

# **TCP World Academy**

**Superintendent / Principal Karen Y. French**

## **Student Anthology**



**2011—2012**



"If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time or the tools to write."

- Stephen King

Every action is preceded by a consequence; positive or negative, the consequence is unavoidable. Take for example a person who picks up a book and reads it is bound to inadvertently learn something new - a new word or phrase, sentence structure, a new or different perspective, and the list goes on. Here at TCP World Academy, we believe that good readers make great writers. It is with this philosophy, teamed with state mandated standards, that we proceed with our writing instruction. As early as kindergarten, TCP students begin learning to write. Through the years, words become phrases, phrases become sentences, sentences become paragraphs, paragraphs become stories and reports, and hopefully, through it all, our students consequently develop a love for writing.

The skill of writing is essential in every stage of life - from writing exhaustive papers throughout the high school and college years, to applying for a job. Knowing how to write is vitally important in today's society. In the pages that follow, we will take you on a journey through the colorfully creative minds of our students, and share with you the remarkable works of children grades kindergarten through six. Their works will allow you a peek at the progression they make with each grade level. Enjoy reading, and if you feel so inspired once you're done, pick up a pen, grab a notebook, and begin writing creative pieces of your own!



**Kindergarten**  
**Mrs. Medrano**

Good writing skills begin with understanding language and developing basic sentence structure. I modeled this process with my students by first presenting a picture of a tree. As the students described the tree, we wrote the words they gave on the board, then had the students use all the words in sentences.

Following in the same format, the students were assigned individual writing pieces with the title my "My Christmas Wish." Each student was given the same beginning "All I want for Christmas is..." , and was directed to write one full paragraph with 4-5 complete sentences.

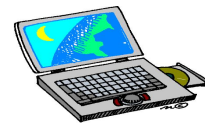
**Amarie Burke**

All I want for Christmas is makeup. I am going to have a makeup party. I will invite my friends and my sister to the party. We will eat mashed potatoes after the makeup party.



**Jaleana Hindsman**

All I want for Christmas is a laptop. I like it because it has games. I will download Angry Birds and play with it. I will also download games for my baby brother. I will take it with me when I go to my daddy's house.



**T'Asia Williams**

All I want for Christmas is a baby doll. I will name her Nyra. I will feed her with baby food. I will take her with me wherever I go. I will take care of her always.

**Laniyah Larkin**

All I want for Christmas is a dog. I will name her Peepee. I will give her food and water everyday. I will teach her to do tricks. I want my dog to jump on me and give me a kiss.

**Jamiyah Grants**

All I want for Christmas is a fake puppy. I will sleep with it. I will play with it. I will take it outside with me. I will take care and love it all the time.



**Krishawn Clark**

All I want for Christmas is a Lego house and a toy truck. I like the toy truck because it makes me happy. I like to build the Legos into a house and a truck.

**Micah Reynolds**

All I want for Christmas are Beyblades and a Dexter game. I like these because I like spinning beyblades and it is fun to play with the Dexter game.

**Tony Crumpley, Jr.**

All I want for Christmas is a toy truck and a Beyblade. I like to play with them. I will share and play with my sister. It is fun to play with trucks and Beyblades.

**Kindergarten**  
**Mrs. Tylka**

Mrs. Tylka's Kindergarten class participated in a writing activity entitled, "A Time For Gratitude". All students were asked to name three things that they were grateful for during Christmas time. Mrs. Tylka helped students to "brain storm" ideas and write the "Pre write" section of their paper. Each child's final copy differs and includes thoughts and ideas from the students alone. The routine writing exercise proves beneficial in developing both the students' thought process as well as their understanding of sentence structure.

## *A Time for Gratitude*

By Devin Byrd

I am grateful for my family. I have the best mom. I love my sister and my brothers. I know my Dad is in Heaven, and I love him. Thank you God for my family!

By Amani Dixon

I am grateful for my family. Mom cleans my room. She always cooks for our family. Dad takes me to the movies. Thank you God for my family!

By Amir Gervin

I am grateful for my family. I love to play with my brother. My mom always rubs noses with me. Dad lets me build figures. Thank you God for my family!

By Melvin Green

I am grateful for my family. My cousin plays with me. Dad takes me fun places. Mom cooks great food. Thank you God for my family!

By Nateal Kesler

I am grateful for my family. Mom cooks my food. My aunt picks me up from school. I love my sister and brothers. Thank you God for my family!

By Mariah Lowe

I am grateful for my family. Mom buys me everything I need. Grandma sews my hats. My aunt spends time with me. Thank you God for my family.

By Monet Terrell

I am grateful for my family. Grandma gives me hugs and kisses. Mom washes my clothes. Dad works hard to pay for toys. Thank you God for my family!

By Laylah Torrain

I am grateful for my family. I love to take my puppy for a walk. Mom takes me to fun stores. Dad came on my class field trip. Thank you God for my family!





### **The Descriptive Essay Mrs. Jones-Schraer**

A descriptive essay is a genre of essay that asks the student to describe an object, person, place, experience, emotion, or situation. This genre encourages the student's ability to create a written account of a particular experience. Mrs. Jones-Schraer challenged her students to think of the most perfect gift to give their family. Those thoughts were put into sentences, then formed into paragraphs.

### **The Perfect Present By: Sheriya Reid**

If I have a lot of money, I will buy my mom a perfect present. I will buy my mom a pink short dress. I will go to Kenwood Mall to get the dress. The store is located on the first floor. I am buying my mom a perfect present because I love her and she loves me. She takes care of me. My mom is the best mom and I will buy her a gift that she will never forget.

~~~~~

### **My Special Gifts By: Linda Destani**

My special gifts for my family will be a ticket to Europe and a black car. I will buy the ticket at Wal-Mart. The black car I will buy at Meijer. I am buying them special gifts because they love me. My family takes care of me. I love my family.

### **A Wonderful Present By: Zyaire Odom**

This year, I will buy my mom a wonderful present. I will buy her a red watch. I will shop at Sears at Kenwood Mall on the first floor. I am buying my mom that wonderful present because she likes to tell time, she likes the color red. And mostly, because I love my mom!

~~~~~

### **A Special Surprise By: Josiah Jackson**

I want to give a special surprise to my grandma. I want to buy her an orange Jeep. I will buy it at the car place by Chuck E Cheese. My grandma takes care of me. She takes me to school every day. She took me to Kings Island in the summer. I want to surprise my grandma because I love her and she makes the best lunch.

### **My Homemade Present By: Mously Thiam**

When it's time for our family holiday I will make my mom a present. I will make her a blue, long dress. I will use glitter, flowers, cloth, and glue. I will make my mom a dress because I love her very much. She gives me toys and food. She takes care of me. My mom will look cute wearing the dress I made for her.

~~~~~

### **A Good Gift By: Samiya Clifton**

A good gift for my GG is a special ticket to watch the Shark Tail movie. I will buy her gift at Wal-Mart in Kennedy Heights. I want to buy her a good gift because I want her not to stress out and I love her. My gift will make her happy.

### **A Special Surprise By: Josiah Jackson**

I want to give a special surprise to my grandma this Christmas. I want to buy her an orange Jeep. I will buy it at the car place by Chuck E Cheese. My grandma takes care of me. She takes me to school every day. She took me to Kings Island in the summer. I want to surprise my grandma because I love her and she makes the best lunch.

~~~~~

### **Mom's Gift By: Adam Reese**

The gift that I want to give my mom is a wig. I will buy her gift at Kroger. I will buy her a wig because wigs are her favorite. I love mom!

### **A Special Gift By: Anthony Baks Jr.**

If I have the money, I will buy my family a special gift. I will buy them a McDonald's gift card. I will get the gift card at the McDonalds Restaurant and they will be so happy. My family loves to eat McDonalds and I love them. My family buys me things, now its my turn to buy them a special gift.

~~~~~

### **My Parent's Gift By: Ava Griffin**

If I have the money, I am getting my parents a gift. I will buy a new house at the house shop on the first floor at the mall. I am buying the new house for my family because the house we have is old and small. I will also help pack and unpack our clothes. I love my family. My gift will make them love me more.

## My Special Day

Ms. Meister



by Emery Cunningham

A special day for me is a trip to Kings Island. I see the Eiffel Tower. The funnel cakes smell good. The music is very loud. The lemonade is great, but it is sour. The stuffed animals are very soft. I go home and get into my bed.

~~~~~

by Laila Brown

A special day for me is a trip to Kings Island. I see many brown people. The sun is very hot. I can smell the tasty popcorn. The pepperoni pizza is good. At night, I hear loud fireworks. Finally, I go home.

by Torrie Terrell

A special day for me is a trip to Kings Island. I feel excited. The chocolate funnel cakes smell delicious. We see splashing water. There are people screaming. I taste round BBQ chicken nuggets, they taste good. Last but not least, the day was over and I went home.

"What a day," said my mother. It was a fun day!

~~~~~

by Amiyah Wilson

A special day for me is a trip to Kings Island. I can smell the yummy BBQ and the tasty, sugary funnel cakes. We can hear the loud fireworks. I play with the soft stuffed animals. The roller coasters are very high. My family and I had a very good time.

by Raegan Styles

A special day for me is a trip to Kings Island. The roller coasters are very colorful. I can taste the smoky BBQ and sweet lemonade. The cool water from the boat ride splashes in my face. I can feel butterflies in my stomach from the fast rides. What a day!

~~~~~

by Izayah Lillard

A special day for me is a trip to Kings Island. I can see the scary games and hear the loud announcers. The thrill of winning a prize feels great! In the air is the smell of BBQ chicken. It tastes delicious!



## My Special Day

Ms. Boyd



by Jordan Ward

I had a special day at Kings Island. I got on the roller coasters. I was screaming and my baby sister was crying. I saw bees on the flowers. I ate a big piece of pizza. My sister and I were scared.

~~~~~

by Sa'Rye Davis

I had a special day at Kings Island. I hear loud games and rides. I see fast roller coasters and a water park. I smell hot dogs and pizza. I feel the warm sun and air. I taste sweet ice cream and candy.



~~~~~

by Isaiah King

I had a special day at Kings Island. I taste cheese pizza. I feel the cold waves of the pool. I see blue water and twirling roller coasters. I hear crashing waves and pencils talking. I smell chocolate chip cookies.

by Nadia Moore

I had a special day at Kings Island. I see fast roller coasters. I heard people talking fast. I smelled bacon and pepperoni pizza. I feel the hot sun. I taste crunchy chips.

~~~~~

by Aria Miller

I had a special day at Kings Island. I hear loud games. I see happy people. I smell sweet cotton candy. I feel hot air. I taste sweet funnel cakes.

~~~~~

by Javon Lewis

I had a special day at Kings Island. I taste chocolate funnel cakes. I smell the hottest Sun Chips. I hear screaming people. I feel air.

Thoughts  
become words...  
Words become  
phrases...



Phrases become  
sentences...  
The possibilities  
are endless!



# My Friend & I



Mrs. Hatfield

My Friend and I  
By: Ayriel Huckelby

My name is Ayriel. I was born in June. My favorite food is pepperoni pizza. I have four sisters and three brothers. My favorite sport is soccer. I have hair that is cute.

I want you to meet my friend Nadia. Nadia was born in December. Her favorite food is hot dogs. She has four sisters and zero brothers. Her favorite sport is basketball.

My friend and I have many things in common. Our favorite movie is, "So Random." Our favorite pet is a cuddly puppy. Our favorite color is blue. It reminds us of the sky and ocean. Our favorite restaurant is Wendy's. We love the chicken nuggets. Our favorite game is the Wii. We are both pretty and smart girls.

My Friend and I  
By: Kayla Keith

My name is Kayla. My favorite food is spicy hot chicken. I like to go skating and riding my bike. My favorite colors are pink, gold and silver. I love to wear clothes with these colors.

I want you to meet my friend Kalaah. She is a December baby. She has two brothers. She loves swimming. She doesn't have any sisters. She likes to wear flip-flops.

My friend and I have many things in common. Our names begin with the letter "K." We like to watch the television show, "Tom and Jerry." We love cotton candy. It is sweet and sticky.





My Friend and I  
By: Brandon Dixon

My name is Brandon. I was born in November. I have one brother. I like to skate and swim. My favorite food is chili spaghetti. My favorite color is dark orange. It reminds me of orange soda and pumpkins. My favorite show is wrestling.

My friend's name is Tyler. His birthday is in August. He loves the color red. It reminds him of red apples and cherries. He enjoys eating at Golden Corral. He has two sisters.

My friend and I have many things in common. We like basketball and we enjoy eating pizza. We're in Mrs. Hatfield's second grade. Our favorite song is, "Teach Me How to Dougie." We really boogie to it.



My Friend and I  
By: Alyssa Moore

My name is Alyssa. I was born in November. My birthday is November 18<sup>th</sup>. My favorite show is Pink Panther. My favorite fruit is apples. I don't have brothers or sisters. But have a wonderful mom, dad, and nana.

My friend's name is Kenneth. My friend's favorite show is Sponge Bob. His favorite animal is a giraffe. His favorite food is sandwiches. He has zero sisters but does have one brother. His birthday is February 21<sup>st</sup>.

My friend and I have many things in common. We both like turquoise, McDonald's, and the movie, "Toy Story." We are both in the Second Grade. We really like our zoo visits.

My Friend and I  
By: James Wilson

My name is James. My favorite color is blue. It reminds me of the swimming pool. My birthday is in December. It is always cold then. I have one sister and one brother. I like basketball. I like to eat cheeseburgers at McDonald's.

I want you to meet my friend Jeremiah. His birthday is in July. He loves the color turquoise. It is close to blue but different because it has green in it. His favorite sports are football and basketball. Jeremiah's favorite restaurant is Golden Corral.

My friend and I have many things in common. Our names start with a J. We like to watch the show called, "Ant Farm." We both love dinosaurs. "Kat Daddy" is our favorite song. We also like to eat pizza and we both go to T.C.P. World Academy. Our second favorite color is gold.



My Friend and I  
By: Nadia Gannaway

My name is Nadia. I was born the cold month of December. I have four sisters but no brothers. I like to play basketball. My favorite food is hot dogs. I have curly hair.

I want you to meet my friend Ayriel. Her birthday is in June. Her favorite food is pepperoni pizza. She has four sisters and three brothers in her family. She likes soccer. She has straight hair.

My friend and I have many things in common. Our favorite television show is "So Random". We like little puppies. Our favorite color is blue. Our favorite restaurant is called Wendy's. We like to play on our Wii. It is exciting.



# Letters to Santa



Mrs. Brown's 2nd Grade

Alexandria Janelle Griffin  
6000 Ridge Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45213

Amya Lewis  
6000 Ridge Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45213

Dear Santa,

My name is Alexandria Griffin, Alex for short. I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am 8 years old. I live in a house. I have two sisters. Their names are Ava and Addison. We got a new house. I lived in the same house for eight years. I have lots to tell and ask of you.

Santa, thank you for not forgetting me at Christmas time. You always leave Christmas presents under my Christmas tree. I'm thankful for you giving me presents. I'm also thankful for you taking off time to deliver me presents. Thank you very much. You put smiles on many children's faces, including mine. Guess what? I have milk and cookies shape like Christmas trees.

This year for Christmas I want a light pink MP3 player, red marker board and a 3DS too! I think Christmas is the second best holiday. I hope I see you and your deer.

Santa, I have one more thing to ask, can you give the kids in Africa something special. Merry Christmas!

Love,

Alexandria

Dear Santa,

My name is Amya Lewis. I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am 7 years old. I have 2 twin sisters and one big brother. We are very close. I've lived in the same city for 7 years. Santa, I have lots to tell and ask of you.

