Treasures and Dreams_2009-8-12

Nova Southeastern University

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Dear Lower School Students, Parents, and Faculty,

The theme of this issue’s cover motivated me to ponder the connection between reading and writing. Here is what some acclaimed and popular authors had to say on the subject:

“Read the best books you can find, the books that will inspire you to write as well as you can”...Judy Blume

“I’m certain there’s a link between reading good books and becoming a writer. I don’t know a single writer who wasn’t a reader first”...Andrew Clements

“You have no business wanting to be a writer unless you are a reader. You should read fantasies and essays, biographies and poetry, fables and fairy tales. Read, read, read, read, read”...Kate DiCamillo

Certainly, the connection between reading and writing is a strong one. Our Lower School students spend their days in a literature-rich environment. Their exposure to quality literature throughout their school experiences is a part of what inspires them to write as wonderfully as this publication reflects.

Thank you to the classroom teachers for your professionalism and dedication to writing. Thank you to the administration for their continued support. A special thanks to my delightful staff of students. Your commitment, hard work, and responsibility made this issue gorgeous.

To our Lower School students, I hope our magazine will inspire you to continue reading and writing!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nancy Cantor, editor

P.S. Here is one more beautiful piece to enjoy:

Night Chills

When the ruby red sun falls beneath the dark core of the ocean, the moon ascends its climb to the soul of the earth. A deep dark chocolate squirrel scrambles up to the heart of a great big maple tree. The night fish frolic in the river while the tiny, florescent, pink shrimp get captured in the deepest, darkest places the river plants hold. The moonlight mist spreads around the dry bare trees and the moist wet leaves. The fire red, breathtaking green and the burnt crisp brown leaves blow in the midnight moon. And when the time comes all the animals snuggle into their heartwarming homes.

Lucas Han

Grade 3

Cover designed by Marcus Vladicu

All illustrations by Treasures and Dreams staff
Soaring Clouds

The cloud looks like a spaceship that soars in the sky. It’s as puffy as cotton balls. It stands out from all the other clouds like an ugly duckling. It floats like a feather in the tranquil air. Watching clouds that come out of nowhere is just so soothing to me.

Asher Jurman

Grade 2

I saw a rainbow in the sky. It had beautiful colors on it. It was as pretty as a flower. The rainbow had the color blue as the last color. There were puffy clouds around it. A rainbow is fun to see, and special when they sprout over homes. It was above my house, and I loved to see it. You can see a rainbow all around after it rains. The colors of the rainbow are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet, and pink. It makes me smile when I see a rainbow.

Peyton Ronkin

Grade 1

Beautiful Skies

You know, it is a beautiful sunny day today. The bright blue amazing sky is above me with the big gorgeous boiling hot sun. I looked at the trees. The wind was making their branches shake. The crows were chirping beautifully. Swoosh! The wind blew right in my face like something coming right up to me. The clouds moved through the sky slowly, as white as a piece of paper.

Sophia Borzillo

Grade 2

When the Moon Took Over

The radiant sun is sinking. His kingly moments are disappearing. The mix of the peach yellow and rose pink is slowly falling away. The ominous moon is raising a patterned flag on top of the fighting sun. The sun is in a pickle. He tries to put more elbow grease into fighting. The heroic battle is like the world depends on it. It’s turning out to be a cat and mouse game. Finally and sadly, the dark pitch black moon wins. It is night.

The darkest night ever begins.

Connor Starkman

Grade 5

Clouds

Clouds are so white and puffy. Sometimes they look like a big fat dragon. It’s like you can jump from cloud to cloud feeling as light as a feather. It’s almost like you can go to sleep on comfortable clouds. Sometimes clouds are in a cluster, other times clouds are alone. Sometimes planes fly by clouds and make them twist. The things I like most, is to stare up at them in the sky and feel so relaxed.

