

Welcome to **“The Coming Storm”**

“Some people feel the rain. Others just get wet.”

-Roger Miller

Close your eyes. Imagine a storm.

What words come to mind? Frightening? Unpredictable? Powerful? Devastating? We look at nature and stand in awe of it. Storms can be ominous, humbling, dark things, hovering over the horizon. To some, **The Coming Storm** can spell destruction, threatening us by just existing.

There’s something about a storm that reminds us of our vulnerability and how powerless we can be. We often misunderstand storms. Anyone working in agriculture can tell you that storms are important. They can change the face of history. Storms return life to our world. They can end heatwaves and droughts. They can put out fires and end wars. Storms are necessary. The same goes for the students at Bowman High School.

The words from Students of Bowman High School are powerful, often intimidating and misunderstood. They contain within themselves more potential than we can measure. And just like storms, they are necessary. Look inside **“The Coming Storm”** and you’ll find different weather on every page. Some a light sprinklings that make the face shine, others are devastating torrential downpours that sweep you away. The chance of precipitation is high, if you catch my meaning.

Turn the pages, enjoy the potential that dark clouds have to offer. Enjoy **“the Coming Storm.”**

-Michael Mansfield, (Creative Writing Instructor)

Time

Now's my time
My time for redemption
My time to prove
To do what I always knew I had to

Now's my chance to succeed
To be the one
To speak for the family
To show I am someone

Worth living
Worth love
Worth respect
and success

I'm able
Able to be great
Able to do great
Able to help those who've helped me

Who gave me hope
Who inspired my rise
I'm here to give back
Give back what I've taken in vain

-Josiah Harding

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The Coming Storm

Twenty-Sixth Literary Magazine

For Twenty Six Years, the students of Bowman High School have poured themselves out onto paper through prose and uncovered in the process who they are and where they stand in the world.

None of this exceptional writing would be possible without the help of a few dedicated and selfless individuals who have donated so much of themselves behind the scenes to make what happens inside these pages a reality.

First I would like to thank Principal Robin Geissler for being the biggest and most outspoken supporter of the Creative Writing program and its students, as well as having such a keen eye for poetry. We appreciate all you have given and done for us behind the scenes. You have truly helped shape our program into something wonderful and our school and its students into something special. Thank you!

Next, I would like to thank the Amy Daniels and the WiSH foundation for their generous donation which funded the publication of our book of poetry this year. We're so incredibly grateful for your help and the investment you've made in our students by giving our students this amazing opportunity to share themselves on the pages of this book!

Finally, thank you to my students. For each day you told yourself you would come to school for poetry, for accepting yourselves and each other, for learning from your own experiences and each other's journeys, for listening to me, each other and your own inner voice. It's a rare honor for me to be able to watch you discover yourselves over the year. You are an inspiration to so many. Thank you for giving so much of yourselves. Each and every one of you is a star. Thank you for shining!

--Michael Mansfield

Creative Writing Teacher

Thank you

Thank you
Thank you for shaping me
into the person I am today
when you left I realized
What has to be done and if you came back
I'd show you how much I've grown
I'll remember all the good and even the bad days
Thank you 1000's of times
It's time for me to go
I'll try the best I can
in everything I do

-Andrew Aguilar

You and I

I used to think you were the best
You were so nice and caring
I asked myself if you were the one
to make my worst days better
I know now that I was foolish
You aren't anything that I imagined
Like a wish that never comes true
You aren't the one
and I feel I've done a good job leaving you
I used to want you to be my stepmom
but real eyes realize real lies.
I see things in you I wished I'd never found out.

-Andrew Aguilar

Sis

When I hear my best friend's voice
I feel overjoyed
I think of how funny you are
I remember all the fun times we had when we
were young
When I hear her laugh
I get excited I know the voice
I feel all the love
We stay true to never switching up
And we will last forever

-Jasmyn Andrews

The Rose Petals Fall

The rose petals fall
And the tall trees move
My heart aches
But only in this world
I close my eyes & explore unknown galaxies
Where ... The rose stems drop tears of red
Roses full of thorns that have cut everything but
me
Do they smell the lovers who've once whispered
"She loves me, she loves me not?"
And the treetops sway
They begin at roots, and within are buried
season's memories
Above fall leaves only wishing to bless the purest
And I wonder if they can see the beauty in the
sky
Listen as the birds sing their sorrows away
Watch as they blissfully fly from tree tops to new
beginnings
Watch as the clouds draw their stories
Watch as their pens make no mistakes
What you read is your personalized fairy tale
And I wonder if this beauty is mine
Or can you see it too?
Do you watch above as she speaks to us?
Do you watch as they walk away from the tears
of earth ?
Do you hide when the sun is smiling?
Do they still wander across the rainbow bridge?
Or do they no longer wonder what lies beyond?

Only when I close my eyes we enjoy the tickles
of the wind and the kisses of sky.
Only when I open my heart we enjoy the purity of
her soul.

-Dreaa Arceo

The Road

Do me wrong that's okay
I'll forget, come the new day
Life and school
They both have rules
Except one will be forever
And one ends
To this day I lost many "friends"
But I received more family in the end
This life is one in a million
One chance
One in a billion

-Marc Babich

The Lesson

I was taught at a young age to treat any woman
like they are my mom or sister,
They deserve the utmost respect, even if you're
not there mister
Hold the door open when you see one walk by
Wish them a good day with a bright smile and
wide eyes
Take her in your hands and gently say
Woman, you're so beautiful
Every night and everyday
You might mess up once in awhile
But as long you keep trying
There's no point in whining
Bring her a rose or two
But don't think that'll excuse you
Most fascinating creatures God put on this planet
They'll confuse you and make you say curses
But keep in mind
You won't be here if it wasn't for one

-Marc Babich

Never Will I Ever

Never will I Ever again run through my best friend's house as it is
filled with his laughter.

Never will I Ever again see his smile upon his brightly lit face.
Never will I Ever again frustrate his older sister or play with his ever
so joy filled younger sisters.

Never will I Ever again walk down the block to spend what felt like
minutes with my bestest pal until the sun fell below the orange tinted
horizon.

Never will I Ever again have the sun beating down on my back as we
cool down in the crystal blue pool.

We were 14, maybe even 13 years old.

We were young kids, drunk on youth without a care in the world

We were the best of friends from first nervous contact

We were next to inseparable friends even to the very end

Never will I Ever again sit next to my best friend of six years and
play old school video games with him on a beaten up Xbox 360.

Never will I Ever again play hide and seek in a home with no more
light than the moon provided through closed blinds.

Never will I Ever again, with the exception of dreams, will I hear his
voice call out in laughter and joy before being silenced in my darkest
of nightmares.

Never will I Ever again find the same joy in walking down that
scorching hot tar black road.

Never will I Ever again find the same brightly lit face peering behind
dirtied white metal screen doors.

Never will I Ever again hear or say the name of my dearest without
being utterly destroyed by the thought of my oldest and dearest
friend.

Because I moved from that small town. Because I left my old life
behind.

Because I left the remnants of a former me that was shy and wasn't
outgoing.

Because I ripped off the shackles of the familiar,

I was allowed to bring on the new.

Never will I Ever forget the cold faces of strangers in a new place.

Never will I Ever forget the absence of a friend I held so dearly for
the length of years.

Never will I Ever forget the first faces that became close enough to
call friendly.

Never will I Ever forget the voice inviting me to hang out and spend
time

Never will I Ever forget the debt that led me down to the first tragic
heartbreak of my lifetime.
Never will I Ever forget the warm voice that I learned to love so
much.
Never will I Ever forget the countless hours in close comfort with the
person whom I believed to be perfect.
I was a fool
I was a fool lost in the perfect impersonation of happiness
I was a fool led down an avenue I should never have found.
I was a fool blinded by the promises of a good happy life.
I was a fool rejecting the truth that became so clear, clear like crystal,
looking back
And because Never will I Ever forget the previously unobtainable joy
that swelled through my heart like anticipation at the top of a roller
coaster.
Never will I Ever forget the steady decline that followed after what
seemed like months of pure bliss.
Never will I Ever forget the cold shower of reality and emptiness that
swept through my emotions like a tidal wave.
Never will I Ever forget the hours left in solitude with nothing more
than my thoughts.
Never will I Ever forget the unquestionable loneliness that was left in
my heart without what I believed to be the true love of my life.
Never will I Ever stop trying to escape the emotionless pit I found
myself so deep in.
Never will I Ever stop waking in the middle of the night in cold sweat
from the nightmares that resides in my memories.
Never will I Ever stop hearing the voices of people from my past both
near and far, all the people I've failed, all the people who have left
me cold and in pain.
Never will I Ever stop writing this poem because my story hasn't
ended yet.

-Alexander Baumgarten

I'm With You

I'm with you at your weakest.
I'm with you through the good and bad.
I'm with you when you feel like giving up, I'll be there to
give you a boost.
I'm with you when times are rough.
I'm with you when you feel alone.
When you don't know whether you should eat the
Last fry or give it to me.
I'm with you in the passenger seat to be that pain in the
butt
you miss when I'm gone.
I'm with you when things hit rock bottom.
I'm with you till the end
And I know you'll be there for me too.

-Jasmin Borjas

My Giant

My giant used to be the biggest tree ever.
I would be so happy to see it always there.
My giant's voice is deep
And would make me scared
to see him raise his voice.
My giant is special to me to this day.
He stood 1000 feet tall
and would say that he loved me.
I felt loved by my giant.
My giant is the most amazing man in the universe and
I wouldn't want any other giant to replace him.
I love you dad!