Santa, thank you for not forgetting me during the holidays. You always leave the presents I ask for under my tree. I'm sorry for wasting your time, but you can go and finish doing what you are doing and you can come to finish the note. Although, I do have a few requests.

This year I'd like to have nice phone, laptop computer, new make-up kit in a round purple case, Dipper Dots, Orbees soothing Spa and a pink 3DS. Santa, I have one more thing to ask you. How do you deliver all your presents in a short amount of time?

Can you give me and my family \$10,000 for Christmas cause we are very poor. Oh, and my friend keep saying you are not real. Are you? I believe in you. I do! I do!

Merry Christmas with joy,

Amya Ava Nicole Lewis





# *Letters to Santa*

Eugene Burse  
6000 Ridge Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45213

Dear Santa,

My name is Eugene Burse. I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. I have one brother and a pet dog. I've lived in the same city for eight years. Santa I have lots to tell and ask of you.

Santa, thank you for not forgetting me every year at Christmas time. You always leave the presents I ask for under my tree. Thank you for putting presents under my tree. I'm very thankful. Thank you for continuing to work so hard and for giving kids so many gifts. Thank you for putting smiles on children's faces. I do have a few requests.

This year, I would like to have a WW superstar ring with the belt and the tag team champs Hornswoggle Finly. Santa, there is one more thing I would like to ask, Can you help my class not to struggle with the things they need help with?

Thank you for reading my letter. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yours truly,

Eugene Burse

Lenya Hooper  
6000 Ridge Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45213

Dear Santa,

My name is Lenya Hooper. I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am 7 years old. I have two brothers and eight sisters. We are very nice. I've lived in the same city for 7 years. Santa, I have lots to tell and ask you.

Santa, thank you for not forgetting me every year at Christmas time. You always leave presents I ask for under the tree. When you give them to me I am always happy. I wish you a Merry Christmas. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to put smiles on children's faces. Although, I do have a few requests.

This year I would like to have a Barbie doll Sonie, kitchen food and some money. Santa, I have one more thing I would like to ask, Can you help my dad work and help my mom at the hospital to get paid?

Thank you for reading my letter. I wish you a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Lenya Hooper



**Mrs. Hayden's  
2nd Grade**

Every year, Macy's has a program called "Believe" where they team up with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. When children write letters to Santa and mail them in Macy's special mailboxes, Macy's donates one dollar to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This foundation develops relationships with children who are terminally ill and grants them a very special wish.

During this time of year children often start thinking of all the toys they want and make lists so Santa and their parents will know just what to get them. This assignment was used to help the students see past themselves and all that they want for Christmas, and instead focus on the needs of others. The goal is to reiterate the writing process and friendly letters, while simultaneously nurturing the students' abilities to be compassionate and thoughtful individuals.

Dear Santa,

There is a store called Macy's and there is a foundation called Make-A-Wish that helps sick children get their last wish. I really want to make them come true. I have somebody in my family who was at the hospital, then they passed away. I've been sick but I got better and I want to help these kids like me get better.

I am grateful to be healthy because my family and I are not sick. But my ankle is sick and I am very sad. There may be some more people that are sick too that I don't know. If there are I want them to feel better too.

Christmas is almost here and I want to help others. I want to help my grandpa with eating because he is in a wheelchair. He is sometimes at the hospital and sometimes at home.

For Christmas I only want two things. I want an Android phone, and a computer. Sometimes I get bored and sometimes my mom won't let me get on her computer so if I get one for Christmas, I can get my own.

Love,

Cole Cooper

Dear Santa,

Instead of asking for toys I want to help the children that don't have anything. But I want to help them by getting them healthy and getting them out of the hospital. I want to tell you about it. They have a Make-A-Wish program and I really want them to have their wish come true. This might be the last time in their life and last vacation. I love them and I'm sending this through Macy's and I really want them to be happy and their families. I love you Santa. Thank you for listening.

I am very grateful that my family and I are healthy. My grandma was sick but is feeling better. When she was sick I was sad but when I went to see her I was happy. I'm thankful to be healthy. Thank you for listening.

I'll ask my mom to see if I can go to the store and buy a present and send it to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

This year I will only ask for one thing for Christmas. I would like a Nintendo 3DS because it's in 3D.

Love,

Demya Davis

Dear Santa,

I want to help others. There's a program called Make-A-Wish Foundation. It is very important to me. I want to help the sick kids by mailing this through Macy's. I want their wishes to come true. I will cry if their wishes don't come true. It's really sad to me. I want them to live their lives. I want them to live very much and I want to give them their medicine. I hope you get this.

I'm very healthy. I don't know how it would feel if I were sick all the time. My family is very healthy but my aunt Linda is very sick. It has something to do with her lungs. I'm very sad. I'm thankful I'm healthy. Thank you very much.

This Christmas I want to help. I want to help my grandma raise money. She's broke but I still want to help those kids. I'm going to have a yard sale.

This Christmas I'm not going to ask for much. I'm going to ask for one thing. I want a crystal necklace. Thank you for everything Santa.

Love,  
Lisa Rae D. Isham

Dear Santa,

This year there is a program called Make-A-Wish Foundation and I want to help the children who are sick. So I decided to write a letter. I feel bad for the children and I wish them a great Christmas. So what we do is write a letter and then we mail it to Macy's and the kids get money.

I am blessed to be healthy. Sometimes I get sick but I get better. My dog has cancer. She has a bump on her hip. I'm merry because I am healthy. Being healthy takes a lot of strength.

This Christmas I want to help others. That's what Christmas is all about. I'm going to help my grandma because nobody helps her. I'm going to help her with laundry.

Santa, this Christmas I really want a camera. Can you get me one for Christmas? Merry Christmas!

Love,  
LeAsia Oliver

Dear Santa,

I want to help the kids that are in the hospital. Macy's will donate a dollar for the kids if I mail this letter at Macy's. This money will make the kids' wishes come true.

I am thankful to be healthy. My grandma's hand is hurt and I want her to be healthy. The rest of my family is healthy and I'm glad we're not sick.

This Christmas I want to help my grandmother. Her hand is hurt and I want to make her hand feel better. I want to help her get up and down because she couldn't get up and down.

This Christmas I want two things. I would like a Barbie house and a Nintendo DS. I want to thank you for giving me some toys for Christmas.

*a million reasons to*  
**Believe™**

Love,  
Jariah Steele



# How to Cook a Thanksgiving Meal

## 3rd Grade



Ms. Woodward, Ms. Young, Ms. Manuel, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Johnson

*Every year the third grade students complete an informational writing explaining how they cook a Thanksgiving meal. This is a fun way to introduce the students to the process of writing informational pieces as well as using transitional words and phrases. Students review the 5 steps of the writing process, then journey through the process together. Upon completion of the works, children have the opportunity to share their writing among their peers if they choose. We encourage the children to use creativity when explaining how to cook their meal. It is always interesting to see the many different ways the children prepare their meals for their families. We hope you find them as amusing and enjoyable as we did. Happy Reading!*

By: Leah Pickett

Thanksgiving is the best holiday of the year. Especially when cooking the turkey! First, wash your hands and get the supplies out. Then, I'll get a rubber glove. After that, I'll take the throat out and throw it away. To begin my delicious meal I will first put the turkey in the oven at 350° F for 5 hours and 25 minutes. Then, I'll take it out and let it cool for 25 minutes. Finally, I'll gently set it down on the table. We will be ready for our feast as soon as we get the greens, rolls, and ham ready. There are a lot of ways to celebrate, but this is how I'll celebrate Thanksgiving!

By: Tierre Hummons

Cooking a family turkey meal with my family is the best part of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is fun because you can spend time with your family. First, when I prepare the meal I gather my ingredients and materials but before I do that I will wash my hands so I don't get any germs on the turkey. Next, I take the organs out of the turkey. Then, I take the stuffing out. After I do that, I put the turkey in the oven and let it cook for 55 minutes on 35° F. I take the turkey out and I cut it. Finally, I will serve everyone a piece and pray for this holiday. That is why we celebrate Thanksgiving. I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving too!

By: Kalin Fields

The best holiday is Thanksgiving because you get to spend time with your family and friends. First, I would wash my hands so I won't get any germs. Next, I will get out the ingredients. Then, I will set the oven to 900° F. First, take out the stuff inside the turkey. Next, you stuff some stuffing in it. Then, put the thermometer in to it. After that, get a platter and set the turkey on it and put it in the oven for 3 hours and 30 minutes. Finally, I will enjoy it with my family and friends. I would set the table. Next, I will cut pieces of the turkey for everyone and dish them a side of green beans too. I hope for an even better Thanksgiving next year, that means that grandma cooks!

By: Tafari Lambert-Russell

I love Thanksgiving because of the many things you can do. I will show you how to cook a turkey. You need a medium sized turkey and a turkey baster. First, wash your hands. You have to defrost the turkey for 30 minutes before you cook it. Place it in the oven for 135 minutes on 600°. If you want you can use a turkey baster to put gravy sauce on top of it. Now you're ready to eat! Spending this quality time with my family reminds me why I love Thanksgiving so much!

By: Jahagane Watkins

Sometimes on Thanksgiving I go to different people's houses. I make sweet potatoes and macaroni and cranberry sauce. I also eat stuffing and many other things. When we prepare our meal we put stuffing in our turkey. We also put brown sugar on our candied yams. My uncle or grandma brings the macaroni.

I will set my turkey on 250 °F. While I do that, I will get other things ready. While I make the deviled eggs with my sister, my mom makes cranberry sauce. I get my sister's Dora table out and set it. I set the main table too. I'll get the spoons and forks. Then, we all eat and enjoy the meal. When we're finished eating we play a few games.

By: Cordell Chamberlain

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. I like eating chicken and bologna and meat. We buy the meal that mom can cook. My mom cooks it by putting it in the oven. We wait a second. When we hear a ding, the turkey is done. My mom serves the meal. She gives the plate to us kids in the house. Then we take the plate back to the table. When we are done, we go play outside with our friends and cousins. I'm thankful for my family.

By: Roger Lovett

Thanksgiving is important to me because it's a time when family gathers around and eats good food. First, we get uncooked turkey. We get all the spoons, cups, and utensils we need to make our Thanksgiving dinner. Next, we get the oven preheated at exactly 100 °F. We get greens and start getting other desserts and foods ready. After that, we get the special Thanksgiving table cloth out and begin to set the table. Finally, when everything is set and everyone is around the table, we pray and eat.

By: Qai Williams

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. I like it because I get to be with my family and cousins and I can watch TV with them. My mom makes the side dishes. She makes salad. When my mom is done we get our salad and put it on the table. Then we get the turkey and we cook it. We put some pepper on it, then put it in the oven. I set it on 60 ° F. We put the food on the table and everybody comes upstairs to eat. That's how we celebrate Thanksgiving!

Aniah Spiller

Thanksgiving is one of the best holidays to me. It is a holiday when you get to bless the things you have. You get to eat delicious food too.

My dad usually cooks the food about 2 days before Thanksgiving. We eat our turkey baked and fried. This year we're having it deep fried. My grandma brings some things over too.

First, my dad buys the turkey. Then, he preheats the oven. While the oven is preheating he puts the seasoning, butter, salt, pepper, and oil on it. Finally, he cooks the turkey.

Since my family comes over, my mom and dad serves it. My family and I eat. We play games. Finally it's time to go and we all pray everyone has a safe trip home.

By: Jalen Edmondson

The food I eat on Thanksgiving is pepper on turkey and here is how you make it. First you have to wash your hands and then you take out the peppers, turkey and stuffing. Second, you shred the peppers and take out the stuffing and mix it all up and put it in the turkey. Then, get the plates out and set up the table and call everyone into the dining room. Everyone gets a plate and serve the food. Finally, you say your prayer and eat your food.



## How to Cook a Thanksgiving Meal (cont.)



By: Michael Plair

The first thing I would do when cooking a turkey is clean the turkey. Then I would get my ingredients. I would need some salt and pepper, seasoning, and turkey. Next I will put the salt, pepper and seasoning on the turkey. Then I will put the turkey in the oven and put the oven on 400 degrees and wait for 10 minutes for it to cook. While waiting I would play a game. After 10 minutes I will take the turkey out and let it cool down. Next I would take it in the dining room, make the stuffing and set the table. Finally, I would sit down and call all my family to come in the dining room. Lets eat!

By: Solomon Erkins

The first thing I would do when making a turkey is get the turkey from the store. I will get a pan, pot and napkins. I put the turkey in the pan and put the salt on the turkey. Then I put the turkey in the oven and put it on 45 degrees. I let it cook for 2 minutes and 27 seconds. When it is done I put some more sauce on it and put it on a plate. I serve my meal and get out the drinks. Then I eat my food I cut it up and get my fork and take a bite.

By: Cornell Behanan

The first thing I would do when I am making a turkey is go get a turkey. I will warm my oven to 150 degrees. Then I will season my turkey with salt and pepper. Next I will put my turkey in the oven. I leave it in the oven. I leave the turkey in the oven for 45 minutes. Then I take the turkey out of the oven and I put the turkey on a plate. I get a fork and eat my turkey. Lastly I clean up the mess.

By: Bacarri Hill

The Thanksgiving meal I am going to prepare is sweet potatoes with melted marshmallows. First take 3 sweet potatoes and peel them. Once they're peeled, mash the potatoes and put in a bowl. Second, get a bag of big marshmallows and put 6 marshmallows in the bowl. Third, put the bowl in the microwave for about 16 minutes. Then, take the bowl out and put it on the table until it cools. Next, set the table with all the utensils and plates. Finally, say grace and enjoy your Thanksgiving dinner.

By: Sokhna Thiam

The Thanksgiving meal I am going to prepare is cuscus and lamb. First, wash your hands then get out the cuscus and lamb. Then, get out the plates and a big bowl with a lid. Next, open the cuscus in the bag with a knife and put it in a big bowl. Add water in the bowl from the sink and put it in the microwave for 5 minutes. When the cuscus is done cooking, open the microwave and take it out. Next, put the bowl of cuscus on the table. Take the lamb out, put it in the bowl, then open the microwave and put the lamb in for 1 minute. When the lamb is done, open the microwave, take it out, and close the microwave. Finally, get a plate and two bowls. Put the cuscus on the plate. Then get the lamb and put it on the other plate. You are done!

Joshua Chapman

Thanksgiving is important to me because it is a time to celebrate and give thanks for our blessings. I prepare my meal by cooking it. I set it on 3 minutes and let it cook until it is ready. Then I take it out and I serve it. Finally, we eat. I serve my meal by saying, "Come eat!" out loud. When we are all done eating we just play.



# Winter Fun

Mrs. Young

*As the school year progressed, so did the minds of our super-smart third graders! After listening to countless stories of how her students were planning to spend their snow days, Mrs. Young decided to challenge their imaginations! The students were assigned to write winter stories following the basic guidelines of writing including: generating writing ideas through discussion, developing a clear main idea as well as a purpose and audience for writing, organizing writing with an introduction, body, and conclusion, create well-written paragraphs that include topic sentences and supporting details, and produce a properly written final copy.*

*The students didn't get any snow days this year, but they did manage to create some very entertaining stories!*

## Spooky Snow Day by Justin Roman

One day I went out to gather my friends. We found a spooky house covered with snow. We were playing truth or dare when we walked up to the house.

One of our friends shouted, "Dare!" I knew right away we had to go into the spooky house. The neighbors watched closely from their windows. All of us had to go in, but I tried to tell my friends it wasn't a good idea. Everyone ignored me. As we crept closer and closer, we slowly opened the door. My friend Jay put his hand in something right inside the door.

