

# Young Tigers



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## Sarah and the Three Little Mice

Written and illustrated by Jocelyn Muñoz and Leticia Silot, 2nd grade

Once upon a time there was a princess named Sarah. She lived in a big castle. There was a hole in the princess's room. In the hole there lived three little mice. One was named Rosy, the second was Posy, and the third little mouse was named Dozy. In the hole the mice had little things like a small chair, a small room and a small bathroom.

The three little mice went to school. Then the kids all got scared and screamed. The mice screamed too. Then the teacher got scared and screamed and almost hit the poor little mice. The mice got out of the school. Finally they got back to the princess's castle.

## My First Pet

By Aaliyah Allen, 2nd grade

One summer, after my mom got home from work, she took me to Petco and bought me the perfect guinea pig. He's brown and black and white. After we bought him my big sister said, "Let's name him Buttercup." We said yes. We've had him for five years.

When we got him, we were so excited we kept on feeding him carrots, and he got bitey. His bite is like a tickle. I have four sisters. All of us like to play with him except my big sisters Ayana and Alexis. When we take him out of his cage, they get scared and run out of the room.

Buttercup lets me pet him and he kisses me on the face. Sometimes when we take him out, he tries to run away. Then we try to get him. Buttercup's enemy is a dog. He doesn't like dogs because dogs eat guinea pigs.

He likes to knock over his food. When I talk to him he makes squeaking noises. He looks like he's saying, "What are you talking about?"

After five years, Buttercup had to take a bath. We put him in a sink. He bit me! I cried, "Mommy, it hurt." He went into his cage. Buttercup was sad the next day. He smelled like shampoo.

He is happy when it's time for breakfast. He uses his paws to feed. He stays in my brother Julius's room. He likes it a lot there.

Buttercup loves to go in his blue igloo. We put carrots on the igloo and he climbs up. His birthday is December 1. We

decorate his cage. It is pretty.



Riana Isidro, 4<sup>th</sup> grade

## I'm Thankful

By Sariah Villaseñor, 3rd grade

I'm thankful for my baby sister  
But she scratched me last week.  
I'm thankful for my iPod  
But it broke last year.  
I'm thankful for something  
But I don't know what.  
I'm thankful for Hannah Montana  
But I never got to meet her.

## The Monster House

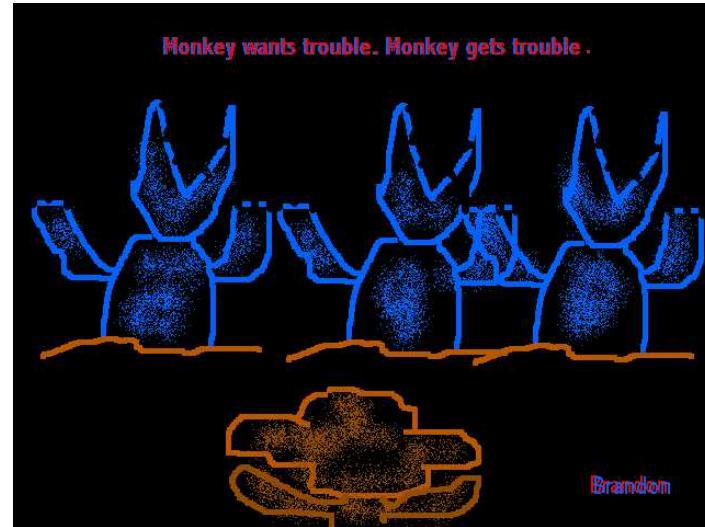
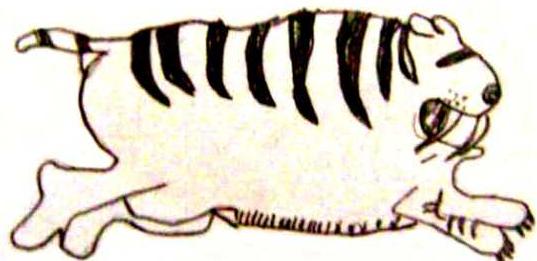
By Nahomy Matamoros, 2nd grade

Once upon a time there were two kids and their mother who lived in a monster house, but they didn't know it. One day the little boy was sleeping and he heard a noise. He went downstairs and saw a ghost. He ran up to his room and the ghosts went through the door and he screamed. His sister saw the ghosts too.

