



# A gift of Poetry

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POEMS

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# Rain

Rain falls down  
on the ground.

Wet!

Mommy carries her  
kids under the  
umbrella.

Dry!

By Sabre, 5

# Together

Pretty soon we go to Schlitterbahn  
in Galveston, Texas, all together  
as a family.

I can't wait to meet my mom's  
cousin's daughter Brandy for  
the first time. She's from Ohio.

I can't wait to meet my mom's  
Dad's brother for the first time.  
He's from Ohio.

Pretty soon we go to Schlitterbahn  
in Galveston, Texas,  
all together as a family.

I have 3 great cousins. My cousins  
and I will have a bunch of fun.

By Tyler, 16

# Ahhhhhh!

Pink flowers make me happy!  
They make me want to scream and spin.

Pink flowers make me happy!

By Mercy, 8

# Untitled

I don't have a lot, but I'm proud of  
What I've got

I can't complain

Cause I see people hangin' around the  
Hospital with bigger problems than mine  
There've been times I've been confused  
Felt that I was born to lose. oh,

**But I survived**

Unlike the ones who pray and feel more  
Than blessed each day just to be  
Still be alive.

Is there something we can do  
Seems the odds of survival are million to one  
Cause every day that passes

Another street gang victim dies  
And still there's nothing done

I can't save them by myself  
Oh, but god forbid that I just run away  
somewhere and hide

From the fear and danger of those less fortunate  
Than I. Lord, don't let me be a stranger  
To those less fortunate than I.

By Ryan, 18

## Watch Out!

I'm the winner  
Racing over tracks and  
Through gas stations  
Speeding faster than other  
Racers, moving like a  
Jet, 305 mph, upgrading my  
Car every time I win  
Traveling and jumping the ramps  
I'm the winner

By Brandon, 9

## Higher than the Skies

(for Caleb)

I love you higher than the skies  
You light up the color in my eyes

I hope that you will always stay  
If you go away, I wouldn't know what to say  
Without you my world  
would fall away

You make me laugh and smile  
For you I'd walk the extra mile

I hope that you will always stay  
If you go away, I wouldn't know what to say  
Without you my world would fall away

By Brittney

## In Our Hands

We, children of the universe,  
declare no more wars so  
fewer children are orphans.

We, children of the world,  
suffer because we  
worship big mysteries.

We, children of poetry,  
have the power to  
right wrong.

We children are the future,  
and we hold destiny  
in our hands.

We can change the future.

By Johanna, 11

## Untitled

I love cat litter and lima beans  
Do you?

I love trash cans and fish  
Do you?

I love dirty shoes  
and rainy days  
Do you?

By Leonora, 10

## A Song for Bow Wow

I like your raps  
When I'm taking my naps

### You make me smile

For a long, long while

Your braids look fine  
And your white teeth shine

I want to see you soon  
But not on the moon

I love you, Bow Wow  
Yes, I do

*By Candace, 9*

## My Pet Peaches

I have a pet named Peaches  
Peaches is a dog

He goes outside in the fog

### Peaches can bark a lot

He wakes me up in the night

He doesn't like to fight

Well, sometimes he might

He likes the light

I love my pet Peaches

He's very nice

*By Kierra, 11*

## My Savior

You are everything  
Bigger than life

### You are amazing The light of my life

You are my world  
Provider of all

You bring my life together  
You make it beautiful

I will praise your name  
Until the end of time

Forever you live  
In my heart  
In my soul

I will worship you  
I love you

*By Solomon, 15*

## Miracle

I wish for a miracle

### A miracle to cure a disease

Sickle cell is such a painful disease

At age four to experience such a thing

How I wish for a miracle

To cure this disease.

*Shernika and Nickenya*





# Ten Things about Me

I like soccer because it's a very popular game around the world.

**My favorite team is Italy and they won the World Cup.**

I like rollerblading. I taught myself, and I've been doing it since I was about 9. I rollerblade in the streets, and I know a few tricks.

I like swimming. My dad taught me to swim. I like doing backstroke because the water doesn't go up my nose.

I like the Internet. I can go on for hours. I check email, play games, and read about movies.

I like eating. My favorite fast food is chicken burgers. My least favorite food is eggplant.

I hate losing things and being interrupted when I'm telling a story.

I like having a big family. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

I like traveling. I've been to England and Italy. I was born in Saudi Arabia.

I miss my family in Saudi Arabia. I would visit my grandma's house if I went back.

I like movies. I can't wait until Spiderman 3 comes out in May 2007.