Melanie Stone

Grade 2
**The Ivory Dove**

Spreads her wings like a queen in the sky  
Assembling the world together  
for eternal peace  
Shines like a brilliant diamond  
glistening in the bright sunlight  
Her sapphire eyes glisten like a clear, gentle  
river surrounded with silence  
Soaring across the sky, she is an angel fighting  
for a better future  
Fulfills her duty by being a peaceful, precious  
part of nature  
Will be preserved in my heart forever  
The Ivory Dove

Jacob Wilentz  Grade 5

**Emerald Green Turtles**

As I watch the huge group of turtles run into the ocean, it looks like a stampede. The mother’s shell is a bumpy road that never ends. Up and down their shells move when trying to dash down to the beautiful swooshing sea. Crawling through the soothing sand, they are as slow as a snail. Turtles eat green slimy algae, tiny purple grapes and bright green lettuce. In the dark blue sea is where turtles stay happy like singing birds.

Aimee Starr  Grade 4

**Turtles**

Out of their eggs the emerald green turtles open their eyes to the magical new world. After two months of waiting in the dark eggs, they run like there’s no tomorrow. Some are so close to the water they can almost taste the salt, while others are far behind, far away from the water. As they dash a hungry eagle soars above. They know they must run faster before they become dinner for a ferocious eagle. Finally, one hits the water and another and another. The last one gets to the clear blue sea, on their way to another new world, this time submerged under water.

Nickie Cohen  Grade 4

**My Dolphin Trip**

I went to Hawks Cay and I played with the dolphins. I sat on the dock. The trainers gave me food. I gave the dolphins a signal. They jumped up. I petted them on the stomach and on the back. I fed them Jello and ice. Once I gave them the food I played with another dolphin.

Max Lipsky  Grade 1

**Above the Ocean**

Swish! I go through the air like a silver arrow. When I was high in the air I closed my eyes. I was in a tight harness. When I felt safe and brave I opened my eyes. Suddenly I heard a voice. I screamed. I turned around. My heart was beating through my skin. I saw my dad. He shouted, “Look! Look!” My head plopped down and I saw a beautiful orange sea turtle. The sea turtle burst through the clear blue water like a silver arrow. WOW! What an amazing RIDE!!

Apostoli Floyd  Grade 2
All About Autumn

Fall Days

During the breezy days of fall
My leaves blow away one at a time
Day after day, I become more bare.
First I start out with hundreds of colorful, beautiful leaves, and now I have none.
Now I am sitting and wondering, will I survive?
Eventually I see snowflakes falling from the sky
Now I am sleepy and will go to sleep until the sweet warmth of spring comes around.

Matthew Robbins
Grade 3

Autumn

The breeze blows the leaves away as it passes by, and the trees rustle. Yellow, red and orange gently fall to the ground. Parents rake them and kids joyfully jump and land in the autumn leaves. Some throw leaves at each other like snow. Some just sit back and relax and enjoy themselves. Some will watch and want to join.

Fern Pholowan
Grade 3

My Favorite Season

The colorful leaves falling from the trees went streaming down the water. The huge, gigantic rocks in the shining water drizzled as the water swooshed. The beautiful fall leaves sway right and left with the wind. The sparking waterfall lies on top of the brown, golden rocks. I smell the fresh air as the breeze blows on the water. I hear the birds chirping through the air. The blue sky shines brightly as the water flows beneath the bridge. My favorite season is fall because it reminds me of autumn leaves changing.

Jordan Moskowitz
Grade 3

Leaves

In fall I see lively leaves changing like a flower popping out of the ground. When I see leaves changing it looks green camouflageing into gold, red and orange. When I think of leaves changing, I think of rain falling from the sky. Lastly, I feel like I am in a rainbow, cold and breezy... when leaves are changing.

Mikey Lipsky
Grade 3

Halloween

In October I love Halloween. It’s so much fun! You get candy, you go in haunted houses, and you go on slides. Everybody wears costumes like superhero, super villain, zombie, rock stars and many, many more.

Ben Geduld
Grade 3
**Winter Wonderland**

**Winter Trees**

Cold as can be, all the trees struggle in the chilly winter. The trees stand there waiting for this time of life to be over. As the winter flies by, the trees look forward to when winter will be over and they are happy and healthy once again. The trees are as skinny as a pencil, until green grassy leaves start sprouting on the trees. It's spring once again!