They saw the keys for the car. They ran to the car and drove it but they crashed into an old lady's house. She said, "What's the matter with you? Kids are not supposed to drive."

"We are running from the ghosts!" And all of the ghosts were following them. The lady screamed and they went inside the house and hid. But when they went under a bed, the ghosts were right in front of their faces and they had nowhere else to go. The old lady hit them on the head and the kids ran and got to the car, but the ghosts were too fast and one of them got through the car.

It was morning. The mom woke up and her kids were gone. She looked for a magic spell book that her mother had told her about. She told her dog to dig in the backyard. He finally found it. She read the spell and all of the ghosts disappeared, except for the one that was in the car.



Brandon Garcia-Penticoff, 2nd grade

## I Wonder

By Fernanda Castillo, 3rd grade

I wonder what Walt Disney thought of making Disneyland.  
I wonder what birds think.  
I wonder if flowers think.  
I wonder if trees talk to each other.  
I wonder if stars go shopping, what could they buy?  
I wonder if valleys ever had a phone.  
I wonder if the Milky Way was ever candy.  
I wonder if feelings were alive, what could they eat?

## I Wonder

By Jacqueline Franco, 3rd grade

I wonder if leprechauns are tiny  
Because if they were, I might step on them.  
I wonder if leprechauns have real big ears  
Because if they're fake I could yank them off.  
I wonder if leprechauns go shopping  
Because if they do,  
I could go to their tiny homes and take their gold.  
I wonder if leprechauns will trick  
Because I could think of a better one and trick them back.  
I wonder if leprechauns have pets  
And if they were mice, the leprechauns could ride them.



Cynthia Gomez, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

## My Hero

By Colleen Byrd, 3rd grade



beautiful. She wears good clothes and I love her shoes.

She works for the Children's Council of San Francisco. She helps kids find a better place to live. After school she takes me to her job. There's a room where kids can play. It has a real bed and a play kitchen.

At home, I sleep in my mom's bed. She tells me a goodnight story. Sometimes on the weekend she makes me cakes. My mom **9**

is a good cook but she hates to cook because she sleeps while she is cooking and she burns the food sometimes. She was born in Texas and she can ride a horse.

She loves me as much as I love her and she has the best boyfriend ever. His name is Ray. He is respectful and he loves kids.

God gave me a good mom. She buys me everything I want and I can't believe she is my mom. She is the coolest mom in the world. That's why I love her so much. She is my world.

## This House is Haunted!

By Erick Garcia, 4th grade

There was a boy named George Junior. Every night a ghost came in his house and knocked on every door. Sometimes when George was sleeping, he would see somebody opening the door. He would ask, "Is anyone there?"

One night George was going to get some juice, and he saw a ghost. It was white and flying off the ground. It had scars all over its face and was covered with blood. The ghost said, "Hi, my name is Jaaaaarge." The kid had never seen a ghost in his life. He got scared because a ghost can go into someone's body.

George's father was dead. His name was George too. You know how ghosts can't talk very well? So he said his name was Jarge. Somebody had killed him in the house. He thought his son had done it, but he hadn't.

The boy ran to his mom and said, "Mommy, help me! I'm going to die!" The mom didn't believe him, so she said, "Oh, go to sleep." Then she heard somebody knock on her door, and nobody was there. On the wall where they slept it said: "I'm going to haunt you for your whole life."

Then the ghost went to a new house and haunted a new kid who was small and weak. The little kid was very happy because he loved ghosts. The kid wanted to capture the ghost so he could keep it forever.





**James Isidro, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

## **Mortal Kombat**

By Mariano Freytes, 4th grade

Mortal Kombat is a game for fighting. I've been playing it for over five years. I bought it at Target for \$30 plus tax. I play at home and at my friend Josh's house, after I finish my homework.