-Jasmin Borjas

I Used To Be Scared

I used to be scared, and hide under the blankets in
my room.

I used to create monsters in my head.

I used to think monsters were fictional,
but now I know monsters are just people.

I want to believe everyone has a beautiful soul.

I will have hope again, in time.

I am getting better.

I used to be insecure about my scar and cover it
with foundation.

I used to think it was ugly because I was
different.

I used to take pictures with one side of my face,
but now I know it is a part of me,
and I love that I have it.

I want people to see that unique is good.

I will forever regret that I used to think down on
it.

I'm getting better.

-Kirstyn Brewer

Bed of Sadness

Sadness is an overwhelming emotion, right?
Sadness just tells your conscience to stumble into bed.
You like being in bed because then you fall asleep and
forget everything.

Just for a couple minutes, hours even, You're at peace.
For once. But you wake up, like a flame your light drags
on through the day, your energy drains, your sadness just
wants you to crawl back into bed.

Your mind, whispering, saying sleep, I can't take all this
stress.

So get into bed! You fall asleep.
But you're terrified because a nightmare appears and you
trip over anxiety and land in a face full of insecurity, you
then wake up.

You have streams of water running down your face.
Now what was peaceful and let you leave society, is now
ruined.

What can you do?

The only thing that allowed you to be in a quiet state of
mind where nothing could harm you is now being torn to
shreds by thoughts of anger and fear.

What can you do?

Back to bed, sadness says.

But you don't want to get back into bed, but it's like
you're being forced to.

You want to uncover yourself from the tear stained pillow
covers and blankets, but you're chained to the bed.

No.

You can't get up.

Then all the sudden you feel a heavy presence holding
you down, it isn't the chains.

It's something else.

What could it be?

It's sadness

Back to bed.
You can't go out tonight, sadness says.
Your mind is filled with resentment and loneliness.
You want to get up but you're forced to stay in bed.
Then suddenly you are being sunken into a pitch black pit
of nothing.
You're alone.
Being dragged into oblivion.
What is this?
A dream? A thought? A memory?
You're not with people, a crowd.
You start talking but no one pays attention to your empty
words.
Confused you talk louder. Still, no reaction.
Alone in a crowded room?
Not rare.
In bed again.
It's a pattern.
Go away sadness,
No, I'm here to say, sadness says.
I'm your roommate that pays rent to clog your mind.

-Kirstyn Brewer

Inner demons

To everybody who tried to help me
I'm truly sorry
The things I've done effected not just me
It affected you too and I know that's true

I've disappointed
And feel it would be better if I just disappeared
All the things I've done
Left me with a large fear
All my teachers and family
They've always had my back
Always giving me a second chance
Trying to get me back on track
But I never took the opportunity
To save myself

I've learned many skills
How life could be difficult
If you don't try to do things right
There's always an obstacle in the way
The biggest are the inner demons that you face

-Josiah Harding

Stranger on the Train

To the stranger on the train
The words Hello have never had the courage to
leave my lips, but the anxiety driven wave leaves
my body like a child excited to see its mother
I have always wanted to meet a stranger on the
train

Old, young maybe a friend, my soulmate
Mystery and curiosity take its course as I start to
see you in my peripheral
I never realized how far away you sit
When I want to whisper a Hello
you can't hear, constraint of my voice
We are split like the red sea on this moving train
Move closer before this train ride is over and our
fairy tale ends and our eye contact war begins
Is this seat taken? Are the first words you said to
me, the only words that you needed to say
In the sea of strangers,
I was the prize winner, the gold medal on my
chest, the reflection shining in your eyes
gleaming like the day we first met
Where we shared our first glance on this train
I found you stranger, my stranger, The words I
tell you, on my last train ride.

-Jessa Cady

Lucifer

Life in the now, the only time that exists, is a blank
sheet of paper.

The night sky waiting to be illuminated by a
firework.

We draw everything.

Each character, the setting, the whole story.

Though unfortunately most paint with their eyes
closed.

Somewhere down the line our blank sheet erected
boundaries and lines and turned into an unoriginal,
fill-in-the-blanks, coloring sheet that we reprint and
fill in daily.

But we keep ourselves here. Sometimes we even like
it.

To have someone else to show us where to move.

But the truth is, the lines don't even exist.

These boundaries are nothing more than deeply
rooted illusions.

Just like the idea that anybody but ourselves are
drawing out reality for us at all.

Or that beauty has a specific form and our self worth
and love must be conditional.

We seem to have forgotten about the thousands of
colors we keep locked away in storage.

I AM the artist, the art, and the clear canvas.

I AM the light bearer, son of the morning.

Though my pencil may run dull, it shall always be
sharpened again, for EYE AM the dawn that emerges
from dusk. I AM truly infinite.

-Alec Calderon

Ego of Man, Heart of God

The prideful man boasts his chest.

He takes his pride in his story.

His story is where his sense of self-worth and
masculinity derives from.

What would he be if it wasn't for his story?

The man boasts his chest while the god exalts his
heart, for the heart remains beating long after the
story has been told.

The man thinks, while the god knows.

The man claims to be, while the god is.

The god embraces , exalts, and exerts the fervent, raw
essence of the heart.

The god leads, follows, walks, talks, sees, hears,
feels, and knows with his heart.

The god knows that the masculine energy of the mind
is lost, if it is not to follow and serve his queen, the
heart.

The god never walks in fear, for fear does not exist
within the truth of the heart.

Though appearing hard as stone, the man who
boasteth himself is but an egg.

Humpty Dumpty also had a hard shell at one point.

-Alec Calderon

Love

You can't have love without hate
I believe this to be true because everyone hates
something

But everyone also has something to love

You can't have hate without love

You can't make a relationship stronger
If you don't learn from the hate you've caused
each other

You can't learn from your own mistakes if you
don't learn to hate

You need to learn to hate because it's what
people know best

To know something that everyone in the world
knows is everything

You learn from what you already know

And you learn to love it

Because without hate

There is no

Love

-Trevor Calhoun

A n x i e t y

I didn't really care for your departure
Although I should have
I didn't
You've always mistreated me
Made me break down
I can't make it seem harder on me
It wasn't
It isn't
For the one you call broken
Isn't as broken as it seems
Instead he is filling the cracks you made
With cement made of neglect

-Trevor Calhoun

Us

The way you look at me fills my heart with such
glee.

We go together like trees in the breeze.
Your coffee brown eyes have me falling for you
every time.

It even starts to make me rhyme.
When you speak it's like music to my ears.
I could listen to you for years.

We have a love that vibes like a song.
Look how our love is so strong, nothing can
break us apart because our love comes from the
heart.

You and me until the end of time.
Until the day I die, you will be forever mine.

-Deija Chabolla

SELF MADE

Court has got me worried
P.O isn't sleeping
She calling my phone like I'm her man
Annoyed with my bad decisions
I ask myself will it ever be different
My feet are sore as of this point
I feel like I lost my soul
But I truly know it's still with me
All the things that you went through
I never meant to put you through it twice.

-Matt Chavez

I'm With You

When the pain is too strong to bare,
I'm with you.

When the words are shot at you like a gatling gun
and you don't know how to give a rebuttal, I'm
with you.

When you can't tell right from wrong and there is
no end in sight,
I'm with you.

When you work and work and work, with no rest,
I'm with you.

When your head is hung low and you want to
give up,
I'm with you.

When you feel alone in a fight you'll never win,
I'm with you.

When life has thrown too many curveballs and
you just want to strike out,
I'm with you.

If you ever feel like you need some help but don't
know who to ask,
I'm with you.

Through the thick and thin,
I will ALWAYS be with you.

-Aidan Cockerell

Dreams

Never lose your dream.

Never lose yourself.

Never restrain from love.

Never hurt your beloved.

Your daydream may not be reality now.

But soon you will be saying "chow!"

Far away never to return. Turn to your loved
ones.

Say goodbye because you're following your
dreams now.

-Carlee Commons

Capricorn

Capricorn Horoscope

Your friends with the grindstone.

Today is far from an exception to reality,

Mars collaborates with Jupiter

to make your day productive.

Like someone plugged you into the universal
electrical outlet,

and you're fully charged and ready to make all the
progress you can.

The moon sign reinforces your natural goal
rhythm,

while quietly reminding you that persistence
leads to success.

Light, what is light?

Can anything be light?

What does light mean to you?

Light can be inspiration in yourself or others.

Light can be a way of starting your day.

Gone when I hear your voice.

I think of you being born,

I remember when I first saw you,

I heard you scream.

When I smell your scent,

I feel you near.

I remember you for the first time, and wish for
you to be here.

Your pain when I hear you scream,

I think of your pain.

I remember when you cried,
I hear it like it was just yesterday.
When I smell the tears on your face it causes me
pain, I feel empty.
I remember your pain,
and I wish for the pain to go away.
-Ahtziry Cruz

You Changed Me

The best day of my life,
Was the day you came into my life,
On that day I had a new meaning to life,
The world is timeless,
And time itself seems infinite with your around,
The best day of my life,
Was when you became apart of it,
When I thought of my best day was when you
came into my life.
-Ahtziry Cruz

Departures

You left me alone.
I am by myself filled with power.
You left me to hurt I am hurting
But I'll be alright
You left me to rot
I have decayed now getting ready to bloom
You left me wondering
I am lost and confused and finding my way
You left me broken
I am a bunch of scattered pieces
A beautiful puzzle
You left me empty
I am vacant
Your poison has left me
You left me nothing
I am everything that you never left me
And I am letting you go.