He said, "I think I put my hand in gool!" He didn't know for sure because it was too dark to see. We were all cold because there were holes in the ceiling. Suddenly, we heard a tiny voice. The voice laughed. Then, the light came on! We were still alone.

Then someone yelled, "GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!" We ran out of the house as fast as we could! We turned back and a shadow picked up something in the house. We peered back to the door step and the shadow drifted back into the house. I told all of my friends that visiting a house without permission was wrong and dangerous. They agreed. We vowed to never do that again.

## The Fun Day in the Snow by Gabrielle Valentine

One snowy day I looked out the window. I was going to go outside and have some fun. So, I hurried out with my brother and my mother. I grabbed a pile of snow, then I snuck up very quietly, and threw it at my mom! We both laughed. We were having an amazing time.

Then my brother said, "We could have a snowball fight!"

We were each on our own team and played against each other.

After that, we went inside and had hot cocoa and cookies. We took our showers and baths, brushed out teeth, put lotion on, and changed into our pajamas. Lastly, we went to bed feeling nice, snug, and warm.

We had an amazing day of fun!



# Winter Fun



(cont.)



## Winter Fun by Tafari Lambert-Russell

One freezing day I was having a snowball fight with my friends when the snow started to melt. The sun was shining from miles away, but we were getting a little hot as we played. We thought we were wearing too much clothing. Then we noticed it wasn't that at all. It was actually becoming Spring!

Since we knew there wouldn't be any snow left, we went inside and played Monopoly and many other board games. Monopoly is my favorite! You can have lots of money!

My friends and I planned to get all of our garden tools together to help get my mother's yard ready for Spring. We needed to pull the weeds and plant flowers. We had a great day!



## A Day in the Snow by Leah Pickett

On a cold, winter day, I saw many piles of snow! Kids were throwing loads of snow everywhere. I wanted to go outside, but my mom said I couldn't because she needed to buy me a new pink leather coat with fur! She finally went out and bought my coat. As soon as she gave it to me, I put it on and dashed outside.

My friend, Natasha, was already outside. We played in the snow all day long. We had snowball fights. We made snowmen and snow angels. Natasha's mom came to pick her up. My mom said to come in. I said goodbye to Natasha, then I asked my mom if I could go to Marlin's house. She said yes!

I ran as fast as I could. Once I got there, I had to go to the restroom. I knocked on the door and Marlin answered it. I ran straight to the bathroom so we could hurry up and play outside. I told him it was quite cold and asked if he could play. He said that he could, but he needed to bundle up first.

We both ran outside so fast, it seemed like our legs weren't even moving! We plopped in the snow.

*PLOP!!!*

Snow was covered all over us. We made forts and snow angels. It was FREEZING COLD! We couldn't take the cold any longer, so we went back inside. We made hot chocolate and sipped it next to the fireplace. I knew this was the best day ever! I got to be with two great friends!



### A Frosty Day by Saywonn Waller

I will never forget the one breezy winter day on December 25th. As I woke up, I looked out the window and it was snowing on Christmas Day! I was so happy. So, I asked my mother if I could go outside and play. She said, "Yes".

I went right outside to my friend's house to see if he could come out. He was allowed. My friend came out and was almost as excited as I was to play! We had a secret game and a secret place.

We went to our other friend's house to see if he could come out too. After bundling up, he came out also and we asked him if he wanted to snowboard in the backyard. He said snowboarding was the best thing to do in the snow. He was right on!

I said, "You are a good thinker!" He thanked me.

I invited my friends to come over to my house for some hot chocolate. They both gladly wanted to come. As soon as we went back outside, it was even colder, so we hurried up and made a snowman. We named him Frosty. He came alive after we finished building him.!

It began to get even colder, so we went inside for the rest of the day and drank more hot chocolate. We also played our video games for the day. Frosty had a fun day just like we did and finally, we all went to sleep!

Shhhh!!! Make sure you don't wake up Frosty!

### The Three Snow Kids by Kalin W. Fields

One freezing day, I stared through my bedroom window. "It's snowing!" I shouted.

I ran downstairs and jumped on my cousins, James and Kaytlyn.

"What is it?" James replied.

"It's snowing," I said.

"That's awesome!" they both yelled.

I busted downstairs to grab my snowsuit. I put it on in a hurry.

"Let's go get our snowboards!" we all said.

"I'll get the key to the back door. Last one out is a rotten egg!" I shouted.

First, we played in the snow. We had a snowball fight. We played five rounds of the snowball fight until our toes were frozen. We played until there wasn't any daylight. It was almost bed time.

"It's getting late. Time to come in and get ready for bed," Mom said.

Before bed, we all bundled up next to the fireplace, drank hot chocolate, and sang a happy snow day song!





# Persuasive Writing

Ms. Manuel ~ Ms. Woodward ~ Ms. Taylor



*Students' writing develops when they regularly engage in the major phases of the writing process. This process includes the phases of prewriting, drafting, revising and editing and publishing. They learn to plan their writing for many different purposes and audiences. They learn to apply their writing skills in increasingly sophisticated ways to create and produce compositions that reflect effective word and grammatical choices. Students develop revision strategies to improve the content, organization and language of their writing. Students also develop editing skills to improve writing conventions.*

*For this lesson, students were given the task of writing a persuasive letter to a person of their choice. In the end, the people to whom they chose to write were as varied as their arguments!*

Dear First Lady Michelle Obama,

I am a 3rd grade girl at TCP or Technological College Preparatory World Academy. My name is Devanae Humphrey. I know you like to get kids active and I was wondering if you could come to Cincinnati, Ohio and visit TCP World Academy. It would be like a surprise. This would be helpful because all of us would be eating healthy and exercising.

The White House is a very busy place, but somehow we can make it work. This will help kids learn not to just sit down, play video games, and eat junk all day. It will show them that they can go outside and exercise anytime and teach them that it's easy. See, it will be fun for everyone and you can even get active with some of the kids from my school! This will let kids know they're not alone.

They should get more exercise and be more athletic. They can play basketball, football, run track, play soccer, softball, and all kinds of sports. You inspired me to play basketball and to get active. To me, you're a hero.

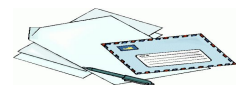
So could you please come and visit? Oh I know all about what you do because I watched all your healthy commercials, and let me tell you, I like them! Then, if you have enough time, maybe you could go to other places and help kids there get active and healthy and let them get enough exercise. I wanted to do this because I have some friends who I think are going to get sick and they won't even be able to eat even a little candy each day. So I would like for you to show them they can be healthy and do it no matter what! I want to show them that they can exercise. For me, exercising is easy because I'm on a basketball team and I used to do cheerleading everyday. But for other people who aren't active, they are going to need to learn how to get active. You can inspire the whole United States of America to work hard, go outside, and do what they can. You are a hero to a lot of people. You just do a lot of things. If you do come to my school, you can come any day. Just please do this for everyone in the country. It doesn't matter what you do, push-ups, sit-ups, as long as you get up!

Sincerely,

Healthy Girl Devanae Humphrey



# Letters to Our President



Dear President Barak Obama,

I want you to talk about TCP World Academy to the whole country. We are a great school and we want you to know about us. We work really hard and we try to get good grades.

A main reason to talk about TCP is because then we would be able to meet you. I think it would be awesome to meet you. We could see you in person and be able to ask you questions. I think that would be the best gift.

Another reason to talk about TCP is so that we can spend time with you. We could also meet your wife and the rest of the people in the government. We ask them about their lives and we could also work hard with you!

I hope we will get the chance to meet you and here you talk about TCP World Academy.

Sincerely,  
Sokhna Thiam

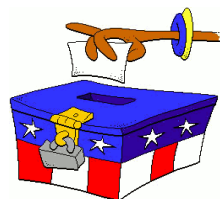
Dear President Obama,

I would like for you to continue to help the world be a better place for me and everybody else. This is special to me because I want homeless people to be happy and have money and people not to throw trash, or cans, or bottle on the street. I want all people to have homes and something to eat and drink. Thank you for considering my ideas.

Sincerely,  
Trinity Dozier

Dear Mr. President,

I think you should let children vote. You should let us vote because it's a free world. I think we would vote better than adults. I think this will change my life and the world. You are my favorite president.



Sincerely,  
Layla Davis

Dear Ms. French,

I would like you to let us dress out of uniform. The reason we should not wear uniforms is you're not letting us show our colors. Would you like for somebody to tell you what to wear? I don't know if you would, so please let us dress out of uniform. Also, if we all wear the same thing, how would you know which kid you're looking for? Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Jarvis Swanson

Dear Ms. French,

I want to convince you to let us have a talent show. My most important reason is because we don't have music, art, or gym. I know we have health and wellness, but that isn't gym. In art, most kids bring their own notebook to draw anyway.

Another reason I want a talent show is to show off my skills. I love singing and dancing. This could be a great opportunity for all kids to share their skills.

The last reason is because most schools already have talent shows. We want to be one of the best schools to offer the best things. The kids here have great voices, they like dancing, even acting. So please let us have a talent show!

Sincerely,  
Taylor Godfrey



Dear Mom & Dad,

I want you to take me to church more often. I want new church shoes and perfume, and I want to learn about Jesus. I would also like to have a brand new headband and matching gloves. I would like to wear curls in my hair when I go to church.

I really want to learn about God. He seems to have done a lot for my family. I would like to thank him by praying to him. He sounds like a good guy. I would like to repay him by telling him thanks in my own way. I also want my own Bible. Thank you.

Love,  
LeAsiya

Dear Trinity,

I think you should buy your mom a birthday present. Your mom buys you a present for your birthday. Last year your mom bought you a necklace. If you buy your mom a present it will make her happy. You might make her smile. You can show her that you love her by buying your mom a present. I hope you buy your mom a present.

Your friend,  
Zakyla

Dear Mom,

I would like you to buy me more video games. I should get rewarded for doing well in school. I listen to the teacher and write down what she says. I really like Spanish and I help her a lot too.

Another reason I should get video games is I do my chores at home. I take out the garbage, help with the dishes, clean my room, and do my homework.

The last reason is I help my grandma out a lot. I help her across the street and help her get ready for bed when I stay at her house. I also help make food. So please buy me more games.

Love  
Keyshawn

Dear Cortez,

I think you should clean up the room. I will let you wear my brand new Jordan's. I will also give you a Beyblade and my new football game. You love Jordans. You think they make your feet powerful. You love football; it's your favorite sport. These are some of your favorite things, and I will give them to you if you clean the room up.

Your brother,  
Cornell







Dear Raphael,

I would like to build a tree house. We can build it in the back yard. The most important reason why is so we can have fun and play outside.

I also would like to build a tree house because I would like somewhere to go when I am bored. I could sit in the tree house and think of something to do.

The final reason we should build a tree house is so I have somewhere to hide when we play hide and seek. It's up in the tree house so nobody can find me! We can also read to each other in the tree house.

Love,  
Yahudah

*Learning is a  
treasure that  
will follow its  
owner  
everywhere.*

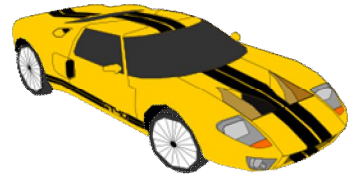
Dear Pet Smart,

I want to convince you to lower your prices on animals. My most important reason is that I love animals. I like dogs and I would love to take care of them because some don't have homes. I think they're cute, fun to play with, and when I'm sad, they cheer me up. I like black puppies because I like the way they look. I also like how they have puppy breath.

Another reason is I can't afford your animals. I don't have a job. Other people would like to buy these pets but they can't afford them either because they are too expensive. Some people who have children may want dogs but can't afford your prices because they have other things to pay for.

If you lower the prices, the more money you will make and more people will want to come to your store. The more people buy, the more money you will make. Your store would be so successful! All kinds of children would be happy. So please lower your prices!

Sincerely,  
Katelyn W.



Dear Car Dealers,

I love cars! I like everything about them, especially the rims! I really want a Lamborghini, but they cost too much. I want you to make car prices lower. The most important reason is because people can't afford cool cars and new cars. They are really expensive.

Another reason prices need to be lowered is some people have really old cars. The engines don't work well, and other parts start falling apart. The worst thing is old cars pollute the air, that means they make the air dirty. My dad says old cars also mess up the ozone layer; I don't know what that means, but it sounds really bad. If new cars were more affordable, we could get rid of the old cars.

One final reason car prices need to be lowered is to make them affordable for everyone. Everybody deserves to have a nice car to help them go places like work, church, and family vacations. Without a nice big car, families could not go places together. Please lower your car prices so people can afford cool, new cars.

Sincerely,  
Jireh Burton



**A Season of Gratitude and Giving**  
**Mrs. Burton & Mr. Cornett**

*There's a virus that fills the air at least once each year, and it infects any and every thing in its path! The symptoms of this incurable ailment are always obvious: colorful blinking lights, commercials, singing, bells, illuminated trees, and an unexplainable desire for eggnog! The bug is unavoidable and the only cure is usually to give in and allow it to run its course. It's Christmas fever and the joy of being a part of the holiday spirit!*

*While advertisers were busy luring our children with catchy commercials and humongous toy books, we thought it would be a great time to redirect their attention to the spirit of giving and showing thanks. Instead of writing wish lists to Santa, we challenged our students to express themselves concerning everything they have to be thankful for and to think of creative ways to give to others, without spending a dime.*

*As you will soon discover, most children do not have a problem recognizing all they have to be thankful for or coming up with ways to share. Our hope is that their infectious spirits are contagious enough to jump off the pages through their writing and infect every person granted the opportunity to share in their thoughts! As you read, remember, it is better to give than to receive and a grateful heart is a happy heart!*

**"To Give or Not To Give"**  
**by Amaya Boyd**

This holiday season, I think giving is greater than receiving. Being thankful lets other people and God know that I care. Giving puts smiles on people's faces.

Being thankful during this time of year is one of the greatest things you can do. I have many things to be thankful for; I can start off with my family. My family does so much for me. They provide me with food and clothes, and a nice warm bed to sleep on. I'm also thankful for my friends. They support me in so many ways and they are always there when I need them. I am mostly thankful for my teachers. I love them and I know they love me too! I can trust them and tell them anything. Most of all, they help me to succeed in life by teaching me all I need to know.

I love giving and I love finding creative ways to give to people! For example, I can make holiday cards instead of buying them. I can also give the gift of sharing by donating some of my old toys and clothes to the hospital or foster homes. I am a good baker, so I can also make treats and give them to the homeless.

All my life, I learned that giving is better than receiving. Giving and being thankful is one of the best things we can do at this time of year. I can already tell that this is going to be my best Christmas ever!

*"Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need."*



The Spirit of Giving Thanks with Love  
by Janiah Clark

As the holiday season approaches and we get together with our friends and family, I will show thanks unto God. I will do as God did and give to others. It is always better to give than to receive. I will show my family and friends how thankful I am.

Thankful is a powerful word meaning expressing gratitude and appreciation. I appreciate my mom and dad taking care of me and my brother. I show gratitude and thankfulness by making my mommy and daddy proud of me. I'm thankful for my mom paying the fee for me to play basketball. I am also grateful for my teachers providing me with knowledge.

Giving is something I want to do this holiday season. I plan to give out homemade cards and things I have at home without spending a dollar. I can give several people who need coats or jackets, a coat or a jacket from my closet. I can give hats and scarves, shoes and clothes to homeless or less fortunate children. I can give a bucket of toys to needy kids and some books for people whose reading skills are at my level.