Sarah Tiktin  
Grade 3

**A Ride in the Winter**

Sliding on my sleigh, my hands are holding onto the sides while my feet are dangling. Slowly, the sleigh moves across the new fallen snow. As the wind picked up, I felt the snowflakes brush against my face. Suddenly, the sleigh came to a stop. Right before my eyes, I saw a cute little brown bunny rabbit hopping. As it went farther away I noticed its footprints in the snow. This memory I will hang on to for the rest of my life.

Abby Schultz  
Grade 5

**A Snow Show**

Crunching the ground and sticking out my cold pink tongue, I watch every single snowflake fall and dance to the ground. I watch the gray evil clouds come closer. They drop little flakes like spreading sugar all over the mountains. I take a breath-- all of a sudden cold mist comes out of my mouth. The snowflakes seem to be singing, but in a more jingly way. They did ballet, the salsa, tango, and the flamenco. Right before my eyes, I could see the sun's invisible rays clear the darkness for a moment. One little moment of heat, then gone. I walked across the thick blanket of frozen milk like nothing happened. While I walked, the wind whistled. The clouds got darker. The snow got thicker and whiter. But I didn’t care, I got a snow show.

Erin Hunter  
Grade 4

**Cold Day**

As I went up the chairlift, I could feel it getting colder and colder. The chair was so slow going up the mountain. When I got to the top I was running in circles. I then drove a little cart. I went as fast as the wind. It was getting late but we went on again. This time I was racing Joshua and my dad. I went down before them. They passed me but then I was passing them. Suddenly there was a slow kid in front of them. So I won! When I got to the bottom I had to wait for five minutes. When they came down we had to leave. I wanted to go again but it was 10:00 P.M.

William Frank  
Grade 2
Memorable Moments

The Big Blue Plane

I am sitting in a blue gigantic jet on the runway at the airport. When I first sit down, I can hear the fuel going into the jet engines. We are taking off and my stomach is dropping! I see green and red lights flashing. The engine feels like it is shaking. When I look out the window, the air is silent as a feather. I heard a sound. The wind was hushing. Then we were landing and the pilot says “get ready to land.” My stomach had butterflies.

Max Mooney
Grade 4

A Day to Remember

When I took my first step in the fresh-air ed house after a long, miserable day at school, my mom surprised me with a breathtaking present that I would never forget. I opened the sharp-edged corners of the smooth, white box and felt the tears slowly filling up my big, brown eyes. It was an iPod touch! I could hardly breathe. The shiny surface mesmerized me. It had thin round edges like pancakes. It felt slippery like a wet bar of soap. I would never forget the moment that I got the iPod touch.

Madiya Harriott
Grade 5

North Carolina Journey

As I carefully step down the mountain, the emerald leaves whine like a cranky teenage girl. The harsh breeze pounds me like a ton of bricks. I duck with fear and accept the risky challenge. I am a sly fox sprinting furiously down the mountain. Feeling invincible like a racecar tearing up the track I am going a thousand miles per second. I feel like I can go even faster. Eventually, I slow down and feel as slow as an old tortoise. But suddenly, I wake up to find that I am in my bed at 3:12 A.M.

Lauren Peretz
Grade 5

Hutchinson Island

When I went to Hutchinson Island I went with my mom, my friend and her mom. We stayed at her condo. We played games, we went to the beach. When we went back to her condo we made rice crispy treats and ice cream. Sundays we watched a movie in the morning. We ate chocolate chip pancakes. We played with her American Girl dolls. We played on my iPod Touch and I had a great time.

Grace Rivero
Grade 2

Summer

School ended July first. Everyone stampeded like wild bulls. The heat will linger on through the rest of the season. Once the sun drifted into a deep sleep my family and I walked outside under a starry umbrella.

As the sun rises I wake up to a spectacular sunrise. The sky is filled to the last bit with pink, orange, and purple. I walk outside in the wet grass. Trickles of water on my ankles, I smell the fresh morning scent dancing through the air. A light breeze reminds me that summer is almost over. Summer has ended and fall has put itself in summer’s place.

Maddy Smith
Grade 4

My Trip to Cabo

In the summer, I went to Cabo, Mexico. I went with mom, dad, and Matthew. I got a Cabo t-shirt from a store named Cabo Wabo. I rode on a dolphin in a big pool. I had to wear a life jacket. The water was cold. I crawled on the dolphin and he took me for a ride!