-Scarlett Cuevas

Blackbird

Haven't you heard?
The word or sounds of a sweet blackbird
Asleep yet woken
Pleasure in treasure is a token
Broken wing of a spoken thing
A king to the ring
To bring a warning curse or lucky blessing
Morning and evening
Ending a new beginning
Sing to me
You are everything to me
Haunting song of your soul
It's okay to feel how you are now it is not wrong which could make us whole
Symbolism of anger and danger
Stranger and changer
Real forever, fake never
Heal my feather and deal my leather
Let us walk and talk together
Above the clouds and under the heather
Sweet blackbird, knew, grew and flew through any weather
And I said,
Sweet blackbird, sweet blackbird, sweet blackbird
Until the end of time, After war by crime
Sigh, the sky is when you really high
Please don't you cry, appease, won't you try?
You are sly and you can fly
Please don't die, please don't lie
Why you shy?
You are hurting, well so am I
Come with me, he or she
See we three are free to be the tree
Sink the sea and flee
Wink the eye, bye-bye
They cannot defy or deny you
Weeping willow on the sleeping pillow
Took the road less traveled by train
Landed on the window pane in the rain of pain simple and plain
To think more thoroughly about your life now you must use your second
sight not fight
That's right
This is a moment you've been searching for
as a ghost at night
On a coast flight, stars bright
And there's a blinding might inside of you
Very special, you should learn from what is in front or behind you
Past that's history

Future that's mystery
Present that's gift
Raise up and lift
Love is the best answer, enhancer and romancer
Hate is the worst cancer and dancer
Abandon your nest, Stand in your test, There you go rest
Wind can blow, Fire can grow
Water will flow, Ground will snow
Sun and Moon glow
The more you know of the crow
So follow the show
One for sorrow, two for borrow
Three for tomorrow
Four by wealth, five by health
Six by stealth
Seven is grown, eight is shown
Nine is unknown, but ten, you are on your own
Spread your message of but remember to have read the presage
There is a safe haven even for a deadly behaving raven
A maven that is braven
In the garden, heavy with flower blossoms, perfume in air
Beware and be aware
Are you all listening to your living heart and tuning into the voice of its call?
Far away is the first old dark night, giving birth to the final light cold day
They say
The truth ain't pretty
But from that mouth
The lies is pity
Cause you aren't going south
And you got plenty, you just get me
Open your jaw and caw
Aw, yeah you so cute, I am in awe
Made it out alive, made it out alive
We need your life, we need your life
Sweet blackbird, sweet blackbird, sweet black bird

-Abraham Dalgan

My Tomorrows

Tomorrow I am reborn
My tomorrows are the death of today
My tomorrows are made of the ash of yesterday
My tomorrow is different
Tomorrow means a new dawn
Tomorrow is how I say greetings and farewell
Tomorrow will not come, because tomorrow is
now.

-Landon Ditorio

The Best things

The best things in life are fleeting
The best things in life wither
The best things disappear
The best end is a loving one
The only things that matter are loved
The only things in life worth loving
Are those that do not last
So love them while they do

-Landon Ditoro

I see an old picture of me

I see an old picture of me
I see fresh flesh
That never saw the grave
There are red veins and whole skin
And the thought of a new brain
That makes me feel alive
I see the face of a victim
With latent horror in their eyes
There are worms now and rotting skin
And an empty head
That makes me feel hungry
I wish I were not a zombie

-Landon Ditoro

Hey there

Hey there, do you remember me?
I'm the one who was there for you when no one
else was.

I'm the one that loved you when no one else did.

I'm the one who you wanted forever with.

Hey there, do you remember me?

I'm the one that stood by you even when you
were wrong.

I'm the one who no longer loves you.

I'm the one that can no longer stand by you.

I can no longer stand the thought of forever with
you.

Hey there, do you remember me?

-Alexis Doroginsky

I'm getting better

I used to be happy
And go out with friends
I used to think I was happy
I used to have fun
But now I know it wasn't real
I want to be happy
I will do what I have to in order to be happy
I'm getting better

-Alexis Doroginsky

Yellow boy

Tomorrow, tomorrow is a concept.

A feeling of hope of tomorrow.

Yesterday is pain, the feelings of regret and hate
and guilt that can never be taken away.

Today I am numb, broken, beaten past the point
of no return and because of yesterday no one
believes me.

No one believes the pain it's right there and no
one can see the truth.

Had to lie to protect someone I love and now I
am reaping the consequences and the hate is
growing.

The hate is so unbelievably strong and the razor
has found its way back to my brain.

My thoughts are knives that would slit wrists, and
I have no hope.

I have no tomorrow.

I have no want for tomorrow when my today
hates me.

My today left because I lied and hurt and took
and never gave, the self-hate is on my sleeve yet
no one notices and I wish I could take it back.

I wish he could see the regret I feel and the wish
to make it up to him when in reality I know there
is no turning back.

He is yellow, a symbol of happiness and hope
that I love and his love is strong and primal and
in fear I threw it away and the regret is here to
stay.

While my brain is telling me there is no
tomorrow, my heart is showing me the wonder
and I am slowly growing up
and I hope that the feelings will come back
and the regret I feel will always be there
but I'm learning to deal
and even if I have hope for forgiveness
I will not accept because I plan to deserve it,
the self hate is still there
but I am shining through
and hope for tomorrow.
Because tomorrow is life
and hope and a smile and him.

He is tomorrow and I'm doing this for him, he
will never know and never feel the love because
of the trust broken but this is tomorrow and
tomorrow is today and today I am ready for
change

-Alanna Elliott

January 17

"Estas son las mañanitas que cantaba el rey
David..."

I can still hear the love in his voice.

I can see the chimuela smile, with his two front
teeth missing.

I can hear his voice sing to me as I wake up in the
morning.

Daddy's little girl.

I smell the black coffee he made us every
morning.

I can hear the cumbias, the drums, and yet again
your voice.

Daddy's little girl.

I can still remember it was just you and I dad.

I can still remember feeling the comfort as soon
as you embraced into that bear hug.

I can still laugh at all the impersonations you
would do for me.

Even though times change and people grow apart
I'll always be daddy's little girl.

-Melissa Espinoza

Where Do I Run?

Where do I run to, when the unbearable wave of
sadness, roaring, fills my heart?

How do I make the tears that tremble down my
pale yellow face stop?

Who can I speak to about the feeling of being a
burden and not being accepted won't go away?

Where do I run to when the person I love the
most can stare into my glossy red eyes, can
visually see, and feel the pain in my soul, yet still
not feel for me?

How do I grasp the attention of another energy if
my solemn weary soul is perishing?

I cry a slow song.

I carry a heavy weight.

I drag my biggest disappointments behind me.

So tell me, where do I run to, when I can no
longer stand on my own two feet.

-Melissa Espinoza

Life

As I walk along the street
I see cars
I see people walking
I see wildlife

I see life
But don't see people living
I don't see people enjoying their life
Nor cherishing their life

People fail to realize how beautiful life is
And how special life is
And how you can impact others
All I see is stress

Stress from school
Or work, or just things going on at home
We need to stop stressing
Look around

And see the beauties
And wonders of life
Just breathe, relax
And enjoy your amazing life

-Karla Ferrer

Not My Fault

It's not my fault
It's yours
I know that's hard to hear
But it's the truth
I understand you tried your hardest
But that wasn't good enough
You did what you thought was best for me
That wasn't good enough
You made me lie for you
You made me cover for you
I lost someone's trust
You never had it
I lost someone's love
You never had that either
You just wanted to live your life
But you took away mine in the process

-Karla Ferrer

I am the Captain of my Soul

I am the Captain of my Soul
I alone have reign over it
I will protect
My will is strong I control my destiny
My life is as valuable as everyone else's is
I set sail for horizon
And control what may lay ahead of it
I am the Captain my soul

-Lorenzo Garcia

Tomorrow...

Tomorrow I'm only existing once more
My tomorrows are just another day
My tomorrows are made of a mixture of emotions
My tomorrow is just another day
Tomorrow means another day for opportunity
Tomorrow is how I say, "I'll see you again"
Tomorrow I won't let slip through my fingers
Because tomorrow I am more than existing

-Lorenzo Garcia

The 'Best' Mistaken for the Worst

I've seen the best minds of my generation
Entertained by social media,
Crushed by other's opinions,
Understood by almost nobody.
I've seen the greatest minds of my generation
disintegrate,
Lose confidence,
Lose consciousness of reality,
And lose a positive mindset.

-Nikolas Garcia

Travel the Unknown

I will go to Fiji
If I ever have the money.
I'll never go to space
Unless I become an astronaut.
I will travel the earth and discover its beauty.
I will try to see as much of the world as possible.
I'll never get to see 100% of the world
If I do not start my journey now.