I love the holidays, especially this one coming up. I want to give and be thankful, and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

~~~~~

Giving More  
by Miles Cooper

Holidays teach us values about being thankful and giving. Receiving may be fun, but giving matters more! Giving makes you more thankful than receiving all the time!

To be thankful means to have joy for what you have. I'm most thankful for God, that He allows me to live in this world. My friends and I feel thankful for each other. I am thankful for my parents that got me in this school. I am also thankful for God who carries me through hard times.

Giving is the best thing you can do. I can give without paying or wasting money. I can give my own cards to family and friends. When I give, I feel like I have given myself something. Giving makes me happy, especially when people enjoy it.

The holidays are a great time to be thankful and give. I plan to do more giving and less receiving. I appreciate what I have and I give to make family and friends happy.

*"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."*



### What Holidays Are For! by Kadyn Dudley

Holidays aren't just for receiving. I am thankful for giving, and you should be too! I'm very grateful for my teachers and family, and I really love to give.

I'm thankful for a lot of things. First, giving honor to God who's the head of my life, I am mostly thankful for Him and all that He does. I'm also grateful for my friends and the people who died and sacrificed for me to be here today. I'm so thankful for God because He woke me up this morning and started me on my way. He also gives all of us clothing, food, and shelter. Those are some things I am thankful for.

This year, I have decided to give a lot of things to others. First, I will collect toys, shirts, pants, hats and coats and donate it all to Goodwill and other thrift stores. I will donate food and drinks to the poor homeless people. I will participate in coin rallies. My goal will be to raise money and donate it to charity houses like the Ronald McDonald House.

It is a nice feeling to express thanks and give to others. I look forward to giving more and being thankful this year.

~~~~~

### Better to Give by Anthony Hunter

This holiday season, we should be thankful and give rather than just receive. I think the best gift I can give my parents is the gift of thanks and a heart that wants to give.

Thankful means showing thanks and gratitude. I am thankful for all my friends in the other class, mainly Brandon and Miles. They have always been there when I was down and hurt. I am also thankful for my parents, Grandma, and my teachers. They listen to my problems, teach me, and comfort me. I'm thankful for everything I have and everyone I love.

I think it's better to give than to receive because it puts smiles on people's faces. Instead of receiving this holiday season, I will give to others. I can give by making cards for my parents, writing letters to my family, and drawing pictures for other people. Making things instead of buying them makes giving even nicer because it means the gift is from your heart and it makes people smile.

Giving is when you share from your heart. I feel a lot better when I share with somebody who deserves it and really needs what I have to give. I look forward to being thankful and giving to others this holiday season.

*"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."*



A Time to Give  
by Bryisha Lathan

I love to give! I'm also thankful and have an attitude of gratitude. This holiday season I plan to share my positive spirit by spreading love and showing thanks.

Showing how thankful I am makes me feel good. I'm thankful for my baby brother Jenarro, my education, and God. I'm thankful for Jenarro because even though he's not even 1-year old yet, he teaches me. He really does! He teaches me the ways of a baby. I'm also thankful for my education because without an education, I'm nothing. Finally, I'm most thankful for God because without Him, I would not be here.

I love to give! It feels good to give and share from your heart. This year, I can give hugs to my family and friends. I can also give home-made cards, calendars and drawings. When I'm at home, I can give by helping my mom with Jenarro. I love to give! It most definitely makes my heart happy.