*By Mohammed, 16*

# My 4-Wheeler

I got my 4-wheeler when I was 3 years old. It's silver and it has handles. It's not hard to ride. I ride it in my backyard where there's a creek. It has a key that I use to turn it on. **Boys like riding 4-wheelers and girls like playing with their Barbies.**

*By Sean, 5*

# What I Like

A year ago I moved to the United States. I live in Conroe with my family and aunts, but I like Houston better because it's bigger and there are larger shops. I also have aunts from my mom's side who live in Houston.

I miss Mexico because I used to play in the streets with my friends. Here I don't have many friends. Also I miss all the traditions like Independence Day and Day of the Child.

When I started school in the United States, I was scared because I didn't know anyone and I wasn't familiar with the school. One day I got lost at school until a teacher who spoke Spanish helped me. My favorite class at school is art and my least favorite is P.E. **I like to draw and paint. I like art because it allows me to express myself and also it distracts me.** When I'm older, I want to be a doctor and study medicine.

*By Jaquelin, 13*

# The Middle Girl

I'm the middle girl of three. It's cool being in the middle. If I was the oldest, I'd have to do everything. If I were the youngest...well, it wouldn't be so bad being the youngest. I'd get everything I wanted!

I like to travel and go new places. Some day I want to visit Italy. Four years ago I went to visit San Luis Potosi where my mom was born. I loved being there because of the mountains. Almost everywhere you go you see people selling fruits, vegetables, and candies. **I got to eat gorditas, tortas, and tacos made by my grandmother.**

I call her Abuelita Yeya.

My grandmother is an older woman who is very nice. She buys us everything we want. We talk to her in Spanish but she does understand some English. I would like to go back to Mexico sometime in the summer.

*By Leslie, 10*

# The Art of Origami

It all started on a day when I was visiting my grandmother and grandfather. My grandmother showed me how to make a boat out of paper. I asked her where she had learned to do it and how to do it. The next couple of days I made the boat a lot.

I eventually mastered it. **Now I know how to make loads of other things, like a box, a crane, and a very good paper airplane.** The box I'm making right now is collapsible. I know how to make another one that is not collapsible.

I find origami quite challenging. It teaches you the art of Japanese folding. It takes patience and skill. When I master a new piece, I feel...well, it's hard to describe what I feel, but I like the feeling. One of my favorite things to make is cranes because it's so relaxing.

*By Jonathan, 9*

# My Brother

When my brother was about two years old, we found out that he had a rare blood disorder.

I remember some of the hardest times were watching him get chemo treatments. He has a port and he hates to be poked with needles. It's difficult to watch him cry.

During the summer I come with him when I can.

**He likes for me to be with him.**

During the school year I can't come.

I hope my brother will be in remission soon. He's been in remission before, but it's come back.

I want it to go away forever.

By Kaitlin, 12

# Things I Like

I like singing. I sing Chris Brown songs.

He sings about love. I've never written a song before.

I also like to dance. I learned from my cousin Shayla and Lil Romeo and Bow Wow. It's hard to learn some of the moves.

I have to practice.

I love watching DVDs and TV. I like action movies and comedies like *Fast and Furious*, *Everybody Hates Chris*, and *Cheaters*.

I like staying in my room and coloring.

I could do that all day.

I like taking naps. I sleep good in my bed.

I snore like big men do.

I like birthday parties, cake, ice cream, and balloons.

When I was little I went to my cousin's birthday party.

**I like getting my picture taken.  
I always smile.**

I like my girl Carla.

I like my cousin Jada.

I like playing basketball and all my friends at school.

I love riding with my mom and Big Man.

I like sausage and baked fish and hamburgers and pigs feet and tripe and pork bones.

I like my Nike shoes.

By Tyson, 19

# Belly dancing in Shreveport

My name is Kymberly, and I was born and raised in Shreveport, LA. There's not a lot to do there, but I did discover belly dancing.

A friend of mine who has Middle Eastern roots asked me to do it when I was 11. She took me to one of the classes, and I was amazed. It didn't seem possible that you could do those things with your body. I watched the first class and then decided to take them with her. That was three years ago.

At the beginning it was hard to catch on to the moves. You have to be patient with yourself to get the hang of it. There are lots of isolated hip movements and shimmies. You learn them by looking in the mirror and watching others. Belly dancing really transforms your body, the muscles, and even the way you walk.

I've done lots of performances and talent shows. It always surprises people who don't expect you could move that way. There are lots of kinds of music to go with belly dancing: tribal, traditional, and others. I like tribal the best.

I'm one of the youngest in Shreveport who does belly dancing. I think I'll continue dancing for a lot longer.