-Nikolas Garcia

To forget

I can't forget the green grass
I can't forget the flowers blooming
I can't forget how the sun shined so bright
But I forgot all the good in you
I forgot the color in your eyes
I forgot the way you would oh so care about me
I forgot that bright smile
I used to look up to you
You were my guardian angel so I thought
I try to remember why I was so gullible
I now will not forget the truth
You are not pure as a newborn baby
You are not who you promised to be
I will never forget the feeling of repulse
I wish I could forget the bad
Because now all this is a total drag

-Sofia Gonzalez

The Room of my Life

Here in the room of my life
There are flowers hanging
Bright orange walls filled
The four corners
I see the clouds moving
The coming storm
On the ceiling
Window
I see glass dolls
Smiling at me
But then the room of my life was changed
Here in this room of my life
Faces looked at me
Here the walls
Were melting black
Like a candle
No light
No clouds
But darkness
There are black and blue sights
Smiles and love
I think not
More evil
Grins
And frowns

-Sofia Gonzalez

Scents

It's crazy to think how impactful scents can be
I have many favorite scents
I have scents that bring negative energy
I love the smell of ink and fresh lawn clippings
I hate the smell of gasoline and cigarettes
Some people may love the scent of cigarettes
I had a friend tell me he loves the scent of them
because they remind him of his family
My mom smokes, and has since I was born but I
have hated the scent
Maybe it's because it reminds me that my great-
aunt died to lung cancer because she smoked
Everyone has their own memory linked to scent
This is why smell is my favorite sense

-Alana Greedy

Space

It's crazy to think about how vast the universe is.

Space, endless space.

We do not know the entire magnitude up there.

Constant debate whether we share the galaxy
with other life forms.

It is also quite scary to think about

How one day our sun, what gives us life, will
engulf our earth,

And no longer grant our existence.

It saddens me to think how our beautiful Earth
will be gone in several billion years.

The beautiful animals we have come to discover,
our furry companions, the gorgeous forests will
be gone forever.

I believe there are other planets out there that
contain life form.

There is no saying what type of life form it may
be

Or whether it will parallel ours,

But there is hope,

bittersweet;

One day our planet, and possibly our Solar
System will cease to exist.

But there is hope for other life.

-Alana Greedy

I'm Fine

I said too much,
that I'm fine,
That I don't need help.
I'm fine,
I'm fine.

I know the right words to say
like the script for those
who don't know how to speak.

Phrases that are believable,
A smokescreen to evade the weakness
I'm just feeling a bit sick today,
I'll be fine

There's no medicine for words
No prescription I can go to the drugstore to fill
What fills my addiction
Is the attention I shove and shy away
I'm just tired today.

I dream all day,
distracting myself from the problem

Yet when I have the chance to truly escape them,
I can't close my eyes.

Laying there, going in between distraction and
worry,

I'll be okay.

I'm doing better than before,
I'm not okay

But all in all
I'm fine

-Breana Greedy

Hey There

Do you remember me?
I'm the man who taught you right from wrong
I'm the man that showed you the ropes
I'm the man who said its ok
Do you remember me?
I'm the man that was there for you whenever you
needed me
I'm the man who said call whenever
I'm the man that will love you forever

-Cameron Hannoun

One Day...

This day is about life
This day is for you
This day will mean everything to you
This day is filled with love
This day is missing nothing
This day needs you there
This day I am all yours
This day will be fulfilling
This day will be the best day of your life

-Cameron Hannoun

The Names

My name is Dane
and I almost wish sometimes that my name had a
meaning behind it
but nonetheless it is a uncommon name and I like
that.

I have had many names and I believe the first
nickname I had was in the 4th grade well it was
really more of an insult,

"Danish muffin", one of my least favorite.

I do have a personal favorite nickname would
have to be skittles

I was given that name because I was wearing a
pair of really colorful Osiris shoes
I'm pretty sure no one has anymore.

One that I truly liked
was when people would call me
Fallon
that one I enjoyed very much.

-Dane Hanson

Do you remember me?

Do you remember me?

I'm the girl who cried wolf

I'm the girl that is broken

I'm the one who you left scars

Do you remember me?

I'm the one that stayed strong

I'm the princess who never let her tiara fall

I'm the girl that still got hurt

-Ariana Harless

You

When I hear your name
I think of your smile
I remember when our hands touched
I hear your voice and it warms my heart
When I smell the smell of your jacket
I feel butterflies
I remember the first time we made eye contact
And I wish for you to stay in my life forever

-Ariana Harless

Young and Nothing Special

I am 17.

I do understand I am not an adult.

I do understand that my life is just beginning.
But please tell me what does the “real world”
mean?

Teachers claim once, twice, three, times a day
they’re preparing us for the real world
as if the last 17 years of my life has been a free
demo of a game.

I have the thought that my life will mean nothing
if I do not attend college injected in my veins.

I have been taught that my words are worthless,
lost in an abyss, if not typed in size 12 font Times
New Roman.

Seventeen years,
I’ve lived through life, death, heartbreak, pain,
beauty, hatred, and love
yet that is not enough to make me worth
something.

My words and life’s meaning are lost in the wind
unless I hold a paper in my hands titled
“diploma.”

Seventeen.

I have my heart in my throat,
Shaky hands and knees,
A loss of breath
To stand here and speak words that mean
something to me
That could make a difference to someone;

But, these pure words of truth and emotion are
not getting me my diploma,
So I guess they're worthless.
I'm not graduated, therefore I am useless.
Please, all of our unheard voices ask you to tell
me I'm wrong.
Tell me you see me and all alike we are
intelligent people with great passion,
no matter our education.
Tell us we are worth something.
I don't care who you are or what you've done
We are all humans.
Do not make me or anyone else feel we are less
than
worth something.
We are misunderstood and trying.
Please.

-Hailee Hayes

Crushed

I've seen the best minds of my generation,
Entertained by hard euphoria
Crushed by pills
Understood by the random

I've seen the best moments
The times we did things
Crushed by those
Understood by him and them

The best: no longer.

-John Hebert

Old

I see an old picture of me
I see a happy me that is naive
There are smiles everywhere
The trees are skyscrapers
And a smell that makes me feel at home

I see the face of an angel
There are no repercussions and endings
And a sight that gives off nostalgia
I wish it was the same

-John Hebert

Memories

Memories of you are bitter sweet
Like a trapdoor of love and depression
They say memories fade
I believe the most important ones never do
Memories of laughs and memories of tears
How happy we were
So many days of adventures
And nights of fears
Unpredictable conversations
How sure we were that the world was ours
Memories,
Like a garden carried in the heart
And I am the worst at knowing how to manage
the flowers

-Melvy Hernandez

Pops

You were supposed to keep me safe
You were supposed to wipe my tears
You were supposed to show me what love is
You were supposed to keep me from a heartbreak

You were supposed to be the realist man I know

Because of you I can't show people love because
to you showing how you feel is a sign of
weakness

And I would never want to disappoint you

You were supposed to make me feel loved

but how ironic is it that you were the first to
break my heart

-Melvy Hernandez

Memory

They say memories fade faster than lightning,
I believe it is true to those memories that have no
meaning to it only.

My memory of you will never go away,
And even if you didn't notice at all how much
you meant to me.

My memory of you still brings butterflies to my
stomach,

Memories are like capturing pictures and videos,
But they are all in your head.

I wish I was able to capture those memories in
person.

You went away faster than I could even say
goodbye.

-Adriana Herrera

Help

I have lost myself again
I am stuck underground
 Calling for help
But no one seems to listen.
I am reaching out my hand
 To see if anyone finds it
But no one seems to see it.
I wonder if I'll ever be found
 If not
Then I'm stuck underground
 Drowning in my tears
Until I float myself back up.

-Adriana Herrera

Missing You

I haven't seen you in a while
I haven't spoken to you in forever
I haven't asked to see you in forever
I haven't tried texting you to tell you how much I
 miss you
I didn't mean to do this to you
I didn't want to do that to you
I didn't know this would happen
But please know that I miss you

-Craig Hudak

El Dorado

Down the valley of self-hate
Over the hills of feeling alone
Through the streams of tears
And around the woods of negative thoughts
Beyond the anxiety
Just past the sad memories
Into the oceans of puppies
There you will find it, El Dorado
Forget about the past,
There is nothing that you can change now
But you
You are the source of your own
El Dorado

-Nikita Intal

Before

Life used to be simple
when I was young
People would love me
We would dream about being older
And laugh about everything
Things used to be simple because I was a child
But now that I'm older
I wish I could go back
I want to be free and happy
Life used to be simple when we were young
People would treat me as their world
We would dream about being in high school
And laugh about the thought of boys
Things used to be simple because we were young
But now that we're older
We wish we could go back
And enjoy the simple life

-Nikita Intal

Beware! There's Wolves

They tell me stories and fill me with happiness
We go on adventures that seem to last a lifetime
They make me feel happy but they stare at me
 with bloodstained smiles
 They give me a sense of belonging
 With them, I am no longer alone
They make me feel safe though in reality I am
 vulnerable
 They will rip your happiness away
The time you once shared will become distant
 memories
 Making you feel safe was just the predator
 moving in for the kill
You thought they showed you love but there is a
 hole where their heart once was
 You thought they wanted you in their life but
 they just wanted attention
Once they're done with you, they'll move onto
 the next prey
 The wolves are ruthless
They don't care who they hurt on their rampage
You were just another helpless sheep to them
 Beware of the wolves in sheep's clothing
 They will eat you alive
 Only bones will be left

-Jordan Isiordia

I Lived and Died in 7 Ways

I lived 7 times in 7 ways
I lived when I felt your lips
When I drove by myself for the first time
When I first saw my horses and rode them
When I witnessed some of the beauties this earth
has to offer
When I traveled out of the country alone
When I could say the words “I love you” to
someone who wasn’t family
When I played with fire and got away unscathed