This year, the holidays will be a great time to give. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and remember to be thankful and give to others; I know I will!

~~~~~

Spreading Love  
by Amon'e Swain

Holidays are for people who love to give. It is also a good time to be thankful. This year I want to show thanks and give back to the people I love.

Being thankful is a way to express gratitude. I am thankful for the house my family and I live in. I am also grateful for God and all of His blessings. I am grateful to have a mother that loves and sacrifices so much of herself for me. I'm thankful to have a little brother that I can teach all the things my mother has taught me. I love my family. The way I express how thankful I am is by showing love and gratitude for what I have and for what I am given.

It is better to give than to receive. What I give to my family is my heart that is filled with love. To my little brother, I give all the love a big brother should. I support him and help him in all that he does. I will make holiday greeting cards and give them to members of my family. My goal this holiday season is to put smiles on the faces of homeless people by providing them with a meal and reading to them.

People love to give during the holidays. Holidays are also a great time to be thankful. This year, I will give back and show love to my family and friends.

*"Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting."*



### Holiday Thankfulness by Zamaia Wells

Holidays are for spending time with your family and being thankful for what you have. I am thankful for a lot and I want to give thanks for all I have this year.

I'm thankful for my parents. If it wasn't for my parents, my brother and sister and I would not have shelter or food. My brother and sister and I are so lucky because some people don't have food like we do, so we appreciate what we have. I'm also thankful for food. If we did not have any food we would be hungry. I am so happy to go to school. School is the most important thing ever! It is helping me to get my education and to prepare for college and the world.

Giving things to others is a great thing to do for people. I can give away things like shoes, clothes, and food to the homeless people. I will give toys to the other children in need. If I can, I will spend time with homeless people and make dinner for them.

This year, I will help others. I do not mind spending time with them and making the holidays brighter!



### Holiday Gratitude by Serigne Thiam

Holidays are a time when friends and family get together and show gratitude for all they have. We should give so people can see that it is better to give than only receive and be greedy. Giving also shows that you're a good person. That is how I want to be seen this holiday season.

Being thankful is something all people should try to be. I am thankful for having a caring, loving family and friends. I am also thankful for God letting me live every day. Because of my hard work, I am grateful for the opportunity to move on to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I am really thankful for this honor to be in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Lastly, I feel grateful for the food, shelter, and water that god gives to me every day.

This holiday season and year-round, I would like to give people things they really need. It is a survival method that most people already do. I would like to spend my time worshipping god. I would also like to give people who really need it – gifts and donations. To save money and the earth, I could also make or save and recycle things other people might need.

I am very thankful for everything I have. I hope all people can one day have what I have and more. Many people need many things. Hopefully they will get it this year.

*"Sometimes a small thing you do can mean everything in another person's life."*





### A Spirit of Thanks by Courtney Hammonds

The holiday season is one of the greatest times of the year. It's a time for giving, sharing, and caring. Most of all, it is a time for remembering who we should be celebrating.

I have a lot to be thankful for this holiday season. First of all I am thankful for Jesus Christ because He died on the cross for all of my sins. I am thankful for God because of him sending Jesus, making man, and making plans for my life. I am also thankful for food, water, and shelter to keep me alive and living. I am last thankful for my family because they are people who care.

I have a lot to give for the holidays. First I want to give the gift of spreading news about Jesus. I would give that because I would like people to know the truth about Christmas. I would give needy people food so they don't pass out. I will give the gift of the word. I would do that by inviting them to church.

There is a lot more that I have to be thankful for and much more that I have to give, but those were just a few. My goal is share my heart with others during this holiday season.



### Thankful by Deyani Curtis

For many, the holiday season is a time for making lists of everything they want. This year I choose instead to think of everything I am thankful for and all I have to give.

I have so many things to be thankful for I hardly know where to begin. For starters, I am thankful for my parents; if it wasn't for them I wouldn't be here right now so I give my parents all the respect they need. I am also thankful for GOD because GOD gave me my life and He gave me my parents. Last but not least, I am thankful for my family because they give me love and a shelter over my head, even though I do not live at my parents' house.

This year I am going to give to others. I will give by donating clothes that I can't fit anymore to the homeless shelter. I will also go down to the homeless shelter and give food to them. It is important to give to others.

I love the holidays even though on some holidays I don't get anything. I am still grateful for them all.

*"Sometimes a small thing you do can mean everything in another person's life."*

Forever Thankful  
by Miles Bryant

I am thankful for so many things and so many people. As the holiday season rolls around this year, instead of focusing on everything I want, I will focus on different ways to give back and show thanks to others.

I am thankful for lots of things that I can name, but the first person that comes to mind is God. God made me. He also gave me freedom, blessed me, and gives me food, water, and joy daily. I am also thankful for my family. They make me laugh and they play with me. Finally, I am grateful for my best friend Brandon Niles. He comes over to my house and plays the Xbox 360 with me. We have tons of fun!

This year, I would rather give out presents than get presents because I feel good and I already have many good things. Some things I can give to people without spending a dime is love, care, thoughtfulness, and joy.

I am thankful to God for joy, thankfulness, and love. I would like to share my blessings with others, this holiday season and all year around. May God bless everyone!



A Time for Gratitude  
by Shabrya Smith

To be thankful means to have gratitude and to be grateful. This year I want to make sure the people I love most know how much I love and appreciate them.

There are many people in my life who I love and respect. For starters, I am thankful for my best friend Tylar Webb because she is the best friend who really cares and we have so much in common. I am also grateful for God. He keeps me alive everyday, He provides for me, and makes sure I have clothes on my back and shelter over my head. Most of all, I'm thankful for my family because they support me through school and help me to keep my grades up.

This year, instead of asking my parents for gifts, I will give to others. I would like to give food to the homeless. I would also like to give gifts and just show everyone all the love I have to share. The last thing I would like to do is try to raise money for people who don't have food, water, or shelter over their heads, or clothes on their backs. I understand that giving is very important.

This year, Christmas will be my favorite season. I can't wait to show my family how grateful I am for all I have and to share my joy and happiness! Happy Holidays!

*"Give the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you."*



*During the month of February, most students throughout the school embark upon a study of Black American History. The fourth grade students were assigned Black Americans who were made famous by serving in the area of the students' personal interests. The children were very excited about conducting their research, writing their papers, organizing poster boards and delivering presentations to their peers. In the end, the final product for most was very exhaustive and detailed. Choosing only a couple final reports to share was a*

*very tough decision, but hopefully, these examples will give you a brief idea of the type of research papers our fourth grade students are capable of completing.*

**Thurgood Marshall**  
by Serigne Thiam

Have you ever dreamed of being able to decide if a person is guilty or not? Thurgood Marshall did. He was the first Black man to become a judge of the United States Supreme Court. A lot of Black people wanted to be a judge, but it was difficult, especially years ago when there was a lot of racism. It was even more difficult to be Black and become a judge in the Supreme Court of Justice.

Thurgood Marshall was born July 2, 1908, in Baltimore, Maryland. His parents were William Marshall and Norma Arica-Thurgood. Marshall's life was difficult because he was told he couldn't be what he wanted to be, a judge. As a teenager, Marshall went to Frederick Douglas High School. After graduating, he went to college at Lincoln University then on to Howard University School of Law for graduate school. Marshall studied to be an African-American leader. In 1933, he received a law degree from Howard University.

Thurgood Marshall had a lot of accomplishments. His career choice was to be a lawyer.

During his early years of practicing law, Marshall won his first of 29 Supreme Court victories, *Chambers vs. Florida*. In 1936, he became assistant special counsel for the NAACP in New York. In 1948, he won *Shelley vs Kraemer*, in which the Supreme Court challenged the legality of racially restrictive covenants. In 1967, Marshall became the first African-American to be elected to the Supreme Court.

Thurgood Marshall encouraged a lot of Americans to become leaders of justice. His life influences me to fight for what is right. If I learned what is right. If I learned more about him, I would tell others and he would influenced them by making kids follow their dreams.

I've learned a lot about Thurgood Marshall. I've learned that he was a great judge. Marshall and his achievements are interesting to me because he is an example of an African-American leader of justice. He has impacted my life because I also want to fight for justice.

Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler  
by Kelsey Wade

Have you ever heard the song by Whitney Houston, "The Greatest Love of All"? One lyric says, "I believe the children are our future." One woman who felt the same way was Rebecca Lee Crumpler. The most interesting thing I learned about Dr. Crumpler was that she dedicated her life to helping sick women and children. This was very interesting because this helped her become the first African-American female doctor, overcoming many obstacles. Three main pieces of information presented will be: how she overcame difficulties, how she helped newly freed women and children, and that she wrote a book to help women and children stay healthy.

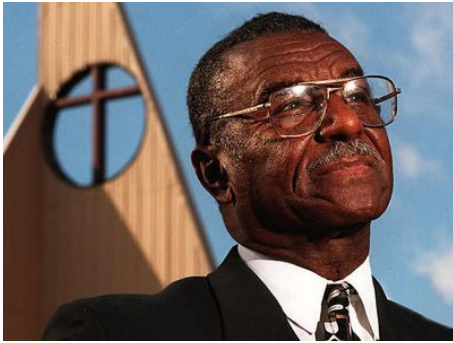
Rebecca Lee was born free around 1831 in Delaware. Her parents were Absalom Davis and Matilda Webber. Her aunt, who lived in Pennsylvania, raised her. Rebecca was inspired by her aunt who always helped sick neighbors. Sick people would look for her aunt to help them. Rebecca wrote, "I early conceived a liking for, and sought every opportunity to relieve the suffering of others."

In 1852, she moved to Charlestown, Massachusetts and worked as a nurse for eight years helping many doctors. The doctors suggested she enter the New England Female College to study medicine. This was very rare because she was a woman and an African-American. In 1859, she was accepted to the college. In 1861, Rebecca had to leave school because of the Civil War and went to live in Richmond, Virginia. This was the first of many obstacles. After the war, she needed money for school. She won a scholarship from the Wade Scholarship Fund—established by the Ohio abolitionist Benjamin Wade. This money helped her earn her medical degree. In 1864, she graduated as Dr. Rebecca Lee. In this year, she also married Dr. Arthur Crumpler.

Dr. Crumpler went back to Virginia in 1865 after the war. She worked with the Freedman's Bureau and other community groups to help the newly freed slaves. She joined other black doctors, going against intense racism. Moving to Boston, Massachusetts, she focused her work on helping women and children and their sickness, helping those who would otherwise not be able to get a doctor's help. This led to her next biggest accomplishment, which was writing a book in 1883, giving women advice on how to take medical care of themselves and their children. The title of the book was, "*A Book of Medical Discourses in Two Parts*". This was the first medical book written by an African American. Most of the facts that are known about her come from the introduction of the book.

Dr. Crumpler contributed to society the interest of health for women and children. She may have helped one of our ancestors stay alive by giving them medicine, or by reading her book, which allowed us and many others to be alive today. She influenced me because I see how she never gave up her dream, even though she was black and a woman. Dr. Crumpler overcame many obstacles that I may go through being black and a woman. Learning about Dr. Crumpler can influence people my age by persuading them to become doctors if they want to. They can also see if you believe in yourself, you can conquer obstacles.

Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler was the first African-American female doctor in the United States. She died in Fairview, Massachusetts, in 1895. Dr. Crumpler accomplished something no one else had done before and she dedicated her life to helping sick women and children. She believed the children are the future. In my life, I can think of Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler when I got to veterinarian school, and if things get hard, I can think of her determination and stay strong.



**Fred Shuttlesworth:**  
**“A Man on the Road for Equal Rights”**  
by Kadyndy Dudley

My black history project is about the late Fred Shuttlesworth. He was a man on the road for equal rights. He was a pastor like my papa. I have a vision, that I will be a pastor but my mom always says you have to have a calling from God to be a pastor.

Pastor Shuttlesworth was born on March 18, 1922 in Mount Meigs, Alabama. He was born as Freddie Lee Robinson, but he took his stepfather's last name Shuttlesworth.

An airport was named for him in July of 2008 in Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Shuttlesworth did get an education. He attended Cedar Grove Academy Bible College, Selma University, Alabama State College and Birmingham Baptist College. He was the pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama from 1953-1961. Pastor Shuttlesworth married Ruby Keeler Shuttlesworth and had four children. They divorced in 1970 but he married again in 2007 to Ms. Sephia Bailey.

Pastor Shuttlesworth was always doing things to help with equal rights. He was Membership Chairman of the Alabama state chapter of the NAACP in 1956. He also established the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR) with Ed Gardener, to do work the NAACP did before it was outlawed in Alabama. The ACMHR even challenged segregation on laws in Birmingham on December of 1956.

Mr. Shuttlesworth had attempts on his life. In 1956, an unknown person tried to kill him by placing sixteen sticks of dynamite under his bedroom window. Mr. Shuttlesworth escaped but his house was damaged from the explosion. A police officer told him to get out of town. The cop belonged to the Ku Klux Klan but they did not scare Mr. Shuttlesworth. He led a group that helped integrate buses the very next day.

In 1957, Pastor Shuttlesworth and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with other great leaders founded the Southern Leadership Conference of Transportation and Non-violent Integration. This was later named the SCLC, Southern Christian Leadership Conference. They adopted a motto to push nonviolence, “no one should be harmed.” The group believed this, but Pastor Shuttlesworth spoke his mind and continued to fight for our rights. In 1961, he was part of the freedom riders. He worked for congress on racial equality to help organize the rides. HE was arrested many times on his road for equal rights.

Pastor Shuttlesworth moved to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1961. He was Pastor at Revelation Baptist Church. He went back and forth to Birmingham to fight for civil rights. Pastor Shuttlesworth was fearless and willing to put his life on the line. He was attacked in 1957 when trying to enroll his children, and again in 1958 he survived a bomb. A church member standing guard saw the bomb and moved it. He moved to Cincinnati after working so much on fighting for civil rights.

Fred Shuttlesworth is important in our history. He is a role model to me as a pastor and I am thankful that he did all that he did for black people. He gave his final sermon in front of 300 people at Greater New Light Baptist church on March 19, 2006. He turned 84 that week-end. He then moved back to Birmingham. He died on October 5, 2011. We can learn so much from Fred Shuttlesworth. I learned that he fought for me to be here today and for the right for me to be what I want to be.



# Destination: Imagination

By Courtney Hammonds

Grade 4

Once in a town in Tennessee, there was a girl named Molly. Molly was a curious girl who wanted to go to the moon. Seven year old Molly studied the moon. So much that she would always tell her friends facts about the moon. She called them "moony facts".

One day, when she was on a play date with her friend Becky, she decided to ask Becky's mom a question.

"If you really wanted to go to the moon," Molly began, "what would you do?"

Becky's mom answered, "What I would do is try using my imagination."

"I-ma-gin-a-tion?" asked Molly.

"Sure. Imagination! It's when you pretend that you're doing something in a certain setting, but you're really not." Becky's mom responded while trying hard to remember things she imagined as a child.

Molly thought to herself, "Imagination. I need to find some imagination."

After the play date, Molly told Becky and her other friend Maya what Becky's mom told her. Becky and Maya loved the moon and also found it interesting, just as much as Molly.

"Do you know what imagination is?" Molly asked Becky, thinking she would know since it was her mother who had told about imagination.

"My mom tells me to imagine things all the time, until I get a chance to actually do what I'm imagining," answered Becky.

"Really?!" Molly exclaimed. "Can you teach me how to use it? It could help us get to the moon!"

Maya was excited! She could not wait to go to the moon.

"I want to fall into a crater!" announced Maya.

Becky looked at Maya, then back at Molly.

"Sorry Molly, imagining is hard to explain and if I tell you, it would be even harder to understand,"

she expressed with regret. Becky felt bad that she could not give Molly the explanation she need to go to the moon.

"Ok. Well, I will ask my mom how to imagine," Molly added. "Let's meet at school and talk more tomorrow." The girls agreed and went home.

Later that evening, after reading a book of "moony facts", Molly decided to go to her mother to ask about imagining.

"Mom, do you know how to imagine?"

"Why sure!" Mom answered quickly. "Why do you ask?"

"Well Mom, I want to go to the moon," Molly explained. "Becky's mom said that I could use my imagination, but I don't know how."

Her mom explained how she had that very same problem when she was Molly's age. She wanted to climb a mountain, but she was too young. She told about how her own mom had given her a tip of advice which she was now willing to share with Molly. After the talk was over, Molly went and got one of her pictures of the moon, then went to bed.

The next day, Molly grabbed her pictures, and went to school. During recess, Molly, Becky, and Maya met under the slide for 'Operation, Go to the Moon'.

"I spoke to my mom last night, and she told me everything!" Molly anxiously announced.

"Great!" Maya said. "Let's get to it!"

"Ok! The first thing we need to do is look at this picture of the moon," Molly began explaining. Maya and Becky both looked at the picture.

"Then," she continued, "close your eyes and think really hard about being on the moon."

All three girls stared at the picture, then closed their eyes. Suddenly, the playground disappeared and they were no longer wearing uniforms; they were now wearing space suits. The soft, grassy



ground became rocks. Molly, Becky, and Maya were no longer on their school playground, they were really imagining they were on the moon!

As the girls looked around, they spotted a huge crater! Maya immediately ran to the crater and slid down into it.

"Wow!" she shouted. "This is so much fun! Come on in!"

Without thinking twice, Becky and Molly ran and slid down the crater. They walked across the bumpy rocks of the crater, ran across to the other side, then tried to climb their way out.

Just then, Molly tripped over a rock.

"Owww!!!" she screamed.

In a flash, the three girls were back on their school playground. Molly was on the ground.

"I fell and hurt myself," Molly cried.

Molly had fallen and scratched her knee. The teacher took her in to clean and put a band-aid on her injury. By the time Molly got back outside, the bell rang and recess was over.

After school, the girls all met at Maya's house and talked about the moon. Maya's mom was in another room talking to Becky and Molly's mothers about a special surprise. They were on a space website—talking, clicking, talking clicking. Finally, they were finished.

"Girls," Becky's mom called, sounding very suspicious. "We have a special surprise for you tomorrow!"

"Really?" Molly replied excitedly. "What's the surprise?"

"If we told you," Maya's mom teased, "it wouldn't be much of a surprise."

"PLEASE tell us!" Molly pleaded.

"Sorry young ladies. You will have to wait and find out tomorrow." Becky's mom declared.

All night long, the girls wondered about the big surprise. They could barely sleep. After what seemed like the longest day ever, the next day finally arrived.