Jordyn McCullough
Grade 1
The People We Love

Citizenship

Yesterday, my dad passed a test, and he became a citizen of the United States! I sang the Pledge of Allegiance. I was in front of all those people singing the Pledge of Alliance into a microphone. Everything else is top secret! I am so proud of my dad.

William Boudy

Cooking with Grandma

I love to cook with my mom and grandma. We cook cakes and it is fun! My grandma is a great cook! She always follows the recipe. You need eggs and dough and flour.

Romy Peretz

My Sister and I

When my sister and I were dressed up like twins, we were very happy. We jumped holding hands and we were the same, both wearing the same kind of shirt and the same white skirt. We colored together in our coloring books. I love being with my sister, Leah.

Hannah Kuker

Dad is...

Dad is the one who takes me to fun places.
Dad is the one who takes me to soccer games and practices.
Someone who reads me a book and plays games with me too.

Marley Patterson

Mom is...

Mom is a waterfall that showers love on me.
Mom reminds me of the bright smell of jasmines.
Mom is love sprinkled from my heart and stops at my feet.
Mom is the pearls that I feel in the deep sandy beautiful bottom of the ocean that pulls me along.

Paige-Tatum Hawthorne

Grade 1

Prince Williams

My dad is the funniest dad in the world. I love when he takes me to the motorcycle track and when I fall he helps me up. He takes me to the skate park sometimes. He has the best motorcycle and takes me on it. My dad is the best.

Trevor Hyde

Grade 2

Grade 1

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Paige-Tatum Hawthorne

Grade 2

Grade 2
**Drawing is Magnificent**

I love to draw. It is so much fun! When I draw I can show the way I feel. That is why I love to draw. It feels good. When I grow up I want to draw lots of pictures. I can show my expressions and draw all of my friends and family. For example, I drew my friend Katie in my last journal. She is a really good friend. I draw because it inspires me. I am an artist!

Ella Noriega
Grade 1

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**The First Day of School**

I was a little scared when I got in the car with my mom to go to school. I wanted to stay with my dog Patches. It was the first day of first grade.

Sierra Stocker
Grade 1

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**The Room Was A Mess!**

There was crushed up paper on the wooden desk! Under the bed was a half-eaten package of smelly squashed sushi! There was an obstacle course of action figures on the floor! Apple juice was spilled on the math homework! The room was a mess.

Alp Yurtutan
Grade 3

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**First Day Jitters**

Wake up! My mom yelled as she put my pop tart in the toaster. I got dressed and then started eating just as I got in the car. As I sat there with my seatbelt lying around me, I felt like I was trapped in a dungeon. As the car stopped, I walked into the building with my Mom’s arm lying around my shoulder. I finally got into the building and walked to my class. As I was walking tears fell from my face and the floor looked like it had just been rained on. I was shaking, my teeth were chattering, but most of all, I was just afraid I wasn’t going to make any friends. When I got into my class I started talking to a kid named Tyler. Later that day I thought he was my new best friend. When the day ended, I started to realize, maybe preschool wasn’t so bad after all.

Alex Goldenberg
Grade 4

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**School is...**

School is coming in early, like two in the morning. Five days of learning, subtracting, adding, science and math. Having all math and science in my head. School is doing homework instead of watching T.V. and struggling in everything that you do. School is having a math curse, and meeting all your friends. School is...

Johanna Newman
Grade 2
I Want a Cat!

After my dog died my sister and I wanted another pet. But not a dog, we always wanted a cat. So my mother made us a deal. She said it's almost the end of the school year. When you get your report cards back, if you have all A's and B's then you can get a cat. So my sister and I worked as hard as we could and it happened. We brought our report cards home. My sister and I could not wait to open ours. YES!!! All A's! Finally, our dream came true. Now, I have a wonderful little black cat and my sister has a fat and heavy, black and white cat. I am so happy with my new cat.

Alicia Bell  
Grade 5

My Puppy

It was special when I got my first puppy. He was black and white and his eyes sparkled. He was so soft. When we brought him home he slept in my lap. When we got home he went on the couch and he lay down. We started to pet him. He went to sleep in mommy's bed. He was a crazy puppy and really fast.