But I also died 7 times in 7 ways
I died when I tried and I failed
When I was told I wasn’t good at something I
loved doing
When I crashed my car
When I had to give my dog away
When best friends became distant memories
When I saw my mom cry

-Jordan Isiordia

NORMAL GIRL

It's like I'm alive
But I'm not alive
Rides out
The days the night
Got caught in a hurricane
Running like a hopeless child
From a nightmare I haven't forgot
Can't tell if I'm sane or I've lost my sanity
It's like I'm alive but I'm not alive
I cannot breathe
Well I can but...
I feel like I'm drowning in a mist of my thoughts
My emotions
Devine at seventeen
102 in my neuro
Desperate to feel
Waiting
And waiting
For something to miraculously grasp
My pure essence
Just cater it
I haven't
I need to
But what's death to a dead girl
It's like I'm alive but I'm not alive

-Maimuna Khan

DEAR ME

I know my faith
My future family will be straight
I'm working till my brain bleeds
I thank the universe for the support
Never leaving my side when I needed you most
Thank you for loving me when I didn't even say it
Always found a way to bloom
That's when I say
You grow Girl
Know I'm talking to the moon
I shine
I glow
Dear me
Thank you for picking up the pieces when you
didn't want to flourish
Now we're going to do it big
To show you why you were always worth it

-Maimuna Khan

Us

Things are different
I've lost you
You got me
I've grown up
You haven't
I miss you
You don't miss me
I love you
You never loved me
I try to move on
You keep pulling me in
I try to leave
You make me stay
I try to love you
You don't make it easy

-Derek Larson

I'm With You

I'm with you
And our love is gold
Without you I feel cold
You strengthen me
You show me love
I wait all day
For your hugs
You want me forever
I want you too
Our love is exciting
It's static too
No matter what happens
I'm With You!

-Derek Larson

Do you remember me?

Do you remember me?
I'm the girl who made you smile
I'm the girl that stood up for you
I'm the girl who made you feel important
Do you remember me?
I'm the girl the welcomed you to be my friend
I'm the girl who gave you the world
I'm the girl that changed your life forever.

-Casey Leiva

Happy Ever After

Once upon a time life was simple
Things ended with happily ever after
but one day
Cinderella didn't make the ball
and twice upon a time her dreams didn't come
true
but do not worry
Once upon a time
her heart was broken too
and twice upon a time
the glass slipper did not fit
and she did not live happily ever after
with prince charming.

-Casey Leiva

Him

He made me smile
And he made me cry
For a year I was stuck in a lie
And for some reason I wanted to say
But one day I had enough
So I finally said goodbye
Free from pain and tears
Yet I still think of him
But when I think of him I don't miss him
It just makes me happy that I'm not in that
position anymore

-Kimberly Lima

I know

I know how he feels
We went through it together
He went through it worse
And I know what happened
I know that he still hurts
He takes his anger out on video games
He punches stuff when he's mad
But that's because he doesn't know what to do
He's not easy to talk to
Even though I never show how much I care
I hope he knows that I love him
I'll never understand how he really feels
But I hope that he can stop fearing his past

-Kimberly Lima

I needed you

I needed you there when I was a kid
Saw nothing but fear in all that you did
Just needed a dad to show me the way
As you sat back and pushed me away

I cried in my room with nothing but fear
Feeling pressure and shredding my tears
I ran out the house feeling lost and ashamed
Hoping God will make it go away

I am now older and still pretty scared
Hoping as time goes on I can be spared
As all is not done and still roams in the air
I shall be strong and keep saying my prayer

Now I can see that you never really cared
But as I got older you say you wanted me there
It's too late and all that you did
I won't forgive you as long as I live

-Mark Lima

The Boy

The boy was alone
for the most part
No friends
but he has a big heart
He only saw sadness and grey
Praying tomorrow would be a better day
He wished he could of
had a friend
One who was real
not one that's pretend
He just wanted to make people smile
Even if it only happened once in awhile
You see the boy was scared
And also aware but mostly lost in constant despair
not a single hand to reach for in care.

-Mark Lima

All is not Lost

You may feel like you're trapped
And hear nothing but your thoughts
You may say life is not this pain
And you're like in a lost dream
You may catch yourself at your lowest point
And you're like I don't want this pain anymore
And for some reason you feel cold
But you should know
all is not lost

-Mark Lima

Hey, Rose!

Hey Rose!

How are you Rose?

Are you passing Rose?

Do you do your work without slacking Rose?

Come on Rose... you're better than that Rose.

You need to succeed.

Put down the paint...get out a book and start to
read.

How's your GPA?

Looking a little bit better today?

No?

Oh Rose.

Stop acting like a failure it is NOT okay.

You can't stay at that school, it isn't for you

Drop out kids and criminals, no,

you need to go back

Stop dancing Rose and do your homework,

you have no time to slack

You're a senior now,

your time is running low

Put down the makeup Rose,

this isn't a show

You must work hard and get where you need to
go.

Oh yes, college that's right!

How's that going?

Have you applied?

No?

Oh dear. How sad.

Rose is already turning out bad.
My goodness stop singing Rose, take off that
gown
Stop trying to impress, you look like a clown.
Don't worry, you'll be fine. Get out a textbook
and turn to chapter nine.
Keep your head in the books, stop looking
outside
You aren't an artist or dancer, Rose, those things
must subside
Don't worry, you'll see.
A doctor or lawyer is who you want to be.

-Rose Lopez

A Feeling of Ruin

I try to hold myself back but this feeling burns inside of
me

It burns like a tiny water droplet hitting hot oil
It sparks like a firecracker when it first hits the pavement

This feeling

It creeps up my back like a cold chill

It pounds on my chest like a prisoner in a cell

It needs to come out! I hesitate.

Saliva starts to build at the back of my throat but I
swallow

I know that I'm not ready

I push it deeper down but it springs back up and bounces
off the walls of my inner being like a child on a brand

new mattress

I need to say it!

The words sit in a lump at the back of my throat

It starts to burn

It burns like firework through the dark and it burns like a
flick of a flame

This feeling of ruin

I can't hold in this feeling!

A ticking time bomb awaiting its fate of mass destruction

It pushes on my teeth but I bite down

It's claws scratching against my tongue

I choke on my spit trying to hold it back but these words
are victorious;

I love you

A feeling of mass destruction.

I am ashamed

For I have taken something beautiful and I have given it
loves name

-Rose Lopez

Used to

I used to do my worst
I used to beg for attention
But never really begged
I used to try and fit in with everyone
But never tried to fit my soul into my own body
I used to try new things
That weren't and aren't healthy for anyone at all
It was killing me at such a young age
Finally
Finally I'm seeing the sunlight
It's shining on my soul
Slowly but this time
It's forever

-Angel Luque

Fire

Name your price,
tell me what it is I have to do to be the one to feel
the warmth of your hugs

Name your price
because for you I'd go to the end of the earth and
for you

I'd be willing to spend all my love

Sell me your eyes

Eyes the color of honey

A love like yours couldn't even compare to
money

With a touch so soft and kisses like yours I'm not
sure

See I love you I really can't fathom why I do but I
do

You might not get it now

but let me show you what it feels like to be loved
because you're something great
someone great

Whether its to marry or date
even a minute by your side would be enough
to feed the fire you generate in my heart

-Shay Maravilla

Thank you

Thank you for being mine
When I asked myself what my purpose was and it
was you
And if I ever doubted something in my life, it was
never you
I was so sure about you and your presence
I'll never forget the first time I saw you
Thank you for choosing me
It's time for me to guide you in this world
In a world that I wish I could fix for you
But all i can do I prepare you care for you
I'll try my best to give you the best in this world
I can't wait to hold you
These months feel so long
You are my inspiration for every challenge
To be the best person I can be
I love you unconditionally

-Shay Maravilla

I used to

I used to be boring
and go nowhere
I used to think life was so serious
I used to never live life
But now I know that life's a trip
I want to live to the fullest
I want to do what I want
I'm getting better
I used to hate school
and go to class unprepared
I used to think school was a waste of time
But school's pretty cool

-Fernando Mariscal

Moons and Jars

Talking to the moon
Lyrics that have described this relationship
Missing you
Late night wondering
If you're there, my heart belongs to you
But you threw it away
It shattered
or did you keep it along with the collection
Jars of hearts on the shelf of your wall
Talking to the moon
but you're not talking back

-Michael Martinez

I'm Getting Better

I used to believe I was good enough
And go home thinking I've done my best
I used to think I didn't have to do anything more
on my part

I used to think I was satisfied with my life
But now I know I wasn't even trying
I wanted to be something greater than I ever
believed I could be
I will be that person

I'm getting better day by day, but slowly
I used to make all of the mistakes known to man
And go home believing I was a failure
I used to think that things could never get better
I used to think that my world was on fire
But now I know that failure is just a mindset
I wanted to change in an instant, but then realized
you can make things better by switching up a few
bad habits for good ones
I will be the greatest version of myself as of this
moment in time
I'm getting better

-Brian Mena

Happiness

Dear Dad,

Thank you for always supporting me.

Thanks for risking your life for me.

The time you told me you will always be there for
me.

It meant a lot to me when you made me face my
fears.

I can't tell you enough how grateful I am.

Thank you for always believing in me.

Thanks you for telling me your life stories.

Thanks you for being you.