Maya got up and dressed herself more quickly than she ever had before, then ran into her

mother's room.

"Where are we going?" Mya inquired.

"To the surprise," her mom retorted, obviously not willing to give in to Mya's impatience. "Becky and Molly will meet you there."

After driving for well over two hours, Maya finally figured out her surprise. She and her Mom pulled up to an enormous building. They were at a space station! If that wasn't enough, when they looked up, they saw an enormous space ship!

Suddenly, Molly and Becky ran up to Maya, both screaming with excitement.

"We're going to the moon!" they announced. All three girls grabbed hands and began jumping up and down.

The girls and their moms all walked into the station.

"We're not going on the trip with you," Molly's mom told them.

Needless to say, the girls were disappointed at the news that their mothers were not going along. Just then, a tall, skinny woman in a space suit approached them.

"Hi girls!" she greeted them, "I'm Karen, and I will be taking you to the moon!"

The girls immediately perked up.

"Are you ready to get your suits on?" Karen asked.

"Just try stopping us!" Molly replied.

The girls were taken to a room where they got dressed. They felt weird in the heavy suits. Karen introduced them to Mission Control, then led them onboard the space ship. After safely buckling in, the countdown began: "5—4—3—2—1—*Blast off!!!*" The girls had gotten their wish and were on their way to fulfilling their dreams! A trip to the moon!

As excited as they were, on the long journey to the moon, Molly, Becky, and Maya thought about how they never would have made it if it hadn't been for their parents, encouragement, and most of all, IMAGINATION.

# Far, Far away

by Amaya Boyd  
Grade 4



One day in a land far away, there was a girl named Suzy Blue. She went to a school that had no homework, the teachers were actually nice to the students, and the lunch was good.

"What else should I write?" Maria thought as she was quickly writing down all of her thoughts of her idea of a perfect school in her journal.

By the way, all of the ideas in her journal were actually the opposite of her school. The teachers were mean, they always had truckloads of homework, and the lunch was excruciatingly disgusting! But she could not do anything about it. She had to come to school prepared for anything! That night Maria stayed up all night planning on how to change her school. It did not really work out.

The next day, Maria gathered her closest friends for a VIRKM (Very Important and Urgent Kid Meeting). While they were eating lunch, they were discussing ways to make the school better. Ally Custon, Maria's best friend had the idea to get rid of the lunch lady, Ms Peters, who had to wear 3 hairnets: two for her underarms and one for her head.

Maria's other friend, Fred, had the idea to get rid of Vice Principal Roy. Mr. Roy smells so bad that even with all of the Frebreeze Ms. Sall, the Principal, buys, it still won't help.

Just then, as Maria was about to announce her idea, the love of her life walked by, Scott Henders. Ally whispered all of the things Maria had said about Scott. He was intelligent, good looking and a sharp dresser. Maria froze in her tracks. Then felt the tugging of her mom waking her up. Too bad it was all just an incomplete dream. Bummer.

*"You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives."*

*"If someone is going down the wrong road, he doesn't need motivation to speed him up. What he needs is education to turn him around."*

# Book Revue

Mrs. Valdez's 4th Grade

The students have been reading several books in class, some as many as 553 pages long! Following each reading, students are assigned to write reviews, commentaries, recommendations, and summaries. During this process, the students were introduced to Greek and Roman Mythology, in which they've developed a strong passion for. The following is just a snippet of the many encounters they've had, by way of reading, during their fourth grade year!



The Lost Hero  
*By Isaiah Todd*

I achieved reading the remarkable "The Lost Hero" by the great writer Rick Riordan which is 553 big pages today, April 12, 2012. I find the book realistic.

The cool story is about courageous Jason who lost his good memory and his magical friends Piper, Leo, and Dylan

The interesting "The Lost Hero" is realistic because it is talking about the incredible gods, great demi-gods, and evil demons. Leo, Piper, and Jason went to a big castle called the terrific big Quebec where they saw some helpful friends Calais, Zethes, and Khione. They were the great sons of Boreas.

The awesome book is about strong Piper, Leo, and Jason helping each other save the big world. They were using strong Festus because the tall giants wanted revenge. Piper stole or broke into an excellent car. Evil Enceladus kidnapped her dad and she had to go on a risky quest to release the powerful wind spirit and give it to Aeolus. Brave Leo, Piper, and Jason went to unleash strong Hera's rage on Festus because the giants wanted their revenge.

Incredible Jason went in a scary haunted house and was terrified. Brave Leo looked around at the other lonely campers. He knew he could never keep everybody straight.

I recommend this to my sister and my parents because I think they will like it. I think they may buy the book and the movie version.

If I saw Rick Riordan I would ask him questions about the gods, demi-gods, and demons.

*The Lost Hero*  
By Joshua Brogden



I attained reading the one and only "The Lost Hero" which is 553 action-packed pages. The author of the book is smart and intelligent Rick Riordan.

Jason, son of Zeus; Piper, daughter of Aphrodite; and Leo, the controller of fire, the three best friends, went on a fierce quest to rescue famous Piper's dad, Tristen Mclane, who was taken away by the evil Aeolus.

In the beginning of the story, a jellyfish-looking tornado came to the museum and sucked everyone up like a vacuum. Strong Jason just realized that he could fly and that he was a smart demi-god. Leo learned about a metal dragon which could be controlled by him alone.

Jason was in a scary dream about a haunted house. He was terrified because there were bony skeletons in it and it was dark.

I recommend this to my strong brother because he likes a good adventure.

*The Lost Hero*  
By Kameron Richter

I finished the amazing book "The Lost Hero" by amazing Rick Riordan on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. I find the story heroic, action-packed and awesome.

The story is about three brave demi-gods strong Jason, quick Piper, and smart Leo on a risky, dangerous, and creepy quest. They have to demolish unstoppable enemies like incredible Gaea and the powerful giants who can only die by being destructed by a strong demi-god and a mighty god working together strongly. They also needed to destroy wicked Medusa, owner of a scary department store that exploded due to a dangerous chemical.

The moral lesson I learned is that some people may think you are lost. They may try to find you because you might be important to them.

I recommend this awesome book to the smart fifth graders because they might really like the heroic actions in this cool book.

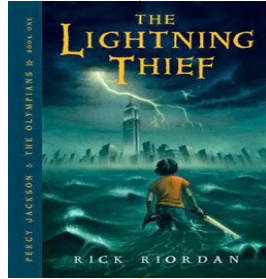
*The Lost Hero*  
By Ryan Lillard

I accomplished reading the challenging "The Lost Hero" by Rick Riordan which is 553 awesome pages today, April 13, 2012. I discovered the interesting story risky.

The death-defying quest is about courageous Jason, Piper, and Leo trying to free powerful Hera and know enormous Gaia doesn't achieve her goal of destroying the world.. It is also about tricked Jason finding the path to his lost memory.

The mysterious "The Lost Hero" is about Jason, Piper, and Leo helping save the green, big blue and dark world by making sure scary Gaia doesn't wake up so she doesn't demolish the world and release the monsters, giants, and demons. They can help Gaia destroy the world.

I learned that when you are trying to find something, you have to work for it. Blinding Hera knows all of Jason's forgotten memories but she didn't tell him. She said if she told him, it would mean nothing and would not be useful.



**The Lightning Thief**  
By Christian Harris

I finished reading the amazing "The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan which is 375 pages today, February 10, 2012. I find the book an adventure!

The strange story is about Percy Jackson, a demigod. The challenging problem the demigod Percy faced is that a minotaur tried to kill him when his beautiful mother and half-man, half goat Grover tried to get him to Camp Half-Blood, where children of gods and goddesses were trained to fight. When Percy Jackson got to Camp Blood, he learned that he was a demi-god and he was trained to fight. Hades looked for Percy and asked him for the lightning bolt. Percy was confused because he did not know what Hades was talking about. The story showed how they figured out where the lightning bolt was and who stole it.

"The Lightning Thief" is an adventure. Percy went on a quest and had to go to the dark underworld and Mount Olympus, home of the gods and goddesses.

I learned that saving the most precious thing in life is the most important of all. Percy was in the underworld and left his mother there so he could stop the war of the gods.

I recommend the story to the kindergarteners because they might be smart as grown-ups in learning Greek mythology.

**The Lightning Thief**  
By Teion Watson

I finished reading "The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan which is 375 pages today, February 10, 2012. The book is wonderful!

The story is about young Percy Jackson who is suspected of stealing the lightning bolt which he did not steal. Percy, also, had ADHD and dyslexia. Percy and his friends, Grover and Annabeth, destroyed Medusa at her lair. They used her head with snakes as a weapon for protection.

"The Lightning Thief" is wonderful because it has mysteries and problems about Percy being suspected of stealing the lightning bolt.

I learned that one should not come into conclusion if he or she does not know the facts. The gods suspected Percy of stealing the lightning bolt which Ares, the god of war, stole.

I recommend this book to my brother because he wants to read this book.

*"A capacity and taste for  
reading gives access to  
whatever has already been  
discovered by others."*

*~Abraham Lincoln*

# GREEK MYTHOLOGY

## **I Am Zeus!** **by Kameron Richter**

I am Zeus! Powerful Zeus is the supreme ruler of the gods. Zeus's symbol is the bright lightning bolt.

Zeus lives on Mount Olympus. He rules the sky and rain. He is the strongest of the gods. He married Athena; although, he had many illicit affairs.

As Zeus, I will keep humans safe. I will destroy evil by keeping bad guys away from the homes. I will demolish evil by striking them with lightning.

I feel as strong as Zeus!



## **I Am Courageous Poseidon!** **by Kashous Brhane**

I am powerful Poseidon! Poseidon is lord of the blue seas. His symbol is the mighty metal trident.

Poseidon can calm the sea with his giant hands. When he is upset, the seas are rough. Poseidon can command the sea to do whatever he wants it to do.

As mighty Poseidon, I will calm the huge seas and make healthy water to drink. I will zap the bad people with my mighty trident. I will send the bad people to a special prison for the rest of their lives. They will really be in misery. I will calm the seas with my hands. I am going to save the universe!

I am courageous Poseidon and I am the ruler of the seas. I am powerful!

## **I Am Poseidon!** **by Jaheim Thomas**

I am powerful Poseidon! Brave Poseidon is the lord of the blue seas. His symbol is the mighty trident.

Poseidon uses the trident to shake the earth. When he is mad, he makes waves rush in. When he is in a pleasant mood, he reaches out his hands and calms the waves. He travels around the seas with a dolphin chariot shaking storms out of his beard, raiding the shoreline with his legions of white-maned combers, sending high water spouts which start feuds with his brothers and sisters.

As Poseidon, I would rule the seas. I would stop all the floods. I can stop robbers by pretending to be a police officer and taking them to jail. I can stop global warming by shutting down all the factories. I can do this by flooding the factories.

I am Poseidon and I am the ruler of the seas!



**I am Hermes!**  
**by Joshua Brogden**

I am Hermes! Hermes is the messenger of powerful Zeus. His great symbol is the gold winged sandals.

Fast Hermes wore winged sandals, a gold winged hat, and had a magic wand. Hermes is faster than any god. Hermes is the god of all thieves and commerce.

As brave Hermes, I would steal the bright thunderbolt from Zeus and destroy him. When I become the ruler of the gods, I would stop heinous crimes. When someone stands on my way, I would use the lightning bolt. I would team up with Poseidon and destroy Hades. I would save Persephone and return her to Mother Earth. After doing that, everyday will be spring! Kids will never have school because of me. I would be more popular than the President. I would use my wand to get anything I want. The people would build a grand statue of me in my honor. That would be cool! I would, also, marry the beautiful Jennifer Hudson. With my power, I would command all the animals in the world so that if I would be in danger I could summon them as backup and protection. If someone was trying to destroy me, I would disguise myself as a mortal, a human being. The last thing I would do is set the people free from the underworld. This could give them a second chance in the real world.

I am Hermes and I am powerful!

**I Am Powerful Poseidon!**  
**by Ryan Lillard**

I am strong Poseidon! Quick Poseidon is the giant god of the chilly seas. Brave Poseidon's ancient symbol is the mighty trident.

Young Poseidon used the powerful trident which could shake the big blue and green earth. It can shatter any object. If Poseidon was mad, he could make a great tsunami. If he was pleased, he could calm the huge waves down. When it rains, immortal Poseidon can stay dry without an umbrella. Poseidon can shake bad storms out of his white beard. Also, he can raid the breezy shoreline with his armored legions of white-maned combers. He can send low water spouts high.

As smart Poseidon, I would stop evil crimes by staying in the foggy sky. When I hear the loud police siren, I would find the crime and throw a giant fist made out of water and knock the criminals out, if it is a robbery. If it is a high-speed chase, I'll pick up the tiny police car with my giant fist and put the black police car in front of the robber's car. Also, as clever Poseidon, I would be an agent and spy. So, when bad people or gangs make deals, I, Poseidon, would stop it without being caught. I would do this by sneaking and knocking them out one by one. If they had guns, I will do the 'matrix.' If I saw a water fountain or toilet, I would throw a water trident at the gang to stop the crime. Finally, as Poseidon, I will team up with my son Perseus to prove to Zeus that we did not steal the lightning bolt.

I, Ryan Lillard, am a god named Poseidon, lord of seas!





*As students move up in grade levels, so does the level of expectation. Poetry allows students to exercise their imaginations with the use of various forms of figurative language, including: similes, metaphors, alliteration, idioms, and the like. The creative form of writing also allows students the freedom of expression by way of personification and visualization.*

*The primary rule of poetry is to be creative. As you're about to discover, our 5th graders are VERY creative!*

### Happiness

by Christopher Tolliver

Happiness is the color brown.

Happiness tastes like the sweet, delicate, baked in the oven cookies made by my mom.

Happiness sounds like a steaming pot of tea.

Happiness smells like soft, flowery roses from the garden.

Happiness looks like a sunny day with little bells on the Christmas tree.

Happiness makes me feel warm inside like the present for my mom and seeing the smile on her face.

### Giving

by Josh Payne

Giving is the color green.

Giving tastes like large, sweet and sour strawberries.

Giving sounds like the wind blowing in my face.

Giving smells like homemade chocolate cookies fresh from the oven.

Giving looks like Christmas lights on a tree.

Giving makes me feel like I want to help the homeless.



### Love

by Kiona Smith

Love is the color pink.

Love tastes like moist chocolate cake with strawberries on top.

Love sounds like a waterfall.

Love smells like a perfumed red rose.

Love looks like a big, red, round cherry.

Love makes me feel like white snow floating down on me.



### Giving

by Kevyn Hill

Giving is the color red.

Giving tastes like a hard, round, sweet, red apple.

Giving sounds like a rushing rainfall.

Giving smells like a fruity, fresh apple at Christmas.

Giving looks like round, brilliant apples.

Giving makes me feel like a great person at Christmas.



### Love

by Torrance Johnson

Love is the color red.

Love tastes like hot from the oven peanut butter cookies.

Love sounds like Niagara Falls.

Love smells like hot, freshly baked peanut butter cookies.

Love looks like small snowflakes hitting the ground.

Love makes me feel like hugging my mom on Christmas Day.



Sensory Christmas  
by Zukarr Hudson

I can see Christmas.  
I can see children opening miles of presents wrapped with love and joy.  
I can see Santa Claus and his white beard eating cookies and milk.  
I can see my Grandmother playing Christmas carols on the piano.  
  
I can smell Christmas.  
I can smell hot chocolate brewing on a wood burning stove.  
I can smell my grandmother's homemade apple pie.  
  
I can hear Christmas.  
I can hear Santa Claus munching on ginger bread cookies.  
I can hear Santa Claus saying, "Ho, Ho, Ho!"  
I can hear Mr. French saying, "Right hand up!" at a Christmas family reunion in Kansas City.  
  
I can taste Christmas.  
I can taste my Mother's roasted smoked turkey.  
I can taste my Grandmother's Christmas dinner with all the fixings.  
I can taste homemade strawberry cheesecake.  
  
I don't need to look at a calendar to know that it's Christmas.



Sense-Sational Christmas  
by Mykal Hogue

I can see Christmas.  
I can see Santa Claus dancing while opening my Dr. J headphones.  
I can see children flying through gifts while happily singing Christmas carols.  
I can see people on the naughty list asking for joy in their lives.  
  
I can smell Christmas.  
I can smell Merry Christmas delight in frigid air.  
I can smell cinnamon buns with their desirable honey drizzle.  
U can smell a delicious, juicy, and savory turkey waiting to be eaten.  
  
I can hear Christmas.  
I can hear voices of rejoice on Christmas morning.  
I can hear Santa shouting, "HELP! I'm stuck in the golden brick chimney."  
I can hear my mom wrapping gifts with munificence and love.  
  
I can taste Christmas.  
I can taste hot fudge pudding mixed with vanilla glazed donuts.  
I can taste the love and joy of my mom's golden caramel brownies.  
I can taste the greasy & magnificent chicken breasts my dad cooked.  
  
I don't need to look at a calendar to know that it's Christmas.

Love

by Cameron Behanan

Love is the color red.

Love tastes like soft, fresh from the oven, loaded chocolate chip cookies made by mom.

Loves sounds like the rustling waves of the ocean.

Love smells like fresh, clean clothes right out of the dryer.

Love looks like the bright red and yellow sun.

Love makes me feel like being with my fluffy black and white dog name Cerock.

Christmas Spirit  
by Diamani Rice

I can see Christmas.  
I can see Santa Claus eating me ginger bread  
house without asking.  
I can see children sitting on Santa Claus's lap tell-  
ing him what they want for Christmas.  
I can see Ms. Bosley in church singing Christmas  
carols.  
  
I can smell Christmas.  
I can smell hot cocoa with marshmallows brewing  
on the stove.  
I can smell the scented candles in every window.  
I can smell the delicious cookies I made for Santa.  
  
I can hear Christmas.  
I can hear bells that ring on Christmas at 12:00am.  
I can hear Santa Claus's elves building toys.  
I can hear Santa Claus knocking down stuff from  
my chimney.  
  
I can taste Christmas.  
I can taste my Grandma's delicious recipe for  
blueberry muffins.  
I can taste chocolate chip cookies fresh from the  
oven.  
I can taste my mom's delicious recipe of frozen  
peppermint cheesecake.  
  
I don't need to look at a calendar to know that it's  
Christmas.

A Sens-able Christmas  
by Isaiah Floyd

I can see Christmas.  
I can see Santa drinking milk in another person's  
home.  
I can see my mom and dad kissing under the mis-  
tletoe.  
I can see that birds that are not alike do not fly  
together.  
  
I can smell Christmas.  
I can smell my mom's eggs on Christmas Eve.  
I can smell Christmas cookies my grandmother  
baked.  
I can smell warm milk throughout my house.  
  
I can hear Christmas.  
I can hear Mr. French yelling at Santa Claus about  
not getting a present.  
I can hear Christmas songs at my house and peo-  
ple giggling.  
I can hear presents being ripped open.  
  
I can taste Christmas.  
I can taste my mother's delicious crab cakes.  
I can taste ginger bread cookies dipped in egg nog.  
I can taste fresh, hot cinnamon buns straight from  
the oven.  
  
I don't need to look at a calendar to know that it's  
Christmas.

Christmas Fun  
by Marliz Medrano

I can see Christmas  
I can see someone after Santa for his big suit.  
I can see Christmas trees delivered to the poor.  
I can see a delicious dinner waiting for me.  
  
I can smell Christmas.  
I can smell hot, crunchy cookies baked by Trina.  
I can smell gooey pecan pie pulled from the oven.  
I can smell pine scent from cut Christmas trees.

I can hear Christmas.

I can hear Mr. French singing songs breaking  
people's windows.  
I can hear children opening gifts with joy & laughter.  
I can hear the bells of the reindeer.

I can taste Christmas.

I can taste Mr. McCoy's homemade pumpkin pie.  
I can taste the snow on my tongue being melted.  
I can taste my grandmother's cranberry nut bread.  
I don't need to look at a calendar to know that it's  
Christmas.



**Ms. Fields**

**The objective for the students was to create a poem expressing "Gratitude to God/Parents/Staff" or "Christmas as a Time for Giving". Students had a choice of creating a shape or cinquain poem. The shape poem is designed so that it will form an "hourglass", coinciding with the theme of a "time" for gratitude and giving. This form of poetry is free form, so punctuation will vary and there is no concrete rule concerning rhyme. As you read the poems, you will see the various themes addressed as students expressed their attitude of gratitude or giving as it relates to the Christmas season!**