Joely Ramo  
Grade 1

Chasing Tiny

I just got off of a small pony named Tiny. Tiny is a dark shade of fudge brown. His color is like a brownie. Tiny has a big attitude because sometimes when he gets to a corner, he's ready to buck. My riding instructor, May, took off Tiny's brown leather saddle, bridle and his girth and martingale. May said, "Get the lunge whip." I smacked it ...SMACK! SMACK! Tiny ran as fast a cheetah and went to the gate. May blocked it and said to me, "Go to the back gate." I ran quickly to the gate before Tiny could get it. SMACK! SMACK! I smacked the lunge whip again. Tiny ran around twice before bucking four times. My mom said it was time to go. I told May goodbye.

Ashley Cottone  
Grade 2

Angie

Angie is my five year old dog. You would think she is a Great Dane, but she is not. She is a big and cute Golden Doodle. Angie's fur is golden, furry, and puffy. When you brush your hand through her fur you feel like you are touching a soft bed made from the best sheep. Sometimes you can even fall asleep in her big golden fur. Angie smells good most days. Then we wash her and she smells like freshly picked strawberries. I love her so much, but that bark of hers makes me crazy. Bark! Bark! all day long. Everything is better when she licks us with her cold, wet, and slobbery tongue.

Julia Hollo  
Grade 5
**Stormy Weather**

**Eruption**

Like an angry monster chasing me within his reach,
its deafening and enraged roars fill the air.
As the black noxious ash blankets
the pure beautiful sandy beach,
the volcano is howling furiously.
The red-hot bubbling lava slowly swirls like a puddle of rain trying to get its way into a drain.
Down the side of the mountain it burns all it meets along the way.
Until it is so dark one cannot tell night from day.

Jesse Miot  Grade 5

**The Hurricane**

Boom, boom, crash! The loud lightning leaped through the air like a jaguar. Cozied up on the couch, I cracked open a new book. The swirling storm swooshed around the brick red house. The satellite for the television fell off the roof. In an instant, the power went out. The air conditioning system clicked off and I was frying in the heat like a potato. Dead silence swept across the house like a broom. A hurricane was approaching.

Manning Martus  Grade 5

**The Thunder Storm**

"Boom, Boom, Boom," it's dark one second and blinding the next. The lightning is the only thing keeping the sky awake. The crackling noise scares me. The roaring winds screech with infuriation with the clouds. I can hear the plopping noise of the rain pounding the aquamarine pool. I take another glance out the window and see nothing but blackness. "Crash!" the lightning starts again but now the trickling noises of the rain stop. The bright yellow lightning ceases and the sky goes to sleep. My heart discontinues pounding and like the sky, I go to sleep. My dreams are filled with thunder.

Farrah Stone  Grade 5

**A Dry Droopy Drought**

The dry droopy drought of summer is like my stove on high. The steam on my stove is like the clouds in the sky. It is the steamy solid sun on earth. The heat bounces as astronauts on the moon. It is a wild fire right in front of me. The sound of the sun is like crinkly crackly popcorn in my microwave. The steam beams toward me in a flash. I'm dashing for some cold cool water.

Connor Winston  Grade 3

**Rain**

Crystal blue droplets plummeting down from the soft, snow white clouds.
Fear grips them and they feel fairly frightened.
It was a never ending roller coaster.
They soar closer and closer to the rough, rocky road.
"Splash"
They landed on the terrain.
There were so many of them, millions and millions.
They join and huddle together to form a powerful river
As the current pushes them, they become travelers, moving all throughout the area.
After the violent storm, the shining sun explodes on them, like a light entering a dark room.
As they fly into the air, they transform, and the cycle starts again.

Sarah Branse  Grade 5
Night

Auburn skies signal that the day is closing. As time passes, an obsidian cloak covers the earth like a planet's shadow. A sprinkling of light shines bright like a garden of silver and gold flowers that blink and sway every which way. The sky would be lifeless without the alluring lights dancing across the onyx canvas. Almost all life ceases at this time. The small sounds made by unknown creatures that are dashing and darting about squeak and squeal. Splashes of color paint themselves across the sky. Animals awaken, and life returns to the world.