To play, you need a PlayStation 2 game system, a TV, a remote control and a Mortal Kombat disc. There are 50 players that you can pick from, and up to two players can play. I pick at least five out of the 50. They all have different powers. My favorite character is Reptile because he has a long tail and the mouth of a lizard, and he spits acid out of his mouth. Then I pick Striker because he's a really cool player: he has a gun, a taser and a grenade. The third one I pick is Sub-Zero because he has a big piece of ice with smoke coming out of it and he wears Mission Dolores colors — blue and yellow. And then I pick Scorpion because he has a little blade and a reptile that come out of his hand. Scorpion's lizard can bite someone and bring the person to him.

The winner is the person with the most life left. You lose a life by getting hit. The game can go infinite time, or 90 seconds. I like to change the time to infinite because you have to fight until you lose the whole bar of life.

I play with my friends — whoever wants to come to my house, like Josh and Emilio. I always win. I can beat Josh with two giants named Goro and Blaze. Goro has fire, four arms and four blades. Josh likes a guy named Shangsoon who can turn into other people. When he used Shangsoon once, I used a guy named Noob who can disappear, and I beat him up by disappearing.

Josh and I play at least five rounds, and then we go to another game. I learned to play by watching. I win by pressing Pause and going to the move list, and I memorize the special moves, like ice ball, tackle, electric, fire and spear. I play against grownups too. I always beat them.

## **My Dog Charlie**

By Greta Ortega, 3rd grade

My dog Charlie was so pretty. We got him from the animal shelter when he was a really little puppy. He had black spots and he loved to play catch. He would always bump other dogs and then run away.

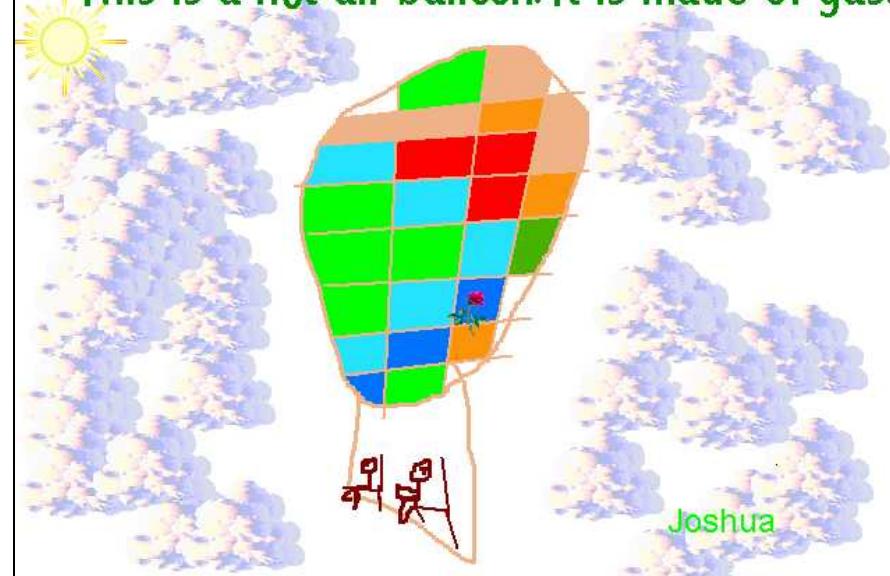
When we first got him he jumped on me and then I started to carry him. After that I was the only one allowed to carry him. He hated it when other people tried to.

He would always bark and lick me to wake me up in the morning so I wouldn't be late. He would come to my school and I would show him off because I was the only one who had a dog. When we were eating lunch he would try to eat my food.

He loved it when I rubbed his belly. When he was a puppy he wouldn't leave me alone unless he was sleeping. That's why I liked him. I had some toys and a little rope. I would make him run around the room with me, and he would bite my legs so I would fall down, and he would take whatever was in my hand. He would always make a mess with my toys. I fed him dog treats if he was good. He had a puppy bag. That's a bag that dogs sit in. You can take it wherever you want, and you can put puppy toys in it.