-Christian Mendez

Alone

Alone

I can't control you

Alone

I know I was meant to let go of you

Alone

I still feel your vines rooted deep within me

Alone

I believe you are the beast

I will always have to hold at bay

Alone

I am your tamer

Alone

I just can't do it anymore

Alone

I can't release you from me because you have
become me

- Sarahy Monroy

A Good Day

It's a good day
When I feel motivated enough to get out of bed
without sinking back
Into the mattress
And stare at a blank wall
Thinking
Rethinking
My mind going a hundred mph
Just to reach zero conclusions
Until I have realized that I have wasted time once
again
Doing absolutely nothing.
It's a good day when I come to home see my
father's face
Accessorized with smile instead of the remnants
of a restless night
Caused by stress,
With the same words playing over and over again
Like a mantra in his head
"will my paycheck be enough this time?"
Like father like daughter
I have always said

- **Sarahy Monroy**

It's Getting Better

I used hate
And not at all care
I used to think I was the only important one
I used to treat others as lower,
But now I know that it was horribly wrong
I want to meet and make friends now that I feel
lonely
I will make great friends because just as much as
I didn't
Care, I can show how much I actually can care
It's getting better
I used to care too much
And not care for myself
I used to think I wasn't the most important person
in my life
I used to give people everything
But now I know even that is wrong
I want to feel important
I will be at a balance
I'm getting better

-Sean Miller

Watch Me

It's never too late to try new things
to be the best version of you, you can be
and take many new risks
it's never too late to decide you can do this
to make everyone believe in you
to make everything you thought or said come true
it's never too late to say "I can do it"
and then with time finally prove it
-Alan Montoya

Your Memory Burns

Your memory is like a journal
Your memory burns like dry ice
We know what we are feeling
Your memory is like an exciting story
I feel like I'm old and young
Time is never lasting
Time is like a memory
But I will succeed
-Ben Mutz

Tomorrow

Tomorrow I'm alive
My tomorrows are possible
My tomorrows are made of hopes and dreams
My tomorrow could be important to humanity if I
choose to make myself useful to them
Tomorrow may mean a newer chance
Tomorrow is a stage in which I will say 'hello' to
the audience
Tomorrow won't bring back the night
Because tomorrow will be a time to bring back
the day.

-Alysia Lee Niles

The best things

The best things in life are the best
The best things in life include all of the things
The best things... period
The best, and the only
The only things are only things
The only things in life are important things
The only things in life that are important things
The only things in life that matter are the best
things.

-Alysia Lee Niles

This

Mean faced.

Too quiet.

Walking towards the ground.

Too insecure to talk to anyone.

Can't ask the teacher for help because she can't build the
courage.

Just know when she finally does speak, she contemplated it
for 15 minutes.

The mean mug is only for looks.

Hate attention, be unapproachable.

I want so bad for someone to enjoy talking to me.

The only person who won't stop talking are the voices in my
head telling me how I'm screwing up constantly.

I know I have a good heart, but what comes out of my
mouth can be heartless.

"Tough guy eh?"

Not in the slightest.

I am very sensitive, but you could never tell.

I just want to be accepted without being the center of
attention.

How sad is it that my own family makes me anxious and I
can't even make eye contact with them.

I hate the question,

"Tell me about yourself?" There is nothing to tell.

I'm too scared of human interaction that I'd rather stay at
home alone in my room.

Maybe that's why I am so angry all the time. Because I have
no self-confidence.

"Mean muggin'" everybody won't help my case.

I can be the best friend you need.

Too bad, I'm too mean faced.

-Alissa Patton

A Day

Have you ever had a day without emotion?
Where nothing could phase you
And you have no idea where your soul went
As if it were stolen in the night.
You know you are expected to have reactions, but
you can't seem to manage.
And then you know the storm is coming, the
breakdown.
But now I've warded off anyone and everyone
who could've helped me
I'm going to solitude to take cover, sorry if u
don't hear from me.
Have you ever had a day with no motivation?
Where you start to realize , everything is
pointless.
And you feel yourself slowly giving up.
As if you just want to fade into the earth.
You don't want be gone forever.
And you know this storm will pass
But your sanity makes you question your
capability
I'm going to get help.

-Alissa Patton

Failure

It may be how I portray myself
But when I'm home alone that's how I see myself
I see failure because there is not much else to
look at
I see myself like that
Because I'm at bowman
Because I couldn't succeed at a normal school
Because every time I see myself I just know,
there are things that I can change
The stuff I should have changed
Because yes I still act like a child at sixteen
I should've stopped by now
I cannot even act my age
It's what my parents see compared to my brother
3.3 GPA honor roll for three years and counting
side by side
With me
The kid who couldn't pass his own language
The kid who's still in algebra his senior year
The kid that's never brought up when bragging
About accomplishments
Because there's nothing to talk about
I see failure
Because I'm 16
I act like a child
Not mentally but physically
I don't have any of it
I don't know what's wrong with me

I don't think I've ever had anything to brag about
to my parents
I still have yet to do anything with my life and
future everyone around me gets to have fun and I
can't even succeed as a teenager
for now.

-Napoleon Provens

Dada

Lemons, Lemons, Lemons!!
I don't understand why a lemon would be a jedi's
sidekick
Or why a snail would drive a prius on
groundhogs day
I fail to understand
Why mike's hair takes a twist of three twirls
around the globe
70 seconds!!
It's hard I'll tell you
But my shoe can't do blues clues
5,4,3,2,1
Fun, run, bam
I won

-Garrett Popejoy

Dear Me

Dear me,

Question? Why don't you write me or talk to me?

I'm here for you and you know that,
Also know that I care and feel for you.

So why do you push me away?

I see and know you do bad things,
but I know that's not really you.

But I have faith that one day you'll understand
What you're doing is wrong.

And you'll gain back your control.

I pray every night for that day to happen

Because I know when that day comes

We'll be together!

-Bryan Ramirez

What is life?

What are we supposed to do
In life

Do we live just to live?
Or is it much deeper than that

Do we live to learn and teach
Or is it to impact people
Nobody knows the answer
But I believe

We live to impact people's lives
In a positive way
And teach them lessons
And learn from others

Life is very difficult
But the people we are surrounded by
Make it easier
And we make it easier for them

Life is precious
Appreciate it, learn, teach
Impact others in a positive way
And let them impact yours

-Anthony Renteria

Pain

Pain is all I've seen most of my life
Pain is a feeling I don't even feel
Pain has been with me since I was young
Pain never plays fair
Pain is what I felt when I woke up and my
brother wasn't there.
Pain is going home and hearing you can't live
there
Pain is finally out my life.
Pain, I thank you every day you made me face the
fights now I'm ready for life

-Joshua Rios

My sweet serenity

I never believed in love at first sight but there you were,
the way your soft, hazel eyes stare at me made me not
look want to look away.

I never really thought love was a thing because of my
parents divorced and the things my dad did to our family
and also my sister boyfriend couldn't stay with her after
two kids.

As a kid I prayed to find someone to love me back even
though I felt like the whole world hated me.

And I eventually gave up.

Years and years hating myself.

Telling myself I'm not beautiful and that I'm not perfect
in anyone's eye, but you change that.

They say time heals everything and the love in heart has
a habit of waiting around for something it's never truly
going to find, but you proved me wrong.

You remind me that I'm worth something everyday. I
guess in a weird way you're kinda the reason why I don't
regret anything in life.

There are billions of people in this world and I'm so
happy that you stumble across my world. Billions of years
of cosmic chaos and it was all just for me to appreciate
the way the sunset reflects into your eyes. Our love is
strong.

Our love is realizing that you're not perfect and the world
isn't perfect.

I know my heart is not much to give but I hope it's
enough.

I love you and thank you for putting up with me.

Here's to a year and nine months.

-Maria Rivera

My Problem

Yes I get it I have a learning disability thank you
for reminding me older sister thank you for
sharing it to these unknown faces, thank you for
reminding our family that I'm dumb
Thank you for stabbing my self-esteem with your
spiteful words it's clear you target me to feel
better about your shitty life as well.
Well since we are pointing finger here Mom you
are not so innocent yourself.

Moms are supposed to support their children tell
them nice thing so their kid won't feel horrible
about themselves and show them off to family
and friends that their daughter or son are beautiful
miracles and they don't regret them one bit, but
that's not the case with you Mom.

I'm so sorry I was born mentally wrong. If there
was a picture handbook on how to kill myself in
the womb I would have took in the chance to save
you from the feeling of regret your whole life.

Mom I know you didn't want me.

I'm sorry for popping out of nowhere. November
17 8:20pm as I'm writing this I'm crying I'm
falling apart I'm banging my fist to my head
while walking to 7 eleven to get some hot
chocolate because I feel like that's the only thing
that can soothe my soul right now. I
know it might sound so cliché asking for death
upon myself but as I look up at the dead pitch

black sky I see lights from planes passing by and
I wonder if I can leave, I want to escape but I
don't want to be alone.

I'm not so lonely but that loneliness feeling that
feeling of nobody caring is there.

Mom and older sister I don't understand how
you are both so clueless? You don't understand
that your words are sharp knives and they stab
right through my heart and it kept going your
words just kept stabbing my heart like if you
were serial killer stabbing me in the heart and try
to eventually get away with it like nothing ever
happen.

I've done things to myself, regretful things just to
give you awareness that your words hurt but you
never notice, I even had to tell you myself but
nothing in your mind can comprehend what I'm
saying. How far do I have to get for you to
understand me. I hope one day they will
understand. Until then I'm still breathing.