~~~~~

**"Giving Thanks on Christmas Day"**

*by Nariah Robinson*

I give thanks because I'm appreciative for my family.  
Christmas is not always about presents and toys.  
I'm thankful for where I am today.  
Many people wish they had presents.  
You should always be thankful.  
Loving what you have.  
Sharing with others.  
Telling God  
You  
Must develop  
What you have.  
Always appreciate the struggle.  
You are lucky to have  
What you have and appreciate God  
For his blessings, for always being there.  
This year my family isn't having a Christmas.  
We are appreciating what we have and giving thanks.

**"Christmas Is a Time to Give"**

*by Ambeyen Lindsey*

Christmas is a time when kids make lists.  
Not me because I love whatever I get.  
Yes, I may want certain things, but  
It's not about me getting things.  
It's about giving things away.  
I can give to  
People in need.  
To family  
I  
Should be  
Happy for what  
I have and had.  
Other children want games and  
Toys, clothes, shoes, love, and happiness.  
But I want other girls and boys  
To have happiness and love too, don't you?  
Merry Christmas to everyone all around the  
snowy world!

~~~~~

**"Loving Our Savior!"**

*by Tre'vion Bohanon*

Christmas is not about receiving, it is about giving.  
When thinking Christmas is about receiving,  
you're selfish.  
Christmas is a holiday for giving thanks.  
When celebrating, you're celebrating Jesus.  
Christmas is a special holiday.  
I love celebrating Christmas!  
I love Christmas!  
Jesus is  
Special!  
Love Jesus  
And family forever.  
Give thank and hope.  
Never let down your Savior.  
Always be true to your Lord.  
Be thankful for the way you live.  
Your Lord is the Creator of your life.  
Be thankful for the life the Lord bestowed you.

**"You Are Wonderful"**

*by Jada White*

Thank you parents for everything, you are really unforgettable.  
How wonderful you are, I really don't know  
I appreciate the things you have done  
You're loving parents who are irreplaceable  
You're really amazing to me  
You are really graceful  
I love you  
Thanking you  
I  
Must say  
I'm very grateful  
For really outstanding parents  
You're the best parents ever  
I'm very blessed to have you  
I love you for all you've done  
It's so great how I really love you  
You're trustworthy, no matter what, I will love you

~~~~~

**"God Giving to Me, and I'll Give On"**

*by De'Asia Reid*

I love Christmas, it's my favorite holiday to give  
It's not for receiving, but for giving, loving  
God is good to let us live.  
That is why I love Him.  
I'll give to the needy  
Special tender, I care  
Giving, not receiving  
That is  
Me  
Thank You  
Thank You Jesus  
To see another day  
I wake up every morning  
Activity of the limbs I have  
To help me get a good education  
To forgive me when I have done wrong  
God is always there MAKING A WAY FOR YOU!