We had Charlie for about five years. He was a really happy dog. We had to give him away when I was 4 because my sister Lupita got an allergy for dogs. My mom called a lady who likes dogs and we gave him to her. I don't know what happened to Charlie because my mom lost the lady's phone number. I really really miss him. If I could have another pet, I would get a puppy. I would name it Sunshine and I would treat it just like Charlie.

**This is a hot air balloon. It is made of gas.**



**Joshua Martinez, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

## **The Beach Adventure!**

By Gracie Favila, 5th grade

Rockaway Beach is the most exciting beach ever! On the beach you have a great view of the horizon. The pure white foam bordering the ocean looks like little clouds. The roaring waves sound like kids jumping in a swimming pool. You can see seals in the ocean bobbing their heads.

At Rockaway Beach we climb a beautiful mountain, walk across streaming rivers, and explore the river, ocean and mountain. We search for some elegant and amazing rocks. Once we found a dead sea lion resting on blue and green rocks.

There are two mountains on the beach, one on the east side with colorful rocks, dry weeds and dirt, and one on the west

side with grasses, branches, dead bushes and mud. It is important to not climb the mountains from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. because the coyotes come out to feast on their dinner. Rockaway Beach is the best! I love having a beach adventure with my friends.

## **What I Think is Fun!**

By Esmeralda Portillo, 5th grade

I think swimming is fun and easy. First I think swimming is fun because you can exercise and do flips. I've been swimming since I was 3 years old and that's why swimming is easy for me. But you have to be careful to not drown.

I also think swimming is good because you can win awards and get money. But the bay is too cold for swimming, so in winter I swim in an indoor pool. In the summer I get to swim in an outdoor pool. Sometimes the pools are 12 feet deep. I almost drowned once because I was playing around. If your hair is colored, the Clorox in the water can make your hair have a different color.

There are games that you can play, like tag, teapot, Marco Polo and rings. You throw the rings in the water, and the person who gets the most rings wins.

If you have never swum before, you should try it. Don't be afraid to try any sport. It looks hard but when you practice, you get better.

## **Christian's Prayer**

By Christian Ralleta, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Lord, please guide me through my life in making good decisions. Help me to respect elders and help people in need. Pray for me to become a good and holy Christian. Shine your spirit on my heart. Send me a guardian angel to guard me from evil. Amen.



**Samantha Recinos, 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

## A Million Dollars

By Joshua Hilt, 4th grade

If I won a million dollars in the lottery I would buy an iPod with every song in the world and a house in Hawaii. I would live there with my mom, dad, sisters, and stepmom. I would help my mom with the bills and my brother with his cell phone bills. I would buy 10 husky dogs and a security guard. He would be tall, buff, dark-skinned and bald-headed. I would drop out of school, fight a bear and go sky diving. I would hire a teacher who was nice.

Then I would buy two flat-screen TVs, 52 inch, so I could watch my two favorite shows at once. One would be on my ceiling and the other would be on the wall. I would watch *Total Drama Island* and *6Teen*. *Total Drama Island* is about teenagers who do many dangerous things and try to win money. *6Teen* is about a bunch of teenagers hanging out at the mall with their best friends.

I would spend some of the money right away on stuff I really don't need, just to mock people with it. I would give some of the money to homeless people and shelters. I would get my security guard to drive around the world and give each poor person a hundred dollars. My security guard would know who was poor, or else he would get fired.

## In the Forest

By Riana Isidro, 4th grade

I went into the redwood forest with my pet tiger named Lorax. He became my pet when he was little and he couldn't find his mother.



Riana Isidro

I went to find people who were lost. The forest is a big, cold, creepy place. I heard a leaf crack and saw a mountain man named Mariano. He had black hair, brown eyes and bearskin clothes. He was friendly to me when he saw me. He lives in a cave.

Mariano cut an animal up and gave the fur to me because I was cold. I saw his dragon, which flies wherever he wants to go. He is 20 feet long and has red, purple and black skin. His name is Swamp Fire.

While we were walking we saw a fairy named Mireya. She was small, with short hair and proper fairy clothes. Dragonflies followed her because they were attracted to her fairy dust. Mireya was with Nataly and Josh. They were in the forest because they fell off their cruise ship while they were sleeping.