-Maria Rivera

Thou Shall Know the Mercy of the Gods

Thou shall know the mercy of the gods
My hands have been shaded a deep shade of crimson thus
I am no saint or heroic spirit
like you believed Jeanne d'Arc was
Pain pain is the reason why we delight in happiness.
Overcoming pain shows us what it means to be happy and
to be strong,
without pain there is no happiness,
without happiness there is no pain.
You must fight for what you believe in,
Bleed to see your dreams come to fruition
Hope awaits us all beyond despair
And salvation there after
This thrust shall be one of destruction
"La Pucelle"
Fade away shall we meet again
beloved they were
Dark crimson how you are so beautiful
Usual to love the touch of a poisonous kiss
I do not wish for your compassion, your body, nor your
love,
I desire none of it.
Your strength to over come and move forward is all I
desired.
So I shall never abandon you when you call out my name,
I will carry your burden and take the title of always seeing
the final moments as you finally lay to rest
In this moment the world reaches its Twilight.

Honestly,

It's heart breaking.

Male female and humans alike we are all made of the
same substance
In other words,
It must be the case, we are made out of the same
substance that dreams are made of...
A vision,
that of are own selfish ambition and desires brought to life
One that even Shakespeare can not stop writing about
even as the final moments draw closer.
You see I am but a jade dragon who constantly aims
towards the open skies,
Even if I am a mere imitation of what two Jade Cytis that
hover over one another wish for.
It is still possible for me to sit on that thrown even if
people say it's just a fantasy,
Now fall and create a new world.
One that humans can never reach
Incinerate them "Vasavi Shakti".
Immortality
the likes of what no human hands should never touch and
what we wish to grasp but never can
If ever touched
Though shall know the mercy of the gods
Karna the hero of giving

-Jade Robinson

I want your blessing today

You got love for me
I rather you trust me then to love me
and the lights outline your shadow
Just love the sound of space
I'm on the way got no time to waste
the noise of you being in the way or am I in the
way
wait... The connection is vague.
I want your blessing today pick up the phone and
call me babe
I just had to do it
you got your love for me.
sipping bubbly and feeling lovely
so just trust me and love me.
the drums sound and let me know LUV is Rage
no we don't do dates it's na new age
next page the sound of the waves
miss understood but all good
I want your blessing today.

-Jade Robinson

listen to Kendrick Lamar, Song: LOVE

You and I Painted the Town

You and I paint the town
We danced in the inks and vibrancies of each other.
We relished in one another's blank canvas' and attempted
to fill them up with new, exciting
realities.
I left you a masterpiece.
You left me a color-by-numbers; the lines all co-existed
but the concepts weren't quite complete.
You became a statue around me, hardening with my
touch.
I spent long nights visiting the museum of what we had.
You had long since stolen the artifact tucked away in the
cage behind my chest.
You collected the pigment running rampant in the vines
running deep beneath my chest.
You bottled the rain that fell from the vessels formerly
known as my eyes, painted that bottle
bronze and put it on you shelf.
Just another lonely trophy surrounded by so many others.
How had you turned me into this?
How did I allow this?
You planned to let dust collect atop me.
There was no realm that would ever amount to a reality.
I found myself falling out of your grasp, the plaster you
encased me in shattering.
But with it, my heart.
I'm still numb.
I'm still cold.
And I'll admit, I'd be a bronze trophy on your shelf than a
gold one on his.

-Bailey Rogers

Goodbye

Arrivederci. Aloha. Ciao. Au Revoir. Bon Voyage. Shalom. Goodbye. These are all acceptable ways to say goodbye to someone-anyone from all over the world. And yet none of them feel acceptable enough to use to say goodbye to you all. “Arrivederci.” In Italian, arrivederci means “until we see each other again.” My loves. My friends. My new found family, while I say goodbye I promise this will not be the last time. Our words out stretched arms will meet in a comforting hold at least once more...and after that in the grip it has on our hearts and the memories we’ll always share. Arrivederci, until we meet again. “Aloha”. This Hawaiian word is used as both a welcome and farewell, but also for expressions of good wishes, love, and affection. When I joined this class I learned to welcome myself and say farewell to a part of myself I’m so glad I’ll never have to see again. What was a beacon of darkness is now a headlight on extra bright. So aloha, welcome and farewell. “Ciao” Ciao has an intriguing origin: in the 1920s, ciao arose as a dialectal alteration of schiavo, which translates as “(I am your) slave.” Like aloha, ciao does double duty as both a term of greeting and parting. Since I said hello to poetry again I have been a slave for it. Everything I think has an air of whimsical nature to it now. The way I speak is more structured and I use metaphors way more than I care to admit. Part of that may dissipate the way a cool fog does on the san Francisco bridge at noon day when the sun's rays are the brightest, but I will always be a slave for the language of poetry I fell in love with. Ciao. “Au revoir” au revoir directly translates as “to the seeing again”, anticipating a meeting in the future. I have met people in this class I will take into my future with me. I have met people I can consider best friends in the most unlikely of ways. I have been given a home when I didn’t have one. Au Revoir, to the seeing again my sweet friends. “Bon voyage” Another common French term with widespread usage is bon voyage,

“good journey,” used to express good wishes to someone who is about to embark on a trip. Whether or not you all know it, you are going to journey into the very depths of who you are. You are going to dig down into the very pits and perhaps pitfalls of who you are and rescue the tiny voice inside yourself dying to scream out. It’s ok to be afraid to finally be you. I am too. Bon voyage, good wishes on your trip. “Shalom” The Hebrew word can be used as both a welcome and farewell. Shalom is the widespread Hebrew goodbye that translates as ‘peace’, but a more formal parting would be to say shalom aleichem or “peace be with you.” You. And I. And every soul who will ever walk the face of the earth will struggle in some way or another. I almost promise multiple times even. How blessed are we, to have been given the gift of cohesive language, that we all use every day to express our uttermost pride and strife.

These struggles may be a source of discomfort but Shalom alechem, peace be with you. Goodbye. “used to express good wishes when parting or at the end of a conversation.”

This is the end of the conversation. It is the close of the fairytale book i read when I was a little girl but never thought would play out. It is the roadblock to an unfinished freeway, with so much ahead and yet no access to it yet. Just a glimpse of what may be. While I leave today, and some of you may be doing the same, others of you are left behind, to glimpse at your own unfinished road. Without me, or without anyone else. You have the strength of 100 bricks and mortar and the grace of a lily pad floating across a pond. Goodbye, the sweetest wishes in our parting and the end of our conversation

-Bailey Rogers

Who I used to be

I'm not the same, but still get reminders
Of what I used to be. Who I used to be.
I cannot leave, heart racing, breaths shorten
The moment is endless
but I'll confess it goes away eventually
Although
I always come back back back again back to the
same old fence I tried to climb out of and failed
time and time again
I failed and I know that's true because of the
constant reminders that you, my love, have told
me you love me but you leave
You love me but you repeat the same things that
you promised you wouldn't
The thing that's been killing me over and over
again without fail, you manipulate, I've told you
too much
You'll always know too much
You know exactly how to hurt me
You know exactly what to say to make me come
crawling back,
Exactly what to say to make me feel undeserving
of love besides yours,
Your words are haunting
Your smile is deceiving, but what can I say
So is mine
The truth is, you are who you associate with
And in my head, that's me
Constantly thinking

Constantly becoming
Who I used to be

-Diana Seferian

Hidden beauty

Don't be caught up in stress, It'll control your
reality

Being caged in routine will be your fatality
That's why we tend to neglect the happiness we
experience

We all seem to stay in the same mind, it'll make
us delirious

Just go outside and experience life

Time is ticking

Don't be sinking in despair

I'm telling you, it'll turn out fine

Just enjoy the air.

-Diana Seferian

Sunshine

I've tried to understand life
But instead I stand under an umbrella in the rain
I've tried to find sunlight on cloudy days
But instead I'm overwhelmed with fresh
raindrops & gray skies
I've tried to enjoy the gusty winds
But instead I miss the sunlight
I've tried to enjoy the cold
But instead I miss the warmth of sunlight on my
precious lil face

-Rachel Severson

The Hollow Girl

The hollow girl hears everyone talking about it
The hollow girl wants someone to want her
The hollow girl sees people laughing at her
The hollow girl feels lonely and empty
The hollow girl dreams of being loved
The hollow girl hates the ones that made her like
this
The hollow can't wait to be gone
The hollow girl is my old best friend then she
changed...
The hollow girl hears what she wants
The hollow girl wants what's only best for her
The hollow girl sees right past everyone
The hollow girl feels like she's the best
The hollow girl dreams of nothing
The hollow girl hates everyone
The hollow girl loves to be negative
The hollow girl is a changed girl

-Sydney Schultz

It used to be simple

Life used to be simple
People would do everything for us
We would dream of rainbows and unicorns
And laugh about everything
Things used to be simple
Because we were young
And worry less
But now we are young adults
And we have worries
I want life to be easy again
I don't want to grow up and have to worry about
everything
Let me young again

-Sydnee Schultz

Crystal Clear

I see people and colors in a different way
Like they're from some other world
When I was younger I believed in wizards and
different worlds
My therapist thought it was a coping mechanism
My mom thought it was a phase
I thought it was reality
My imagination got me through a lot
And it was a lot faster than I was
I got picked on a lot as a kid
I got beat up
Tortured
No
One
Wanted
To
Tell
Me
No one told me why I got beat up
So I made up reasons
I made up stories
Stories that could never happen
Stories that you think would never come from a
kid
Everyone was confused on why
It was crystal clear to me