One Shiny Night

One shiny night the moon was glimmering. The moonlight helped me go to sleep. In my spectacular dream I was soaring through the moonlight with my friend Tobi. We landed on the smooth floor under the beautiful moon and we had a wonderful time. We sat down and watched the brilliant stars. When I woke up I was feeling stupendous thinking about my dream.

Amanda Hindelang

Beautiful Nights

On beautiful nights stars twinkle in the city lights. The moon shines as if you just polished it. It is wonderful while it wanders through the night. It is soothing and soft as I watch midnight dance. As nature nurses her little seedlings, I think to myself what a beautiful sight!

Sydni Dichter

Night Cools

Evening stars glisten and glitter. Mother birds chirp sweet lullabies as baby birds drift to sleep. Night is dull but... not really. Owls hoot loud booms. The moon shines like a precious jewel in the dark night sky. Crickets click making night still lively. Bats flap with night spirit. Spiders crawl all around the night floor. It is still lively as you see, so don't think it's dull. You've been mistaken.

Sophie Amador

The Black Blanket of Night
Snorkeling in the Keys

Bang! Bang! I heard on my door. My dad woke me up and said we’re going to the Keys. I changed into my bathing suit in a flash. We got in the car and went down to the Keys. The car ride was long and boring and felt like I was in a room for ten years. When we got there our friends were waiting for us at the dock. We got on the boat and went deeper into the clear water. On top of the sand, there were a million rocks and the waves were as gentle as a baby. I jumped into the water and my splash was a volcano erupting. BOOM! SPLASH! When my dad and friends came in I pointed at a shark. Its tail sent a rush of water as it moved. Swish! Swish! My dad said it was a tiger shark, he could tell by the stripes and markings on its back. As it passed, there were more sharks, but this time they were babies! As the time passed so did the fun. I was tired and exhausted and was ready to lie down and relax.

Julia Ray
Grade 4

Rafting with Dad

My dad started paddling. There were so many rafts in the water. The water started out smooth but a few minutes later it got rougher. It got rougher and rougher and rougher. Now it was hard to paddle. The water was VERY cold. “Paddle, paddle,” I said to my dad. We couldn’t get over the cold water. My brother and I shared a paddle. We went slower for a few minutes and then my dad started to paddle lazily. CRASH!! We banged into a rock. The ride was so long. As we reached the end we got stuck on a rock. It took seven minutes to get off the rock but I could live with that one. It took a long time to get back to the dock. I was glad to be back.

Jordan Woolfson
Grade 2

The Waterfall

I see a beautiful waterfall falling off rocks into a graceful stream. I see the magnificent, enormous boulders on the shore. I see the red fluffy trees swaying back and forth like they are waving “hi” to me behind the giant rocks. The speeding rapids are running like a subway train down the graceful rocks. The really cool bridge is located over the speeding rapids. The staring people on the wooden bridge are viewing the magnificent stream of water flowing. The steep cliffs are holding up the bridge like big pillars.

Tyler Pumper
Grade 3

My Seashell

A long time ago I got to go to the beach. My brother got me a seashell and I now have a lot of them. I keep the one in a box. I love this!

Jamie Cohen
Grade 1

Ocean Blue

The gold hot, steaming sand trickles through my flip flops. As I approach the water the sand gets damper. Salt water as cold and clear as snow brushes up against my ankles. The waves roar as kids boogie-board, the waves push them towards the shore. Seashells, all shapes and sizes, crackle as shimmering turquoise waves come near. Overhead seagulls squawk.

Delilah Rapkin
Grade 3

fun in the Sun
The Green Plant

The green spiked plant with an ant pile underneath rests before me. Its leaves are as soft as leather. The plant looks like a green sun spraying needles at me. It looks like it tastes like milk chocolate. Tiny little ants crawl like babies around the plant. I love this beautiful, green, spiked plant.

Max Pinkiert  Grade 2

Mountains

A mountain is an upside down ice cream cone with vanilla painted to the tip. The grass is a mini golf course flattened to the bottom around the mountain. Surrounding the mountains is a blue ring of pure sparkling water. A cloud is a cotton candy prize for those who get a hole in one. A pure blue sky is the most important tourist trap. It is a sapphire blue crystal that no one will miss.