After I met these people, we found supplies and saw a boat and got into it. The boat was shot by an Indian who thought we were food. The boat was broken and smashed. We couldn't get out of the forest and kept walking. Nataly wanted to swim and she was bitten by a piranha. She put a mango leaf's juice on the bite to heal it. We all had to carry her.

Mariano the mountain man found a dead man while getting water. I had to give my tiger food, so I dragged the dead person with a rope and the tiger ate him. When Mireya was flying, she got her wings stuck on a branch. Josh cut her wings off and she couldn't fly any more.

After that we all went to a meeting place near the mountain to try to find a way out. We fell in the water and saw a boat. We got on and threw out the person who owned the boat because it was too crowded.

We got out of the forest and never went back. After a few days we bumped into each other because someone wanted to interview us for TV, and we were friends for a long time.



## Playa Azul

By Cynthia Gomez, 5th grade

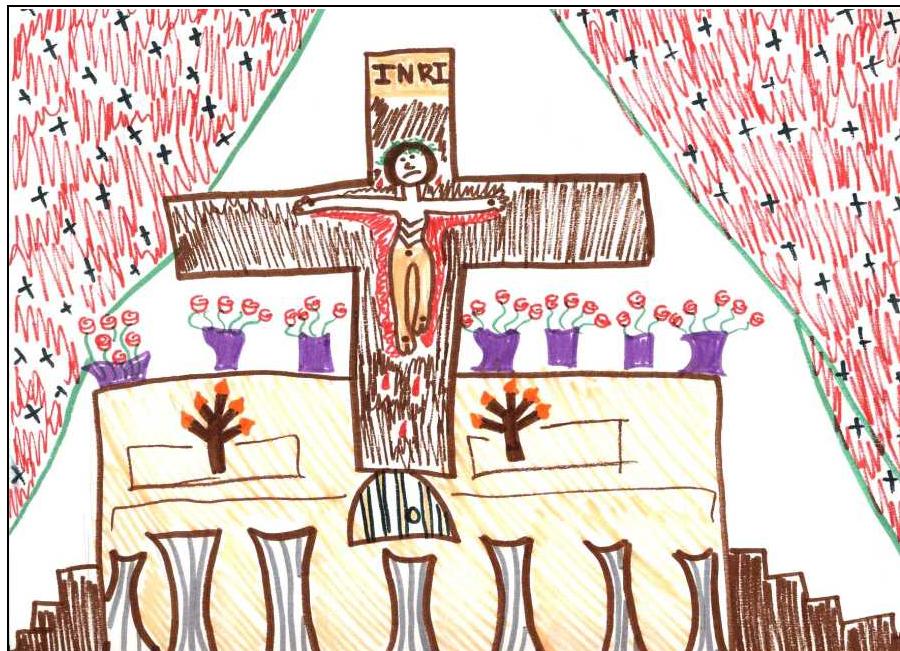
Playa Azul is my favorite restaurant. It's on Mission Street near 29th Street. The restaurant's name means "blue beach." It's a Salvadorean restaurant. I go every time there's a birthday for someone in my family. My parents give the person a surprise and they say "wow!" Six people always go: my mom, my dad, my sisters Jessica and Diana, my uncle Ricardo, and me.

The restaurant is big, it's blue, and it has pictures of birds. When they cook, the fire goes up. I like the Caesar salad. It has fried shrimp, chicken, white cheese, tomato, and lemon sauce. Everyone in my family likes to get tostadas, pupusas, fish, meat, rice and beans, and chicken. After I eat, I order a big strawberry shake with whipped cream. Some people order horchata. Older people drink margarita or Corona beer.

I like to go to Playa Azul because I am Salvadorean. My mom is from San Miguel and my dad is from Ahuachapán. I was

born in America but I have never been to El Salvador.

My mom likes to cook Salvadorean food at home but she doesn't cook as well as the restaurant. She taught me how to make tostadas and tamales. Tamales are made out of masa, chicken, potato, and the juice of the chicken. I love Salvadorean food! At Playa Azul I like to taste all my favorite food. I recommend you go there. They have a lot of food to taste.