-Jace Smeke

12-7-17

November 12th
This might be a shock to you
I know it's a shock to me
This is something that is on my mind 24/7
This is something I've denied
We all complain about fake friends I know I have
But I was the fakest of them all I lied to people who I considered
family
I lied to people who would do anything for me
But I lied to myself
And I think that's the worst of them all
I'm sorry, I'm so sorry
Would you believe me if I said I cried while writing this
And every time I think of it I push it away
And I think of it a lot I didn't want anyone to know
Because if I told someone, it would make it real
And I wanted it to be fake I prayed for it not to be true
Something that's so easy for other people to say
Will kill me if I say it
What some people wear as pride I wear as a hidden scar I don't want
to continue
Maybe I'll rip this up, maybe I'll throw it away
No one is going to know
Forget it, I'm done
November 23
It's been a week and I told someone
I'm glad I did
They know who they are
But I don't think they know how much that meant to me
That conversation helped me out a little more, so thank you
I think the hardest part to this is saying it
Two simple words
The two words that can get me to cry
The words the words that twist up in a knot
It's around 2 am I can't sleep I looked in the mirror and it might as
well of shattered
I can't even look at myself
I hate the person looking back at me
The person looking back isn't me
It's this version of me that I made It's the version everyone else see's
And I think I need to apologize for that

I want to die
That's a phrase I use
Buts it true I want the old me dead
So the new me can come out
The me I need everyone to see
I want to say it, I do, so here it is
The secret that kept me up all night
The secret that confused me more than ever
The secret that made me hate myself more than ever
I'm gay
And maybe you figured it
But no one knew
No one could've known
Because I didn't know
Because I didn't want to know
I didn't want it to be true
But it's true
And this is me
And maybe now I can learn to accept me
But this shouldn't have to be something I'm forced to accept
This shouldn't be something
You have to accept
It should be okay
So maybe now I can stop fighting with this demon
Maybe now I can learn to give myself happiness
And for those around me
Those whom are close to me
I'm sorry
I'm sorry for lying to you
But I hope you can understand why
And I hope you can still look at me for me
For the new me
This is me
12-7-17
Today is the day I did it

-Jace Smeke

I'm with you

I'm with you late at night when you toss and turn.

I'm with you on the sleepless nights.

While you cry from the pain people put you
through.

I'm standing tall with you when they try to tear us
apart.

They can try to hurt us.

They can try to break our spirit and our hearts.

But I'm with you on those nights.

When you feel hopeless and wanting to give up.

I'm with you.

I'm your armor, I'm here to protect you from
harm.

I'm the shoulder you can cry on.

I'm the one that will be there through sickness
and health until death do us part.

I'm always with you don't ever forget that.

-Josh Smith

If only you didn't lie

If only I had told you what I felt.
If only I had told you what you meant to me.
If only I had told you how much I love you.
If only I had told myself you loved me.
If only I had you in my life.
If only I was the person you wanted me to be.
If only you didn't hurt me and break me.

If only you didn't do this to me I'd still be the
man I used to be.
and I wouldn't be depressed and not trust anyone
especially me.
All of this happened because of what you did to
me... you lied to me

-Josh Smith

The Best Day of My Life

The best day of my life
Was the day my nephew was born
On that day I became an aunt of nine
The world seemed perfect
Everyone seemed to stop and stare at your
beautiful smile
The best day of my life was when you were born
That's when I knew it was my job to protect you
That's when I thought everything in my life was
perfect

-Julieana Sosa

Darkness

I walked through the gate of nightmares as fear
trickled down my fingers
I saw the demons that once haunted me when I
was young I heard a familiar voice
I watched as the demons raced to catch me and
hold me again
I listened to the faceless voice who told me that
everything will be fine. I dreamt of nothing
All I remember was the darkness
I felt the familiar cold hands against my arms
I hope that I'll wake up from this horrible
nightmare again

-Julieana Sosa

A Cloud Hangs

A cloud hangs above my head.
It seems to never leave.
Through thick and thin and daily strife,
It seems it only grows larger.

Soon enough the sun is gone,
Then the sky and treetops.
I must look down or else remember
The cloud that consumes my every thought.

It's been ten years
I com home, tired and sad.
My back is hurt and my shoulders slumped;
The cloud still hung over my head.

I hear small footsteps down the hall.
My son runs into my arms
And as I take a look at myself
I realize the truth.

A cloud hangs above my head.
It seems to never leave,
Until I tell it to.

-Hyrum Stallings

White Lily

One day,
You may come across
A lone white lily,
Planted off a bridge.

One day,
You may be hurt,
Looking down at the highway
Far below your feet.

One day,
You may want to jump.
To let yourself
Give up.

Well that one day,
A girl saved my life,
And when she found me,
She held a single white lily.

That one day,
I found a better place,
And it wasn't at the bottom
Of that bridge

So one day,
When you want to jump,
And you see that white lily,
Know you aren't alone.

Because one day,
Two years ago,
A girl saved my life
And she held a single white lily.

And when I returned to reflect,
On what I had nearly given up,
I planted a single white lily
As a reminder of that day

-Hyrum Stallings

Control Is Key

I am the captain of my soul
I alone like to drive on the daily
I will probably wreck another car
My will is powerful
I control my life entirely
My life is wild
I set sail to getting my driver's license and
control everything around me
I am in control

-Gaetano Stearns

Traffic jam

My road is a one way highway
It is bumper to bumper
There are all kinds of cars
And no open windows
Looking back it was smoggy
I hit some potholes
I know there are more ahead
And my needle is near E
But I'll just continue forward
Inch by inch

-Katelyn Surber

Butterflies

Now is my time, I guess
My time for uncertainty
My time to question
To do some panicking

Now is my chance
To calm down
To be less anxious
To speak for myself
To be confident

I keep swinging
Back and forth
I'm nauseous
But it doesn't stop

Dear Future Spouse,
I hope you're out there
or not
I don't need you, but
I wouldn't be opposed to meeting you
Life is boring alone

-Katelyn Surber

Keep This Life

Have you ever had a day,
Where you never not smile?
And nothing throws you off.
As if nothing had bad had happened for a while.

You feel you can't lose,
And then life catches you.
But even then, you still won't worry.
I'm going to tell you now, keep this life.

Have you ever had a day,
Where you never smile?
And everything throws you off.
As if everything bad had happened all right then.

You feel you'll feel you'll lose.
And then life catches you,
And everything gets worse.
I'm going to tell you now, keep this life.

-Tim Timmins

My Giant

My Giant used to scare me
I would tremble under his sounds
His voice shaking the walls
And make mine sound small

My Giant would be strong but weak
And stood tall but rested short
And would educate
And I would feel like I always made mistakes

My Giant was critical
And sometimes angry
His Actions justified
And Yet he made everything okay

My Giant
Was my father
And still is today
And these are all the things I'd never be afraid to
say

-Tim Timmins

Typical Wednesday

It's a typical Wednesday
I have another day
And I'm ready for whatever comes my way
Already thinking of what to say
I don't need to play for I have prayed
Today is good because I have slayed
I'm not grey like rain clouds
I'm glowing like the rainbow in the crowd
I will be loud like the lion I am
Which is why me and Jaz tie in
She is like my lucky fin, she's been where I've
been and we will never fold,
never bend that is my best-friend
I wrote this about a week ago so here you go
But all I have left to say is it is a typical
Wednesday

-Natalie Torres

Best of my Generation

I've seen the best of my generation

Entertained by gossip

Crushed by rumors

Understood by nobody

I've seen the best personalities

Loved by partners

Hated by enemies

Grew up to be the best of the best

Never like the rest

-Natalie Torres

Inner Ambition

I've always found myself
getting into the hardest of situations
in and out of the worst moments
or so I thought
I'm always willing to go through hell and back
as long as it means something
and I'm never what it means to begin with
but if it speaks to me
beyond words
beyond this flesh
I dive to that ambition
my inspiration into these little rare moments
into you
you defeat what I am
and define me raw to the bone you break me
down
in ways I could have never imagined you've
unraveled this skin that holds me together
you've saved me in the silence of all things
that go on being ignored
beneath the skin
where all the chaos is
you've learned to love me there
and I've learned to love every part of you

-Olivia Wanke

Catastrophes

I go on searching for the best of me
and I realized I'll never find it
but that's the point
and I was missing it
and that made all the beautiful struggles useless
I need them
it's what builds me
I'll keep trying to find the perfect me
and that's the perfect moment
life gets so much harder once you see it
for what it is
for what it can be
from bad to worse or worse to better
the night becomes day and the pain becomes less
than what it was the night before
and none of us worry about the morning sun
because there's a flower inside me
inside you
looking for somewhere to bloom
somewhere to be themselves
in the middle of the night
and I bloomed with you everything is changing
and growing
I learned to change and grow with you.

-Olivia Wanke

When I Was Twelve

When I was 12 you came into my life so
unexpectedly
You changed my home so much and fast
The one day you showed your true colors
You showed who you were and it happened so
quickly
I liked you at first
I would even consider you family
But then you changed
The poison that would slide down your throat
And the poison infiltrated your lungs
Took you over and you became the monster you
always were
That poison brought out the demons inside you
You glared at me
Swore at me
You weren't a person anymore
You were a monster
And no one else saw it but me
You manipulated everyone around you but me
And I cannot do anything but stand by and watch
as you tear my home apart piece by piece
The day I sprout my wings and leave the nest
Will be the day I am finally free from hell

-Rayce Wuitschick