*By Kymberly, 14*

# Three facts about Me

My mom combined my grandma's name Shirley with my aunt's name Niece to get my name Shirnecia.

**I like having an original name.**

I ran hurdles on my track team for three years.

A coach asked me to do it, and I did.

I like listening to gospel music because it's inspiring.

It helps me keep going when times are rough.

And the times are rough.

*By Shirnecia, 18*

# How I Got Interested in Basketball

I've been interested in basketball since I was about 2. My dad bought a small goal for me and I played with it. Now I'm 12, and my favorite team is Miami Heat. They're playing in the NBA finals right now and down 1-2. My favorite players are Dwayne Wade and Shaquille O'Neal. I like Shaq because he is one of the first players I ever watched and because he can do things that other players can't. He can go over two people to dunk and alley oop. I like Dwayne Wade because he can save a game by shooting a 3 or go down the middle, shoot, and draw the foul. I'd like to grow up to be like them—good athletes, aggressive on the court, and respectful of others.

*By Otis, 12*

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# My Sanctuary

Every time I need peace from the constant chaos of my life, I take a trip down memory lane and visit the tropical island my mother calls home. Palau is my sanctuary, my heaven when my world is crumbling. The sun is always out there, shining its radiance upon my little island. There is no snow, no change of seasons, my island will stay warm forever.

Have you ever seen the color turquoise? If you have, then you know it's a brilliant blue, a piercing brilliant blue. Now imagine an ocean, it can be any color your heart desires. **A hand, either God's or whatever supreme force you believe reigns over the universe, spills a huge bucket of turquoise paint from the sky, all over your ocean.** That is the best way to describe Palau's waters, an abundance of turquoise waves that whisper their own language.

Under these waves there is an entirely different world. A world of pink jellyfish with silent stingers, multi-colored fish painted every color under the sun, sharks of many shapes and sizes, and all sorts of watery creatures that shock, surprise, and awe me every time I visit.

Palau is my safe of memories, my hiding place from the storms of life, and my home. Palau is part of me and I believe that I am part of it. Palau is my island, my sanctuary.

*By Alice, 13*

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# Rocky, Dexter, and Mushimoo

Today I remembered a story. My dog Rocky died of heartworm. It was sad. We put him in a wheelbarrow and buried him out back. My grandmother dug the hole. After that, my other dog Dexter was really depressed. **They used to have fun together—tackling and playing.** Without Rocky, Dexter was bored. He started to play more with Mushimoo, the pug. Then one day some friends came over and left the gate open. Dexter and Mushimoo ran away. We looked and looked, but we never found them. I cried for a week.

*By Tony, 11*

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# Games

Ever since I got sick I've been playing video games. I have a Game Cube with thirteen games. My favorite one is Sonic. **It's about someone running fast.** He has to jump over things. I like to run and jump too.

*By Brandon, 7*

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# Life in the Philippines

About two years ago I moved to Texas from the Philippines.

**I miss my pet dog named Syoti. In Japanese it means “Little Brother.”**

Whenever I felt sad, I would play with him and feel better.

I also miss my grandmother Celly and my grandfather Armand.

They would take me to the Jolli Bee, where I’d eat hamburger steak.

I miss my friends because I had to leave in the middle of the school year. My friend Jeza used to live a few houses down from me.

I found out I was sick when I got here, but it’s easier here than in the Philippines.

This December I get to go back and visit everybody.

I think I might eat at Jolli Bee!

*By Geruine, 8*

# Reynosa

I’ve gone to Reynosa to visit my parents and grandparents lots of times. I live in McAllen right now with my aunt but I wish I lived in Reynosa because most of my family lives in Mexico. Also, at my parent’s house I can go out whenever I want but at my aunt’s house I’m not allowed to go out with friends. She prefers them to come over to the house. **I really miss Reynosa.**

*By Maria, 14*

# Untitled

**My name is Devon, and I’m from Kountze, Texas, which is near Beaumont.**

It’s not very big. All we have is Sonic and Dairy Queen, but I like it there. I hang out with my friends. We go shopping for clothes and sometimes to the beach in Galveston. We swim and ride bikes.

Sometimes I dance too. I’ve been dancing since I could walk. I do point, twirling, jazz, tap, and ballet. My favorite is point. You have to wear a special shoe that has wood in the tip so that you can stand on your toes. I have 3 half brothers and no sisters. They get on my nerves a lot. The best trip I’ve ever taken was to Austin when we floated down the Guadalupe River. The water was really cold.