Natalie Rose Maez, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

## Sadness

By Rodrigo Gonzalez, 7th grade

My mask represents sadness because I have passed through many things and I used to cry all the time because I was really sad. I missed my family because they lived in Mexico, so I could not see them. I was sad because two family members died when I came to the United States, and I was really hurt. So the tears from my mask represent those feelings. I did not get to go to their funeral because it was in Mexico.

I have crowns for eyebrows because when I was in Mexico, my grandparents used to pay attention only to me. I have waves on the chin because I like to swim, but one day I almost drowned in an accident: I was playing in the river and my foot got stuck in a hole and I could not get it out. Then when I was little, I was here with my mom and my sister, and my dad left us.

## Father

By Armand Caradine, 7th grade

Abandoned, left near 4 dead,  
Thousands and thousands of tears that I shed.  
I remember the day we cried and we wept  
When you got on the bus.  
I could barely stand on my feet.  
You said you'd be back and so I waited around.  
You left me forever. That's all that I found.  
When I visit you, 12 inches of glass is all that I feel.  
The love that you say will never be real.  
I love you  
But I'll probably have to wait five years to hug you.



Rodrigo Gonzalez, 7th grade

### Poetry

By Nathan Valle-Umagat, 7th grade

A poem for some is only words that rhyme  
To me these words are more precious  
These words are feelings that I've left inside  
The ones that hide  
The ones that continue to eat me alive  
And I strive  
To be free from this misery business  
That hate is continuous  
And it locks me away  
I want to be free  
I want be able to shout at the rooftops  
That I enjoy my life  
But I don't  
Instead all I have is my pencil and my book  
And these feelings that are shaken  
These words in my heart that long to be taken

I long to write poetry  
To feel someone cares  
To see that warm smile I've seen before  
And to this day it scars me more and more  
But the poetry's like a Band-Aid  
It protects all my wounds  
From injury and infection and getting hurt by you  
Poetry heals my pain and wipes away my sorrow  
It makes me thank God for today and tomorrow

Poetry is all my feelings written on paper  
Poetry is me expressing what's really inside  
And the feelings inside collide

To create this urge,  
This urge to create these words  
The words that seem to explain who I am  
Better than the words coming out of my mouth  
Because they only seem to listen to the words that rhyme  
And never pay attention to the time  
Because the time goes by and  
I am left here  
Longing, wondering and thinking  
How can I make it through tomorrow?  
Without this sorrow  
Destroying me from the inside  
Taking the love that was rightfully mine

You didn't need to help me  
Because I found the answer  
It's the poetry that answered my question  
It's the poetry that helped me find myself  
It's the poetry that got me to today without one single scratch  
It's the poetry that saved my life.



**Jeremiah Borja, 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

## **Feelings**

By Jasmine James, 7th grade

My mask full of different colors represents all the unexplainable feelings people feel. Like me: I'm the type of person who can have so many different moods in one day. I can go from being really happy to being really mad or from being sad to being excited or confident or depressed. So many people are the same way, but it's so hard to explain how you might feel. For me it's easier to explain my feelings with colors than with words.

## **The Call 20 Years from Now**

By Carlos Carillo, 7th grade

People, people please there are kids out there,  
With no brothers and no sisters and barely anyone to care,  
Their parents are at work or they don't have any at all,  
They just want someone to be there so they can play kickball,  
They are walking down the street looking for something to play,  
But when you come along you can mold their future like clay.  
And when you get a call 20 years from now,  
And there's a grown man or woman who is telling you how  
You have made them better, stronger, smarter,  
And telling you that you'll always be in their heart.



Christian Franco, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

## The Sorry mask

### **My Phobia of Spiders**

By Victor Tejada, 5th grade

My phobia of spiders is very unusual. Even if I see a picture of spiders I startle. If I see a spider I run somewhere that spider is not. If I look at a spider from a short distance, I freak out!

They are creepy and scary and I am *really* scared of tarantulas. They are big and they have hair and really big fangs. Their ancient ancestors were giant spiders the size of human beings.

