since the last time I was a tutor! It has a solid set of tutors and site coordinators at the helm.

I've realized that I've taken different aspects from each time that I've tutored at the Festival. Two years ago when it was my first time as a tutor, I was very nervous and scared to have the responsibility of guiding these kids through a month of writing and being able to encourage them to write and express themselves. To my surprise I was met with great enthusiasm from the kids and it built a great amount of confidence in myself to be a leader, or at least to be a guide to some.

With that same confidence that I attained I went into this month with confidence, the only difference this time was the age group of the kids that I was working with. As a tutor to the older kids I wasn't prepared for their mature nature and occasional comebacks.

It threw me off but allowed me to learn how to practice patience with the boys I had. Even though it was a little tough at first, things overall really improved, the boys began to cooperate and really enjoy writing; their creativity level is amazing. I also wanted to give a big thank you to Emerson for allowing me to work with him to tutor the boys, we all really enjoyed the time we had together.

Once again thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity and I hope to be here again next summer.

Sincerely, Jorge Padilla

## A WORD FROM THE PARENTS

Este es el segundo año que mis hijos asisten al festival , el primer año no estaban muy convencidos de asistir. Creían que era como “seguir en la escuela” pero al pasar los días se dieron cuenta que era algo diferente. Con actividades muy divertidas, conocieron personas interesantes. Definitivamente fue un tiempo muy bonito para ellos.

Ahora cuando les comente que comenzaría el festival les dio mucho gusto y a mí en lo personal me encanta porque es un lugar seguro, un ambiente agradable, aprovechan su tiempo en algo productivo, aprenden nuevas técnicas y mejoran su escritura.

Los tutores son jóvenes amables, amigables, dedicados, entusiastas. Y que más puedo decir de la Directora del Programa? Merced es una excelente persona, muy amable, responsable, con tremenda energía, muchísima paciencia, siempre con muy buen humor y todo el tiempo nos recibe con una gran sonrisa. Héctor y Roberto le tienen un cariño muy especial a Merced. Gracias a todos por hacer posible el Festival de la Escritura.  
Atentamente, Susana Guerra (Madre de Roberto y Héctor Becerra)

Yo, Martha Domínguez, mamá de Jennifer y Erick Domínguez doy las gracias al extraordinario programa. Ya que la escritura es una parte muy importante donde ellos pueden expresar mejor sus sentimientos. Gracias a todos los tutores por su gran trabajo. En especial a Merced por su gran cariño para con los estudiantes.  
Gracias una vez más al Padre Rigo por la confianza que ha depositado en Erick como Tutor. Atentamente, Martha Dominguez

Padre Rigo,

Estoy muy contenta con el programa de verano, el Festival de Escritura, porque mi hija está muy contenta. Ella sabe que son sus vacaciones y quisiera quedarse más tarde en cama y seguir durmiendo, pero cuando regresa del programa se le olvida y quisiera que no se acabe la clase.

Regresa siempre con una gran sonrisa, muy contenta de lo que aprendió y emocionada con todo lo que ha visto en el programa. Es muy satisfactorio para ellos como para nosotros los padres saber que aprenden de cultura, de tradiciones, arte, escritura, y de tantas cosas que les ayudan y que valen la pena.

Muchísimas gracia a todos los que hacen posible por que se lleve a cabo este programa.  
Atentamente, Janet Ramos (Mama de Julissa Hernández)

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## 2014 Youth Writing Festival Writers

### *City of Berkeley Site*

Alexander Ayala  
Alexis Ayala  
Emily Burgos  
Ricardo Camacho  
Giovanni Campos  
Jonathan Campos  
Nancy Cervantes  
Maria Isabel Contreras  
Adrián Fernández-Lopez  
Elisa Gonzalez  
Marco Guerrero  
Andrew Henríquez  
Daniel Henríquez  
Jose Lopez Madrid  
Diego Martínez  
Faith Penman  
Justin Penman  
Brayam Peralta  
Brayan Sánchez  
Johnathan Sanchez  
Miguel Sanchez  
Sebastian Ventura  
Arlene Villagres

### *City of Richmond Site*

Natalie Alberto  
Mario Almeda  
Hector Becerra  
Jose Luis Cervacio  
Yesenia Cervacio  
Jennifer Dominguez  
Erandi Escobar  
Madeline Gamboa  
Rodolfo Gonzalez  
Martin Gonzalez  
Liliana Gonzalez  
Manuel Gonzalez  
Roberto Guerra  
Héctor Guerra  
Julissa Hernández  
Kassandra Ibarria  
Diana Millan  
Isaiah Morejon  
Yahir Rodríguez  
Eunice Rodríguez  
Ashley Saavedra  
Leslie Saavedra  
Emiliano Torres  
Yesenia Verdín  
Edwin Zarza



# MULTICULTURAL INSTITUTE

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

Founded in 1991, the Institute has continually nurtured partnerships  
with diverse civic, business and religious leaders.  
A board of directors oversee MI's work.

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