**"Thank You for Everything!"**

*by: Ian Bedgood*

My parents are helpful to me all the time  
My parents are wonderful for everything they do.  
They're important to me for everything.  
I think they are helpful people.  
I'm grateful for my parents.  
Thanks Mom and Dad.  
I love them.  
They  
Do everything  
They buy food,  
They pay for bills,  
And they drive me places.  
Parents do the best things ever.  
They always support me on my designs.  
Parents always try to make me feel better.  
Parents are very wonderful people to me and others.

~~~~~

**"Giving Christmas Thanks"**

*By: Stuart Smith*

Christmas isn't a time to receive different lovely gifts  
It is a time to give great thanks  
I'm so thankful for everything I have  
I give and I give away  
I give games and toys  
To all little boys  
Give and give  
All day  
To  
See all  
Of the lovely  
Smiles of children everywhere  
Lots of kids are grateful  
For the wonderful toys they received  
Let's have a wonderful Christmas this year





## *Dreams*

Follow your dreams and your dreams will be followed. You're a role model to other younger generations and older. For you create your future and your past, as well as the present. You will create yourself.

*Original Poetry by  
Yemmannay Brhane*



## *Goals*

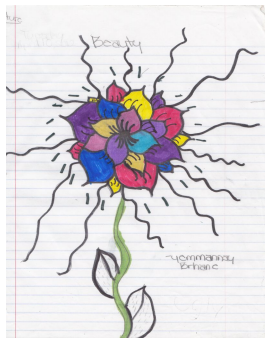
If you work for your goals, you'll achieve them in less time than you think. If you believe, then all of your dreams will come true. So set your goals and reach them.

*Illustrations by  
Yemmannay Brhane*



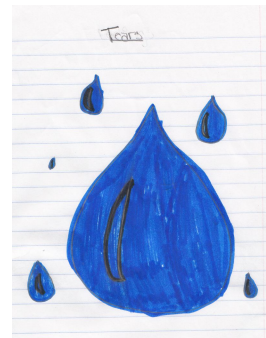
## *Fierce*

Be fierce,  
stay strong.  
Stay strong,  
be a force.  
Be a force,  
claim honor.  
Be honored.



## *Beauty*

As you may say, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I say, beauty is in the eye of itself. If you think you behold no beauty, no one will think you behold any beauty.



## *Tears*

Tears. The salty liquid that lives inside our eyes. The way we let our emotions pour out of our body. Our way of showing happiness, anger, sadness, and love. Our little way of showing our hearts. Tears speak everything, more than words.

# Good or Evil

By Alan Osborne

5th Grade

There were two kingdoms. One of greatness and love, where every power each person or thing had was used for great purpose. Although, in the other kingdom, things were quite different. It was a place of darkness and evil, where the powers were used for evil.

The Kingdom of Greatness was called Niceland. The clouds were alive with magical raindrops that had the power to direct the way they would go, and whatever they touched would become alive. That meant that everything in Niceland was alive. In the center of the kingdom was the king of greatness. He announced that soon there would be a great war—and it was true. The Puff Flowers decided they would use their powers of melting away objects to try and win the war

Meanwhile, the inhabitants down in the Kingdom of Darkness, also known as Evilsten, didn't know anything of the war. The king of Greatness, named Peter, knew because he could see the future. The king of Darkness, named Shaw, however, only had the power to pick up objects with his mind, a great power, but not great enough to let him know he was about to go to war.

The next day, King Peter was traveling through the galaxy and was captured by a

bundle of evil cactuses. He was brought to Evilsten. King Shaw was surprised to see King Peter. The reason why was because... it was his dad! Both kings stared at each other in complete shock! King Peter was ashamed by his son ruling over the dark-

ness. King Peter had a horrible flashback of when he exposed his son to evil. King Peter had not meant for him to become evil, but instead had hoped he would learn the importance of not being evil.

King Peter tried to talk his son out of his evil reign, but his son wouldn't listen. King Shaw ordered his evil cactuses to get rid of King Peter by throwing him into the tub of bombs. Just in the nick of time, the Puff Flowers showed up, defeated the evil cactuses, saved King Peter and brought him back to

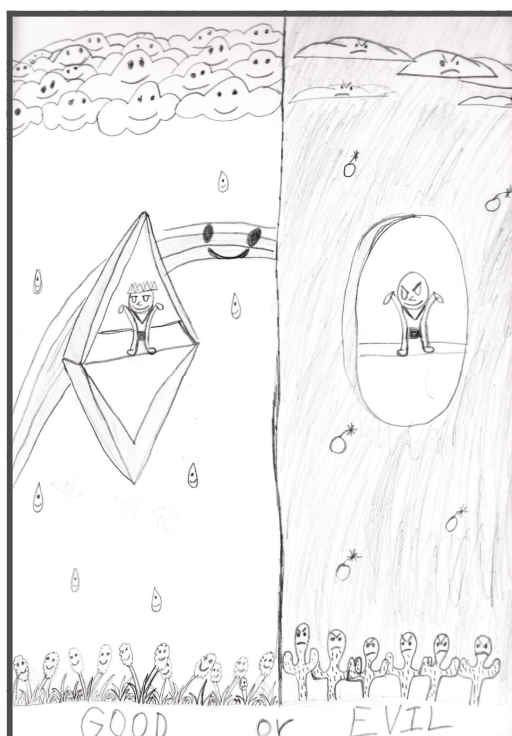


Illustration by: Alan Osborne

Niceland.

King Peter was relieved, but also felt great sorrow. He thought he had lost his son to evil forever, but when he turned around, his son was right there. He told his father he no longer wished to be evil and had come to join Niceland!

Now, both kings, father and son, rule over Niceland—together, and are both enemies of evil.

# Rat & Cat Tales

By India Vandivier  
Grade 5

Once there was a rat named Ratty. He was in his hole eating a piece of cake.

"I'm bored," Ratty said. "I need a friend, I'm lonely in this hole. "Time for me to get out," he said.

So he ran off, and sneaked quietly away from the house cat, Fluffy. Fluffy was vicious and always had to catch Ratty. But this time, Fluffy was asleep, so Ratty was able to go pass safely. That is, until he saw a fish. It was an angel fish named Taylor. Ratty was thinking she'd found a friend.

"Maybe I can go meet the nice angel fish," Ratty thought to herself. "Maybe I can be her friend."

Ratty went to the fish tank. "Hello," she greeted the angel fish.

"Hello," the angel fish responded, "I'm Taylor. What's your name?"

"I'm Ratty," he replied happily. "Can I be your friend?"

"Sure!" answered Taylor. And that moment began their friendship.

A few days later, Ratty noticed there was a second fish tank, with a new fish. This fish was the most beautiful fish he'd ever seen, but obviously very bossy. From where he was standing, he overheard the fish complaining. "I hate this fish tank!" complained the second fish. "I want a new, bigger tank with lots of fish in it."

Ratty decided to go over and visit his friend Taylor. On the way, he spoke to the new fish.

"Hi!" Ratty said.

"Good-bye," the new fish responded, and swam away.

Taylor was watching the entire incident and thought that Ratty had met her. She was very surprised when Ratty came over and told her what had just happened. Instead of spending too much time talking about it, they decided to play with Ratty's ball, which he had to go and get from his hole. While Taylor was waiting on him to come back, the new fish swam over and introduced herself.

"Hi angel fish, I'm Narvia," she said in a mean

voice. "What's your name?"

"I'm Taylor."

"Nice name," suggested Narvia. "Do you want to be friends?"

"Sure," accepted Taylor, "but I also have another friend and he's a rat."

"Do you really want to be friends with a rat?" asked Narvia.

"Well, I don't really know," Taylor answered.

"Well just be my friend," Narvia quickly suggested. "You can't be friends with a rat anyway, you live in a tank."

Taylor gave in to Narvia's way of thinking and agreed. "Well, I guess I can just be your friend then," she said.

"Great!" shouted Narvia. "Come on over!" Then Taylor jumped into Taylor's tank and began to play.

Taylor and Narvia didn't realize Ratty had been standing nearby and had overheard the entire conversation. After spending half the day playing with her new friend, Taylor returned to her own tank. Later she heard little squeaking sounds. It was Ratty.

"What's wrong Ratty? Are you ok?" she shouted.

"I saw you playing with the other fish," Ratty explained, "and I overheard your conversation."

Just then, Taylor realized she had hurt Ratty's feelings. She apologized right away and asked Ratty to forgive her, which he did.

The next day, Narvia asked Taylor to play with her again. This time Taylor said no and insisted on playing with Ratty. Narvia was angry and shouted angry words at Taylor, but Taylor didn't budge.

"I have a true friend, and that friend is Ratty," Taylor exclaimed. "I don't care if he is a rat and I am in a tank, he's still my friend, and I'm his."

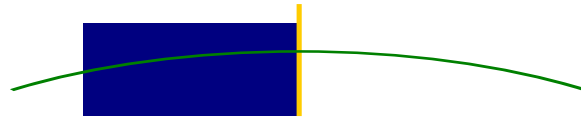
Ratty was listening from his hole. He was so happy to have a friend stand up for him. Ratty and Taylor spent the rest of the day playing. The two of them lived together, as best friends, happily ever after.



# TCP WORLD ACADEMY

presents:

The 6th Grade  
Class of



2012



*Expressions in Poetry*

*Ms. Bosley & Ms. Burks*

*Poetry is one form of authentic writing because it allows the writer to express his/her thoughts creatively and in verse. Our students studied poetry in order to enhance and develop their skills when reading and writing poetry. The unit was designed to cover the meaning of poetry, increase critical thinking skills in analyzing poetry, using Blooms Taxonomy, and study the elements of poetry: alliteration and onomatopoeia, similes and metaphors, ballads, sonnets, haikus and acrostics.*



## ***Acrostic Poetry***

*descriptive poetry where the first letter of each line spells a word which can be read vertically.*

### **Angel**

Always love God.  
Never stop loving God.  
Give God your praise everyday.  
Everyday praise to God,  
Love and keep Jesus in your heart.  
**(Lamia Powell)**



### **Kids**

Kool-aid loving,  
Innocent acting,  
Day-to-day living,  
Simple children.  
**(JaiOna Walker)**

Have love for yourself and love others.  
Opportunity comes when you're thankful and forgiving.  
Politely is the way you should treat others.  
Elegant is the way you should be.  
Angels are godly and you should think that way.  
Notorious is your personality.  
Giving, giving encourages others to do the same.  
Excellence, your goal should be excellence.  
Loving, be loving toward everyone and love will come back to you.

Praise God for His everyday blessings,  
Elegant, be elegant and loving,  
Academic, stay academic at all times,  
Caring, be caring and you will be rewarded,  
Evolve your skills and you'll get better.

**(Michaelah Mines)**

## **MUSIC**

Music is moving, miscellaneous, mixed, marvelous, miraculous, mind-blowing, merry, motivating, mental, metamorphic, mesmerizing, and momentous.

Unique, understood, unlimited, unstoppable, universal, unreserved,

Stirring, spontaneous, sensational, spectacular, smooth, stimulating, superb, stunning, scriptural, spiritual, soothing, salacious,

It's inspiring, incredible, impulsive, impressive, impelling, inspirational, impetuous,

Cool, colorful, comfortable, connecting, cultural, confident, collaborative, calm, celebrative, commanding, and crisp.

**(Rashaan Boyd)**

# BLACK AMERICAN HERO

(Rashaan Boyd)

|                       |                   |                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Bold</b>           | <b>Achieve</b>    | <b>Heroic</b>      |
| <b>Loyalty</b>        | <b>Making</b>     | <b>Excellent</b>   |
| <b>Accomplishment</b> | <b>Establish</b>  | <b>Royal</b>       |
| <b>Colored</b>        | <b>Royal</b>      | <b>Outstanding</b> |
| <b>King</b>           | <b>Idealistic</b> |                    |
|                       | <b>Crown</b>      |                    |
|                       | <b>Academic</b>   |                    |
|                       | <b>National</b>   |                    |

## *Limericks*

*A limerick is a humorous, nonsense verse consisting of a triplet and couplet, which results in the person creating a five line poem.*

### **Queen Thirteen**

There was a girl who was thirteen,  
 She said she's the limerick queen.  
 She learned how to rhyme  
 And rap all the time  
 And now I see just what she means.

*(Evan Wilfong)*

### **Parrot**

There once was curios parrot,  
 He started to call himself Merit.  
 Saw a pie, then ate it,  
 They say he just fainted.  
 And now he only eats carrots.

*(Samir Davis)*



### ***Simile***

*figure of speech which points out the likeness between two different objects using like or as.*

She was as bright as a star,  
She flew as beautiful as a shooting star,  
She wore a crown with diamonds,  
We all loved that crystal crown.

But she had to wear it for the town,  
One day someone stole that crown,  
So she had to search to find it,  
But she was as scared as a puppy.

**(Otis Adams)**



I was as lonely as a teddy bear.  
I cried like a baby who hadn't had its diaper changed in weeks.  
I thought no one liked me.  
Then it started raining so hard like cats and dogs.  
Everyone had gone inside.

**(Rhyan Grant)**



I had to play with someone.  
So I went over to a table with two kids.  
I asked, "Do you want to play with me?"  
They responded, "Yes."  
My cheeks blushed like roses.  
Now I finally had friends.

**(Rhyan Grant)**



### ***Hyperbole***

*a hyperbole uses an exaggeration or overstatement for dramatic effect.*

When I walked to the house as big as a mountain,  
I began to grow tired because the sidewalk was long as a race track.  
When I got to the house,  
I had to cross the street. When it was rush hour,  
The cars were like cars in a high speed chase zooming down the streets.  
The house was as confusing as a maze.  
The hallways were as long as runways at an airport.

**(Yoseph Hudson)**



My bed is as big as a football field,  
While the sky is blue like a blue box.  
My TV is as big as the yard.  
My teacher is as tall as a giraffe.  
My house is as big as a car.

**(Auriyanna Harris)**



## ***Cinquain Poetry***

*A cinquain is a 5-line poem . The first line consists of one word, the second line of two words describing the first line, the third line shows an action with three words, the fourth line has four words that convey a feeling, and the fifth line is a word that refers back to the first line.*

Hi there.  
Nice to meet you.  
You're lonely over there.  
Why don't you come over here with me?  
Come here.

**(Alisa Lockett)**

Dream on,  
Night illusion.  
Float on a cloud of peace,  
No limits, the impossible  
Dream On.

**(Alisa Lockett)**

Hi mom!  
I am so tired.  
Did you have a good day?  
In reading class I got an A  
Good Job!

**(Ardell Barkley)**

Mama,  
I love you, mom.  
You are great to life.  
I love you more than cheesecake, Mom.  
Believe.

**(JaiOna Walker)**

## ***Haiku Poetry***

*A haiku is a poem composed of three lines totaling seventeen syllables. L  
Line 1: 5 syllables, Line 2: 7 syllables, Line 3: 5 syllables*

### **Parents Are Great**

I love you so much!  
I'm so lucky for you, Mom.  
Parents are caring.

**(Khadim Lo)**

My friends and I write:  
Michail, Coby, Kayla, I  
Write very greatly.

**(Khadim Lo)**

Going to the park  
To play with all of my friends,  
We will eat and play.

**(Stephen Wynn)**

### **Butterflies**

Butterflies are cool.  
In the big, huge, green forest  
They fly up so high!

**(Kayla Spikes)**

A big bee stings me.  
It hurt very badly, but  
I will not cry or run though.

**(Kayla Spikes)**

A bee is in front.  
It turns around and stings me;  
I fall in the grass.

**(Kayla Spikes)**

How are you doing?  
Do you want to play with me?  
Or just relax now?

**(Michail Flowers)**



## ***Sonnets***

*Sonnets are poems that have fourteen lines and definite meter and rhyme.*

### ***Lightening Fast!***

Shane was as fast as lightening.  
He was as strong as an ox.  
Only when he was fighting  
His hair had the color like a fox.

But he lived in a box  
With only a baby cat.  
He wore some bright socks  
And his cat was getting fat.

The kitten liked to play with a cow.  
The cow was as greedy as a pig.  
Only when he said, "Meow."  
The cow ate a twig and wore a wig.

Shane was as fast as lightening  
He was so fast it was almost frightening.

**(Otis Adams)**

### ***Pure Joy!***

Joy, joy so much joy!  
I have so much fun.  
I also get to play with my toys  
Or I might just run.

Sometimes I sing,  
Or I might play football.  
I might pick up the phone when it rings  
Sometimes I just play basketball.

I might hang out with friends;  
I also like to watch TV.  
Or I might hang out with Ben,  
I may watch Big Momma's House on DVD.

Joy, joy so much joy!  
I like to play with my toys.

**(Darian Woods)**

### **Zoo Day!**

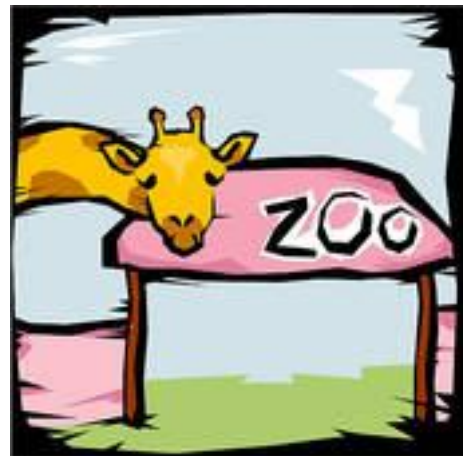
I left at 2:00 to go to the zoo,  
We saw big cats like tigers.  
The food-stealing raccoon went "Boo!"  
We even saw a liger!

We saw a rhino,  
We even saw cheetahs racing,  
We saw an alligator, it was albino!  
And kids were pacing.

We ate popcorn,  
We fed birds,  
We looked at the newly born,  
It was decorated with luscious flowers and ferns.

It was a beautiful place,  
And it was a delicate grace.

**(Yoseph Hudson)**



### ***Free Verse***

*Poetry with rules, rhyming pattern, or rhythm. The writer makes up his/her own rules as he / she goes..*

#### **The Rose Flower is Like a Lone Star**

The rose flower is like a lone star.  
The man doesn't have a car.  
He is doing his best.  
He doesn't have a bed so he can't rest.  
The man is very lonely.  
He is also very hungry.  
He's the last of his kind.  
Since he is like this he might die.  
He tried, and tried.  
But he fell on his face.  
That is not okay.  
The man is the rose.  
He is lonely like the first star at night.  
The rose flower is like a lone star.

**(Darian Woods)**

### **Untitled**

Good better best,  
Never let it rest,  
'Til good is your better,  
And better is your best.

**(Anesha Crawford)**

### **Untitled**

Fountain, coolest fountain,  
Cool fountain of love,  
Where all the sweet birds come  
For comforting, but one little  
White dove, full of love, stays  
In the warmth of the fountains.

**(Kayan Harvin)**

### **Blue Shirt**

I had a blue shirt  
That didn't fit well.  
I gave it to my friend,  
And he went to jail.  
I got as a gift,  
And he did a flip.  
I had a blue shirt  
That didn't fit well.

**(Jordinae Jordan)**

### **Poetry**

Poetry is deep  
But I go deeper.  
Poetry is about  
Expressing emotion  
Ignoring all the commotion.  
Poetry is deep  
But I go deeper.

### **Bethlehem**

So quiet  
The streets shine  
Brightly the baby's sleep  
Tightly. Trouble is far out  
Of sight. It's hard to  
Fight these silent nights.

### **Summer's Day**

Summer is  
A time to play  
People make clay.  
The suns, rich and gold  
Color shines bright  
Night and day. Summer  
Is when houses are sold.

**(Poetry Pieces by Kayan Harvin)**

### **A Time, A Time, A Time**

I was about to climb a mountain  
But there were too many trees,  
But I didn't care because,  
It was only 30 degrees.  
  
I saw some pioneers chopping meat  
That came from an unfortunate deer,  
The sight was so nasty,  
It made me burst into a couple of tears.  
  
It was at that time I couldn't even rhyme.  
It was at that time I couldn't even afford a dime.

**(Kendrick Jones)**

### **Don't Quit**

When you don't quit, you will be successful in life.  
If you don't quit, you can do anything you want to do.  
Don't quit.  
Don't quit.  
Please, don't quit on yourself.  
Because you can do what you want to do.  
When you just believe in yourself,  
You might just accomplish anything you set your mind to.  
Don't quit.  
Don't quit.  
Don't quit on yourself.

**(Orlando Britten)**

## IT'S OKAY WIN OR LOSE

It doesn't matter if you win or lose,  
It's how you play the game.  
Give your team-mates a chance to score,  
Don't take all the credit.  
Everyone deserves a day of fame.  
You're not perfect ,  
Don't pretend you are.  
It doesn't matter how you play the game  
It's the effort in the  
Attitude  
You put into the game so far

## CAN U JUDGE YOURSELF

Do you call yourself a leader or a follower,  
pick your choice!  
You call yourself a role model for other kids?  
Well, look at yourself in the mirror  
Because leaders never follow.  
If you listen to what other people  
Say, you're a follower, but if  
You make your own decisions  
And you make them wisely,  
You are considered a  
**LEADER!!!**

Poetry

by

Michael Williams

## DREAMS WILL GO AS THEY PLEASE

Dreams can come and go as they please  
but they will often die with ease.  
Life is like a broken winged bird.  
Sometimes when you go through life it can be like  
an abandoned city.  
But when you have dreams, there won't be so  
much pity  
"Do you think I can be right?"

## OKAY I WILL

Blowing tops of bottles,  
And whistling in the shade.  
Take acceptance for a bid,  
too long in the circle playing other games than  
you should be.  
Analyze what you will accomplish in life.  
You find that you will  
Be doing great things in your  
Life!!

### Hide and Seek

Once I hide, you come and seek.  
You try to find me, but you don't  
Know where to start.  
But once you can't find me, you start to cry.  
I come up to cheer you up and tell you,  
Don't cry; I am here.  
Then we play again.

### My Best Friend Cloudy

The clouds come out with souls that speak with  
beautiful whispers that I hear.  
I tell my mom, but she doesn't understand.  
My best friend, Cloudy, had come to me once  
again.  
We talked, and we laughed.  
We had so much fun; we told each other secrets  
and then said our good-byes .  
I can't wait until the next time to see my friend,  
Cloudy, once again.

*(both pieces by Donna Thomas)*

### You Da Man

Ever since my life began, I realized that "you da  
man."  
I saw your wisdom and courage too, and I learned  
I could rely on you.  
Your tolerant nature is really great, never the less  
you won't hesitate  
To let me know when I've been bad.  
It must've been hard, but that's being a dad.  
So here's a thank you from your biggest fan,  
Happy birthday, Dad, 'Cause you da man.

### God's Gift

Would you love me, would you trust me?  
If I was on my last dolla', dead broke?  
Now are you coming with me up, up, and away,  
All the way to heaven?  
God's gift  
Get up, get up, get up  
God's gift  
All the people, this is God's gift.

*(both pieces by Myles Hogue)*

### Jala

Jala is a joyful little girl.  
She is very amazing.  
Everybody thought she was a lovely girl,  
Even awesome.  
Most people thought so, but some  
Did not.  
But she didn't care how they felt  
about her.

*(Ja'La Grant)*



### Miracle's Thinking

Miracle is thinking of problems,  
Everything about math, problems, problems.  
I ask myself, "What am I thinking?"  
Solutions or my problems? Thinking, thinking.

*(Miracle Chambers)*

### My Parrot

My tropical parrot learned to talk.  
She says, "Hello, hey, what, and good-bye."  
She even says, "How are you?"  
She's polite to my family, friends, and me.  
She's a well-trained parrot.

*(Ryan Caldwell)*



### Christmas

Christmas is the celebration of Jesus.  
Christmas is about giving to our people who have  
taken care of us.  
Christmas is the only thing that brings the world  
together.  
Christmas is a day of giving, caring, and loving.  
Christmas is fun and games with family and  
friends.

*(Caleb Smith-Plummer)*



### ***Ballad-***

*a poem that tells a story and is sometimes like a song.*

## **Dream It Or Live It**

**by Jasmine Pickett)**

### SING

*I just want you to stop  
Stop  
stop dreaming  
And start,  
start living  
Yeah, yeah  
See the greatest thing in the world  
Is not where we stand.  
It's more of what direction  
We are moving in.  
To be a champion  
You got to have  
Desire, dedication, motivation,  
And the will to have patience.*

### RAP

*I'ma act as if fail wasn't a word,  
And my passion to reach the stars could,  
Change the world,  
Cause I wanna be heard,  
Never scared, never worried, never tired,  
But higher and flyer than what I can ever be.  
'Cause you believed in me and I believed in you,  
So just take my advice and do what you need to do.  
Daddy always told me  
Success is not final, failure's not fatal,  
But the courage to move on is a battle.  
And I want you to know failure will never take me down  
'cause the courage I have will help me get found*

### SING

*I just want you to stop (stop) stop dreamin'*

*And start, start livin'  
I got something to say, say to you. Yeah.  
You see visions without actions are just plain dreams,  
And actions without visions is simply wastin' time,  
But visions with actions is making a better day,  
So why won't we start  
Start right here today, right now, right away?  
Today is the day, you make that change...  
Yeah, in order to feel satisfaction  
Never go in the wrong direction  
Always have great expectations, and  
Love your dream with a passion.*

### RAP

*Don't pay attention to the haters,  
The only reason why they sayin' that is  
'Cause they couldn't do better,  
'Cause you flew high and didn't rely  
On those other guys to help you reach the sky.  
'Cause you in the game getting' all the fame,  
And they sittin' there wondering why no one  
Knows their name.  
But you ain't the blame and I'm sure 'nough ain't  
ashamed cause I'm the last ,best, flyer than the  
rest, cute, smart, can't break my heart ,rapper,  
singer, are you getting sadder?  
Don't be mad 'cause I'm bad and everything  
You've lost I have,  
Mama always told me if my mind can conceive  
it, And my heart can believe it.  
Then, I must achieve it. Now, I got bring it.*

### SING

*I just want you to stop  
Stop  
Stop dreamin' and start  
Start livin', yeah.  
In order to win, you got to fly high  
Never look down and reach for the sky.  
So why wont you fly, fly to the sky  
And never break down 'cause we'll get around?  
Yeah, you and me cause we're getting closer to  
Our dreams.....*

# Believe

## ***Believe in Yourself (A gospel rap)***

***by Isaiah Williams***

If you believe in yourself  
You can accomplish anything you put your mind  
to.

But don't get scared dance 'cause if you do,  
You won't like it 'cause you'll end up in the streets  
Just like your friends.

Believe in yourself,  
Just believe,  
Believe in yourself,  
Just believe.

Man, you have to believe in yourself  
'Cause if you don't, you won't get the education  
you need.

With your hope just believe in yourself  
Believe in yourself, you can accomplish anything.  
My momma and daddy told me to believe in my-  
self.

Believe in yourself,  
B-b-b-believe in yourself,  
Just believe,  
Believe in yourself,  
B-b-b-believe in yourself,  
Just believe.

My teacher tells me always believing  
In myself will get me a long way,  
And I believed her along with my parents  
That's why I'm writing this song today.

I believe in myself,  
B-b-b-believe in yourself,  
Just believe.  
I believe in myself,  
B-b-b-believe in yourself,  
Just believe.

## **Drama with personification... by Tiffany James**

Cast of Characters:

**Narrator**  
**Little Lady**  
**Pencil 1**  
**Pencil 2**  
**Pencil 3**

**Setting:** A wooden, cold classroom filled with ex-  
cited children.

**Narrator** (clearly, softly): It all began with a girl  
and her pencil.

**Little Lady** (cheerfully): Today is a new day, even  
though it's a test day.

**Narrator:** She was right. Today was not only a  
test day, but a big one.

**Little Lady** (humming): Three pencils, one special  
pencil, but all needing to be sharpened.

**Pencil 1:** Even though today is a new day, I really  
don't want to be sharpened.

**Pencil 2** (singing): Ooh-wee, I'm getting sharp-  
ened. That means I'm going to get used.

**Pencil 3** (special): I'm the best of them all. I'm so  
colorful and beautiful. You guys suck!

**Narrator:** It seems like these characters are  
happy, angry and just boastful.

**Little Lady** (at the sharpener): What if you sharp-  
ened a pencil so much that it grew tired?

**Narrator:** She never knew just what was about to  
happen...

**Pencil 1** (after being used): How could you ever  
do such a thing? I agree to be sharpened, and  
then you break me?

**Pencil 2:** It's okay. You can get sharpened again.  
Now I know good and well you did not just break  
me!

**Pencil 1:** See, how do you like it now?

**Pencil 3** (boasting): See, now if you were as per-  
fect as I am, things like this would not happen.

**Narrator:** If only they could get along. When go-  
ing to sharpen the pencil...

**Pencil 1** (sobbing): Since I'm not special or perfect  
I just need to go.

**Narrator:** It just happens; he jumps into the trash  
can. The Little Lady is left with two pencils.

### ***Drama-***

*dramas are texts that can be performed by actors on stage or for movies, radio or television. Most dramas are expressed through dialogue or speech.*



## **Skye's the Limit**

*by Alisa Lockett*

*"Inspiration is the fuel in the rocket of creativity."  
(Alisa Lockett)*



### **Act 1**

This is a story of inspiration that led to a realm of possibilities and opportunities. This story starts with a girl named Skye. Limitless is the most outgoing girl in her school, C.P.T. Academy. Sky is having a talk with her music teacher, Ms. Roberts about the end of the school year music program.

"Please let rumors be rumors," Skye begged.

"I'm afraid they are true, Skye, and unless we can raise enough money, the music program will be cancelled," said Ms. Roberts.

"Well," Skye began, "if it's money they want, they shall get it." And with that, Skye ran out of the classroom, angry tears burned her eyes.

### **Act 2**

Skye went to her favorite place, an abandoned janitor's closet that she modified into her own personal hang-out spot (with the janitor's permission, of course). The only thing that would cheer her up would be her inspiration notebook, where she put all pf her greatest ideas, including her list of pros and cons. She flipped through about ten pages before she found what she was looking for. "A karaoke contest for charity," she mumbled, grateful she hadn't erased it. After wiping away her tears, Skye ran to Mrs. Paxton's office to ask her about having it in the auditorium.

Mrs. Paxton looked up at her door, which was being knocked on furiously. "Come in," she said.

"Hi, Mrs. Paxton. I have a couple of suggestions about the music program."

"Okay, let's hear it," she replied.

"Well, I thought that we could hold a karaoke contest to help raise money for charity," Skye said with a smile.

"That's a wonderful and we can hold it in the auditorium," the elder said with glee.

"Yeah, I actually wanted to ask if we could and if the secretary can make flyers for kids who want to sign up," Skye said.

"Of course, we'll hold it next Friday," Mrs. Paxton said, getting even more excited, "and you can organize it."



# Skye's the Limit

pg. 2

## ACT 3

After a week of prepping the auditorium and getting 42 people to sign up, Friday came. "How are we doing, Dex?" Skye asked her math genius best friend, who had been out in charge of funds.

"It's (he snorts) Dexter, and we're doing great. We made \$450," he exclaimed.

"Great, now we only need \$20 to reach our goal," Skye said with excitement. Then she went over to the performance list to see who was next. To her surprise, it was her turn next. Skye was frozen with fear but she moved when she heard someone call her. It was her other best friend, Jenna, who was like her clone/sister.

"Skye, guess what? I signed you up," the girl's words were coming out like a waterfall.

"But I can't sing in front of people like you," Skye said with fear.

"Yes, you can, Skye, you sound better than I do!" Jenna countered and with a quick move gave Skye a microphone and pushed her out onto the stage.

Skye thought, "This is crazy. What am I even singing?" Then the music to her favorite song, "Disaster" by JoJo, came on. Her fears melted away, and she began to sing. "I'm trying not to pretend that it won't happen again like that. I never thought it would end, but you got up in my head, in my head like that. You make me happy, baby, life is crazy, and I don't think I can take anymore. 'Cause the world burned down; it turned into whatever now or say never." As Skye sang, the amount of money increased. As she hit the final note, the school had \$800. "Just disaster-r-r-r," Skye ended the song with a full round of applause. As she exited the stage, Mrs. Paxton went onto the stage.

"I am happy to say, we will keep the music program, and we are renaming it "Skye's the Limit!" Everyone cheered, making Skye happier as she triple high-fived her best friends for saving the music program.

### ***Dream ~ Believe ~ Achieve***

*When we teach children to dream, we introduce them to a whole new world. When we encourage them to believe in their dreams, we equip them with the confidence and ability to pursue and achieve their goals.*

*Unlike many adults, children's dreams have no ceiling. Embrace that trait! No matter how big and unrealistic your child's dream may be, support them. You are their greatest inspiration and support system; you have the ability to propel them to a world of endless possibilities!*

*~ L.M. Burton*