

**Among  
the  
Sky  
and  
Stars:**

**A selection of poems by the  
students at Randolph Elementary  
School, Chicago, Illinois**

# **Among the Sky and Stars:**

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## FOREWORD

The following is a selection of great poems by the students of Randolph school. In my short time at Randolph, I have gained a renewed faith in the innate creative abilities possessed by children and young adults. My work with several classes at Randolph has been immensely rewarding for me, and I very much hope that the students in those classes have gained a sense of the power and beauty of language. We use words every day, and it is easy to become so accustomed to them that they lose much of the strange and wonderful power which belongs to them. Language is a gift. When we make art out of the words of our language, we are celebrating that gift.

The poems I have selected are some of my favorites. Because this space is limited by the constraints of desktop publishing, I was forced to omit many other excellent poems.

Many of the student poems are modeled after more famous poems that we discussed during class, including William Blake's "The Tyger," Gwendolyn Brooks's "The Bean Eaters," and Wallace Stevens's "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird," among others.

A big thank you to the students, staff, and teachers at Randolph for making my visit here so enjoyable.

Go Rockets,

Lee Glidewell

FOUR WAYS OF LOOKING AT THE MOON

by Anton Brown

I

Among the sky and stars  
You see the moon,  
But only in darkness

II

I ate five candy bars  
Like a moon,  
In which there are five stars

III

The moon moved in the sky,  
Like you when you apply,  
Just fast movement

IV

The moon and the sky are one  
The moon and the stars are one.

---

HAIKU

by Delano Braxton

Walking to the store  
Throwing snowballs at the cars  
Hoping to get chased.

## UNTITLED

by Raven Tyler

This is just to say  
I have borrowed your  
car for today  
which you were saving  
to go shopping  
Now your all around  
the house hopping.  
I didn't drive too far  
but forgive me  
for borrowing your car.

---

## THE CHEESE EATERS

by Chyna Martin

When they'd wake up in the morning  
they would ask for more cheese. I'd  
get tired of making the same thing  
every day. So when they wake up for now  
on, they would have more than cheese.  
And that is how I solved my problem  
of them eating cheese..

HAIKU

by Travis Conley

The moon is running  
To a place far, far away  
The moon has made it

---

HAIKU

by Doneisha Wright

The picture was laughing  
when the camera had made a  
nasty face. He said, ha ha ha.

---

UNTITLED

by Malcolm Conn

I am a running back  
The quarterback throws  
the ball to me I catch it  
I'm running, I spin left  
Someone tries to tackle  
me, I spin right, I dive.  
Touch down. We won the  
game, we are in the  
finals.

## DREAM POEM

by Henry Webber

My house turned  
into a dog house.  
And we got stuck  
and we tried to break  
it cause we was  
stuck.

---

## DREAM

by Derrick Pearson

You go flying down the  
street on your bicycle, dodging  
people left and right. Your brakes disappear,  
are gone, so you can't stop going faster  
and faster, you feel the air rushing  
past you like a tornado. Next you  
are in a race car, the clock count's  
done, taking off with speed, a straight  
neverending track. Your steering  
wheel turns into a little monster  
biting at your clothes.

SPRING

by Zakaylia Smith

Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
Flowers are growing  
So are you

---

VOWELS

by Jonmia Steadman

A is blue like the sky  
the sky is blue  
the clouds are blue too.  
E is for brown, like the crayon.  
I is for yellow, like the sun.  
O is for black, like the computer.  
U is pink, like pink shorts.

---

UNTITLED

by Justin Pargo

Cat, cat, chase the rat  
Dog, dog, run all the way  
around the hall.

## FIVE WAYS OF LOOKING AT A REDBIRD

by Vinnasia Warren

I

Among the tall mountains  
was the red bird

II

I was on my Summer  
break thinking like a  
cat in which was a redbird

III

The redbird was whirled in  
the blue sky when the wind  
blew.

IV

A red bird and a white bird  
eating worms at the same pond

V

The wind filled the long  
window with snow and ice,  
the shadow of the redbird cross  
it, to make a snow angel.