Yet I am also interested in them. I do research about spiders. I read books about them and even look at scary pictures. But I am still scared.

Some people like spiders but I don't like even the smallest one. I am scared of small spiders, big spiders, hairy, dangerous, creepy and slow ones. Usually if I see a spider I get someone to kill it. I know I disrespect creation but I am really scared.

My biggest fear is seeing spiders face to face. I don't like their legs, their eight scary eyes, even their web-making body part that shoots out webs like Spider-Man. I wonder what is in their back body part.

I sometimes imagine spiders going on me and biting me. Sometimes I picture spiders in a log, millions of spiders walking, getting food, eating a dead animal. I told you how my phobia of spiders is unusual. This is why I will never get near a spider.



Giselle Andrade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

## **Grateful**

By Terilyn Choi, 8th grade

I'm grateful for the hugs that  
Cascade through my heart  
That make me feel safe  
Like a warm summer's day.

I treasure laughter that echoes  
Through my voice.  
It has a charming sound  
That binds loved ones together.

It's like a beautiful song that

You'd like to put on repeat,  
A song you can play forever.

I am thankful for my family:  
Advice shared and tears shed,  
Never forgotten,  
From never-ending stories to long lectures  
To arguments and forgiving apologies  
That have bound us tightly  
With secure love.

Silence is my savior,  
Helping me through hard situations  
And letting my mind roam free.  
I smile gladly because silence is all I need.

I'm grateful for friendship  
From laughing at silly jokes to  
Giggling at little things,  
Chatting on AIM and talking about celebrity fame.

Friendship is like a redwood tree:  
It grows and becomes strong over the years.  
Friendship is the opposite of artificial.  
It is a synonym for compassion.

These all are important in my life.  
They are like the shoelace that  
Secures me from falling  
And manages to keep me going.

I keep these words inside my heart,  
Locked up like precious jewels,

And no one can ever break through my vault.

## Emotions

By Emann Williams, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

I express anger with fire and rage.

I express happiness with smiles.

I express beauty with flowers.

I express iciness with blue water.

I express all my emotions with a mask.

So live passionately now while you can.

In the underground Garden of Eden

The happiness we struggle for is but a mirage.

O Eve of the Future,

The doll without tears,

Born of the bones of Mephistopheles,

The goddess of corruption,

Let me to your apple: let me taste it, let me bite it,

Let me savor the flavor of sin.

Inside the brains of metal

Lies a dazzling feeling of ecstasy.

It is the memory of the maidens

Who died remaining as angels.

Nobody can change the fate that's been decided.

In those days of slavery,

Under the heel of a heartless god

There is no such thing as freedom.

The only thing I can believe in

Is the smiling body lying down there.

O Adam of Ideals,

The sentinel of lies,

The device that manipulates love,

That the scientists used up all their skill to create,

Catch the snake of temptation,

Secure it, exterminate it

And let me probe the depths of darkness.

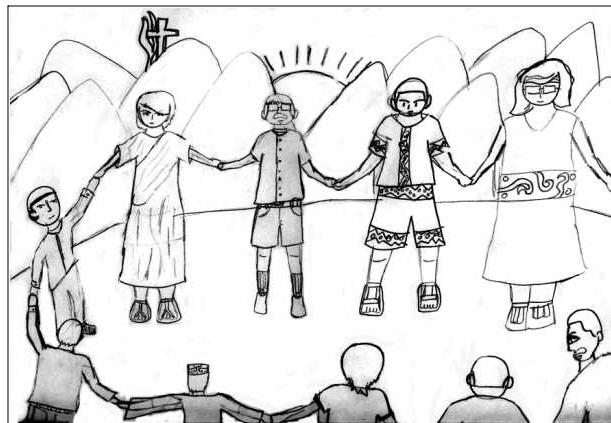
Eve of the Future,

Born of the bones of Mephistopheles

The doll without tears,

Let me to your apple: let me taste it, let me bite it,

Let me understand more of the meaning of life.



## Poem

By Mark Isidro, 8th grade

The whole city is one huge test site.

As soon as you become useless you're promptly erased.