*By Devon, 13*

# Basketball

My name is Shawndrea, and I love basketball. I started playing basketball when I was about 12. I had a good coach who taught me the game. I’ve played post and wing, and I’m good at dribbling and shooting.

I remember once when we were playing a game and the coach was acting out of control, and everybody just walked off the court. So the game was forfeited and the coach was cussing us out. She made us run laps.

But I love the game and I hope to be in the WNBA someday playing ball. **One of my favorite players is Cynthia Cooper.** She is one of the baddest girls to ever play. Basketball isn’t hard. It’s a lot of fun, and I hope to be a professional ball player one day.

*By Shawndrea, 17*

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# Untitled

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I started playing video games when I was six years old. My favorite Gameboy game was Pokemon. At the beginning of that game, you chose a Pokemon—Fire, Water, or Grass. You had to catch three Pokemon for the first gym battle. Earth is the first level. Then you had to travel for the next gym battle. Here you found water. Next there was a thunder battle, but first you had to learn a technique call Cut. It involved chopping down trees that were obstacles in your path.

There was another gym battle called Psychic. You had to beat the ghost type Pokeman, but you needed the ghost to do it. They're scattered everywhere and you had to catch them with the original Pokeman.

After playing hours on end, you were required to earn eight badges to go to a tournament. If you win the tournament, you beat the whole thing. I think it was the challenge that kept me going.

Now I'm 13, and the games have gotten harder. The game system I like best is Play Station 2. One particular game that I like is Kingdom Hearts. It's a story about a boy stranded on an island with his two friends. They want to leave the island and travel to other worlds. When I play, I'm always a boy named Sora.

The story begins on a stormy night, and little creatures called Heartless are attacking Sora. He goes to a store called the Secret Place and finds this huge Heartless. If you beat him, you get to go to another world.

In Trevor's Town, you meet a man named Leon who you have to fight. It doesn't matter if you win or lose. Either way you get to go to a hotel. Then you have to find two creatures, Donald and Goofy, who help you fight another monster. The game goes on like this. You travel from world to world. In the last battle, you have to beat Ansom, and if you beat him, you win the whole game.

By Antonio, 13

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# Something To Do

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My family has always loved music. We play CDs all the time, especially at night. You might hear Nelly or Aventura or something else at our place. I like reggaton, which is a mixture of Spanish and reggae. One of my favorite groups is Rakim and Ken Y. I listen to music so I won't get bored. I'm usually the most bored when I'm waiting at the hospital. Music gives me something to do.

By Maribel, 15

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# Practice Makes Perfect

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I've been playing video games for a long time. I like *Dragon ball Z* and *Need for Speed* the best. I think it's neat that they use technology to create them. I'd like to design video games someday.

Whenever I play video games, I can hear people like my aunt talking but I block them out. To be good at video games you have to concentrate and be able to control the remote and know where all the buttons are. You have to practice a lot.

By Isiah, 13

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# My New Life

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I was 14 when I found out I had cancer. It was painful. Two months passed and I saw we weren't getting anywhere. I thought I was near my death.

## Then I came to Texas Children's Hospital, and they gave me hope.

I am in my middle cycle, and I'm seeing many changes. I am getting more mature by the day. My sickness has opened my eyes in many different and better ways as far as my health is concerned— and my life.

By Akif, 14

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# Basketball and Life

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Ever since I moved to Texas I've been interested in sports. I've been here about four years. At the beginning I played at Sue Hassell Park down the street from my house. Every day I got better. I never played with kids my age, always older.

Next I joined Boys and Girls Clubs teams. We had practices two or three times a week. I played on them until 7th grade when I could play for my school. Last year I played point guard and we went undefeated.

In 8th grade I'll play for school and the Boys and Girls Club. **I think I'm good at dribbling and shooting.** I have to call the plays and memorize what they are.

I want to continue playing ball, but there are other things that I want to focus on, too, like going to college. I think basketball will prepare me because it teaches hard work and lots of discipline.

By Chris, 14

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# Untitled

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Most of what I do is reading, playing video games, or studying for school. I've always been a big reader. I like action and adventure stories and series like *The Wheel of Time*. I've always found that I'm able to concentrate and go into my own little world when I need to. The first series I ever got into reading was *Harry Potter* in third grade. I liked it, and my teacher let me skip P.E. so I could read it. At the end of the school year, I'd finished the first three books. My teacher gave me the fourth one as a gift.

I started playing video games in fifth grade. My sister's husband had a PS2, and I started with that. I've always been good at video games. I think it's because I can memorize the button combinations and get into the rhythm of the game. I play a bunch of different games, but not the sports ones because they are annoying. My favorite ones are *Kingdom of Hearts I and II* and *Jak and Daxter*. It's different from reading a book because I can control how it proceeds.