Kevin Grondin  Grade 4

The Leaves

The leaves float down in the swirling wind. The leaves were shimmering in the glittering sun. The sun shone down on the beautiful trees in the forest. The sun was glistening in the shimmering trees. Chirp! Chirp! A bird flew up and sat on the branch. Just then, a magical sun shower came down, and it was awesome! Swish! The wind blew again on the sparkling leaves. They were shining in the golden sun. Then it was night.

Ali Kuttler  Grade 1

A Beautiful Sight

Shhhhh!! The waterfall is falling green-black water and crashing into brown, hard rocks. The long and high bridge is stretching for miles. The trees are light green and tilted as they wave “hi” because of how strong the beautiful wind is. The sky is white and it’s ever lasting all around the globe. The sun is so hot and boiling it looks like it is going to blow up.

Michael Sagaro  Grade 3

Rainbow

On a summer day Mother Nature cries and creates a sun shower. Her tears hit the ground as fast as lightning bolts. They wet the ground to make it damp. When I come outside I can smell the cool fresh damp air. Then Mother Nature pours the colorful syrup for her pancakes and through a crack it drips to create a rainbow. It is as big as the sky! Mother Nature is now very happy if she could make this wonderful rainbow in front of me. I can see a scarlet red, a sherbet orange, a gold yellow, seaweed green, a sky blue, and a plum purple with two pearly clouds. It is nature’s prettiest gift.

Alexandra Boisvert  Grade 4

My Tree

In the winter my tree says goodbye to the autumn leaves. It gently whispers, “Fly my little darlings, fly. The wind will carry you and make sure you fall in a safe place where the soil is rich and the flowers bloom.” My tree calls every leaf her “baby.” As the wind blows by my tree, it looks like words are floating in the air saying, “My child, don’t ever leave me.” I smile and hug my tree’s scratchy skin. It hurts a little but I don’t care, because she’ll always be my tree.

Jessica Herman  Grade 3
It is dawn and what better time to walk on the beach. Swash! The waves tumble and toss trying to climb up on the sand. They wash away wistfully. I am the only one there as seagulls chatter and squawk in the sky and shuffle in the sand. Just how I like it. My thoughts roam free in my mind, tumbling like the waves. The sun reflects, creating an iridescent glisten on the water. This is my interpretation of peace.

Isabella Ancona

Crash! The sun plummets deep down into the ocean’s wide diversity of colors, as waves crawl and seep into the golden brown sand. It reveals a path of silky, damp beach only to vanish under the next roaring wave. But out deeper into the ocean, everything is calm. The murky waters and ominous wind soon turn back to normal in the ever-changing cycle of the ocean.

Cory Riegelhaupt

We drove to the beach and zoomed into the water that felt wonderful. The water was glistening as the sun was shining on it. The water felt cool on my hot feet. I spotted some sparkling fish that swam faster than I could swim. I played in the wet sand and built a humongous sand castle. It was late in the afternoon and it was time to go home. That was my favorite time at the beach. I had fun and cannot wait to go again.

Benjamin Sterne

I went on a cruise ship with my mom and dad. I got to play with my Xbox in the cabin and it was fun. I also got to play football with my friends. All the food I ate on the ship was delicious and free. When it was night, I also played aliens. When we were in the cabin, we got to watch TV. One of the days, I even saw a shark and whale from the ship. It was a killer whale. The ship took us to Puerto Rico and Hawaii. I was on the cruise for 7 days. Before the trip ended, I got to see pirates. It was an awesome trip.

Michael Weinbrum

Last summer I went to the Cascades, France. I was climbing a swerving tree limb. Then I swung my body onto a slippery rock 50 feet above the paralyzing cold water. Next I steadied my zooming heartbeat. I swallowed hard. I had wet, sweaty palms. I pushed off and my shaking body landed SMACK in the freshly melted mountain snow. I couldn’t feel my numbed body. I gripped a rock to get out but slipped back in. I tried again and succeeded. When I was completely out my feet and hands ached. I got ready to jump again!