The last thing I spend a lot of time on is studying. I am in 8th grade. In math we never had homework because the teacher never assigned it. In history I had the hardest teacher, and we had homework all the time. In science I had homework sometimes.

**I'm the kind of person who has really close friends, the kind who does his own thing.**

By Jesse, 14

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## The Good Wish

Long ago there was a girl who met a man with a magic stone. He said, **“You may make one wish with it, just one.”** So the little girl wished that everyone would get better. And they did. The End.

By Gabriela, 8

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## Spiderman and the Kid

Once upon a time there was a kid. He got in trouble a lot but he didn't think he was bad. He decided to save the city so everyone would know he wasn't bad. He tried and tried but he couldn't ever do it. **Spiderman saved the city.** Then Spiderman said, “You can do it next time.”

By Tripp, 9

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## The Fairy Who Fell Down from the Sky

A long time ago there was a fairy. She had white wings. **She liked to sing.** One day she fell down out of the sky. A princess found her and she took the fairy to her castle. The fairy slept in her bed. The next morning the fairy went back to the sky. The princess said, “Goodbye.”

By Sofia, 5

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## The Dragon and the Firefly

Far, far away in a magical land where dragons and fairies and unicorns and wizards lived, there lived a firefly that was fiery. Everything was in bloom and it was always spring there.

One day the firefly named Spark flew away to a deserted land to prove that he was brave enough to slay the most terrifying dragon. When Spark arrived at the deserted land, he started looking for the dragon. About an hour afterwards he heard this horrible growling sound from a cave above. When Spark heard the noise, he jumped with fright and hid behind a rock. After a few minutes, he took a deep breath and finally realized what he was there for.

Then he flew up to the cave and saw a terrifying green dragon that was half the size of the rodeo rink at Reliant Stadium. Spark was surprised for a moment but he flew up to the terrifying dragon and poked him. Then the dragon opened his piercing yellow eyes and gave a great roar and said, “Who disturbs my slumber?” And then, the firefly jumped behind a rock once again. But then surprisingly, the dragon walked up to the tiny firefly and said, “Are you alright?” And the firefly said, “You aren't gonna hurt me, are you?” The dragon said, “No, I'm not going to hurt you but will you be my friend?” The firefly said in a quivering voice, “Ye ye ye ye yess!” **The dragon said, “Oh yes! My first friend!”**

The firefly said, “Well, I have to get home, but maybe you can come back with me to the valley.”

A few days passed and they arrived at the valley and when they did, everyone was shocked. But suddenly they changed their minds and lived happily ever after.

By Danielle, Raymie, and Chloe, 9

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## All Five Bratz Dolls

Once upon a time there was a girl who wanted a Bratz doll. There are five Bratz dolls: Sasha, Chloe, Yasmin, Meagan, and Haley. The girl wanted to collect all of them. She saved a lot of money to get her favorite one first. Yasmin has long black hair and she likes to go to the mall. When the girl got Yasmin, she was excited. She played with the doll all day long on the weekends. **She missed the doll when she was at school.** It took the girl one month to collect all five dolls and then she was happy.

By Alexis, 10

## Dreamer

Once upon a time there was a girl named Jamie. She loved to play volleyball, but her parents didn't want her to. They wanted her to be a regular girl who didn't play sports. But she said, **"Why can't I go after my dream and become a good volleyball player?"** Her dad said, "Because you should be normal like other girls." Then Jamie said, "I'm doing my dream, and no one can change that. But I really hope you still want to come to my games." So they let her play and they said, "We'll be there." And Jamie said, "Thank you."

By Heather, 10

## Johnny Angry Hen

One day the greatest and strongest boy in the world shrunk to the size of an ant. His name was John Henry. He became angry and said, "I'm going to be the greatest and strongest boy that ever lived AGAIN."

**He went on a trip to become the greatest again.** There was one place in the world where no one would expect John Henry to go—Nigeria. So that is where John Henry went.

In Nigeria John Henry met a lion. He was sure he could not battle a lion and win, but you know what? He ran away. He did the same thing with the rattlesnake, the monkey, and the eagle.

Later he went to a barn and got into a battle with a hen. Now this hen's beak was so large and sharp that John died with one peck. Ever since then the chicken was known as Johnny Angry Hen.

By Joshua, 10



THE  
**Splendid**  
REVIEW

is published three times a year by **The Periwinkle Foundation, Writers in the Schools (WITS)**, and the many talented young writers at the **Texas Children's Cancer Center**.

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