Ivan Dragovic

One day, I was at the beach. I was lying on my beach chair when I got up and ran quickly to the water. The sun streamed in the glittering sky. The air was sweet smelling and the sea was beautiful. I drifted gracefully in the water. It was a wonderful day!

Emma Olivieri
Beach Football

The teams are made as I stand on the fiery stove of white specks. From quarterbacks to running backs we decide which people were best for each job. The white field is completely blank and is as thick as my hair. We get ourselves ready and the QB hikes the ball. Speeding like a dart, I zoom past the defenders and I am wide open. The brown ball with its leathery white stripes is thrown perfectly to me. With my amazing reflexes, I catch the ball and run at the speed of light to the end zone. Touchdown!

Billy Herskowitz Grade 5

Proud

What makes me feel proud is that I can be myself. I can stand up for myself and I am very flexible. When I go to a championship for gymnastics, I feel very nervous and my coach says “Don’t be worried, everything is going to be alright.” When I take my coach’s advice it actually works. I used to always feel this way: afraid, active, and average. Now when I get on the mat, it is as soft as a blanket. I got first place and I felt proud.

Katie Malakhova Grade 3

The Hockey Game

When I score a goal in hockey I feel happy and unstoppable. My body is so sweaty and thrilled. The crowd is so loud. My team, the Penguins, is so shocked and excited. It is cold in the rink and I feel energized. I am ‘on fire’ when I score a goal. I am proud when I score a goal. My dad is amazed and so is my mom. I just want to keep playing after I score because it feels amazing.

Ryan Karawan Grade 4

Fishing with My Dad

I am going fishing with my dad tomorrow. I want to catch a big fish. It is fun to go fishing with my dad because we know how to catch a lot of fish. When we go fishing, we go to lakes that are far away from our house. After we are done, we will get something to eat on our way home. I love my dad and mom.

Conchade Osceola Grade 1

Fishing with My Dad

Swim

Freestyle my dad yells. 1,2,3 breathe 1,2,3 breathe! Then I do a back flip to look like a pro swimmer. I swim intense racer for the finish line—goal! Natalie swims 5 laps in one minute! Another win, another swim, another fun day in the pool.

Natalie Linares Grade 3
**Gifts from the Heart**

**My Shiny New Christmas Gift**

One of my most played with gifts is my robot. The eyes are as red as cherries when they flicker in the dark. A thick purple outline surrounds the bloodish red center and back. With its square card-boxed head to its tiny, tiny legs, it's as shiny as a new out-of-the box holographic baseball card. Made out of hard heavy metal material, its voice sounds like a broken CPU. It has a rectangular-shaped body and thick red-violet neck. Its true masterpiece finishes off with a gentle screw on its back for the batteries.

Federico Pohls  Grade 5

**My Gift to You is Love**

I will love you by helping you when you get ill. I will wipe your tears when you cry, If you get cold, I will hug you till you fill with warmth and joy I will hold your hand and I will hold it tight

Skylar Kahn  Grade 3

**Heroes**

in the sky, on the ground in the ocean, everywhere fighting for our freedom sacrificing their lives heroes are all around firefighters, police navy, air force everyday people all can be heroes just open your eyes

Amelia Meles  Grade 4

**Thanksgiving Is...**

My aunt’s scrumptious chocolate cake And my friends and family, too. Juicy turkey is waiting on the table With hot soup and fresh corn, too. The men were watching football After my family sang prayers like hummingbirds. I felt warm all around me, And love was surrounding me.

Abbie Kopelowitz  Grade 2

**Hanukkah Is...**

The dreidel dancing on the table. The smell of latkes sweating in the pot. Different sized presents floating on the table. The tiny gelt waiting to be eaten. The glow of the candles shining from the menorah

Jonas Meltzer  Grade 2

**Christmas Is...**

Christmas is jolly Santa coming to my warm house to deliver wonderful gifts Christmas is ripping the shiny new wrapping off my wonderful presents Christmas is relaxing with my kind, sweet and loving family Christmas is getting and giving gifts, that other people will adore Christmas is decorating my beautiful tree with decorations Christmas is getting out of bed and Peeking into my colored stocking Christmas is sleeping late, relaxing in bed Before a special and delicious breakfast

Xenya Currie  Grade 2
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