## SPRING

by Almanoemi Acosta

Flowers are blooming  
In the springtime dew  
Like popping butterflies in  
The midnight moon

Animals are popping from  
Their Winter sleep  
They're happy and glad to see  
Another Spring.  
They're hopping and running in joy  
and fun to be in another Spring

My birthday is in Spring so I jump  
And sing  
It's the season of toys and other good  
Things  
Now it's time to end my poem but  
Thank God it's Spring!

---

## THE COLORFUL SUNSET

by Paris Rice

Every morning the colorful sunset comes out  
I wake up to look at it about four o'clock in  
the morning. I go outside in the Summer to wait  
for it until it being a beautiful sunset come out  
I watch it. It was the greatest and loveliest thing I  
ever seen! It was colorful. That's why we call it the colorful  
sunset.

UNTITLED

by Keyshawn Jackson

Lion! Lion! How did you get so big? I wonder, how did you get  
big paws, how did you get so big eyes?  
I am the king of the jungle. How do you expect me to be?  
I don't know. But I have to get like you.  
No, you won't get like me! You can try. But you will not get like  
me. Unless you exercise any you will not get like me.

---

BEAUTIFUL SOUL

by Jessica Hill

Someone in my class has a beautiful  
Soul, a soul so bright it glows at night.  
She is so special, too, and her name start  
With a B. She love to teach, she love wearing  
colorful things, just like she have a big heart,  
is so sweet. That why she have a a  
Beautiful soul, just like me.

---

HAIKU

by Raven Tyler

Black, white, and gray cat  
Running through the dark alley  
trying to find food.

## UNTITLED

by Jazmine Jefferson

On the weekends, the sun is bright, the sun is shining. Chicago so bright. On the plane heading to California. Discovering places, going to Hollywood, Disneyland and worlds and incredible photos. Man so tall, girl so small. I just love the weekends, don't you? Riding my bike every day, going to the movies day/night. My wish will come true every day/night. Tomorrow will be Sunday. I will go to sleep and go to school on the next day. Why school, why homework, why lessons, and why ISAT? Why do days have to go away? The next weekend maybe Disneyland or maybe the park. Because the weekend is my best. Clouds in the sky. I don't care about school I just love the weekend. Maybe next time I will go to Chuck-E Cheese, or play games. But maybe I will even go to go see Madea's Family Reunion or Big Mama. I will have fun every weekend so interesting & so special, and my own experiences.

## UNTITLED

by Doneisha Wright

O rain why did I hurt you so bad  
and I made you sad. When I hurt you you  
treat me right by taking light away  
by shaking down your tears, full with  
love when you drop from above. You  
make me feel happy when you're sad.  
I'm happy when you are sad. I'm sad when you  
are sad. How glad I am to have a friend like you.  
You understand what I'm going through.

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## JOYFUL

by Jasmine Morris

As joyful as a puppy first born  
to this world as it is oh so  
anxious. Although, it gets older,  
the joy to fade. And maybe  
some unhappiness gets in the way.  
The puppy is older and is now in  
its teens, is not new to the world  
but still loves to hear the birds  
sing.

## SPRING

by Isiah Stiff

Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
You see them blossom  
In the Spring bloom

If I see a rose  
I will pick it up  
And I will smell it  
The grass is green

Like the sunlight  
The bright sun shines on my face  
When you look up in the sky  
You can see the bright sun

When I wake up the birds tweet  
When I play football in the green fields  
I catch the ball I think is the ball  
When the bell rings the bird flies off into the  
blue sky.

---

## UNTITLED

by Demecio Cooper

I wish I will have a good school day  
I wish I had a good new year.  
I wish I will go to Hollywood.

## IN MY WILD DREAM

by Diamond Dixon

In my wild dream I had  
the night before I called Michael  
Myers name three times and when I got  
to sleep I had a dream that  
Michael Myers was chasing me  
and tried to get me. He put  
a scar on my face. I woke  
with a scar on my face.

---

## I WISH

by Necole Smith

I wish I was a millionaire.  
I wish I was famous.  
I wish I was popular.  
I wish I had a car.  
I wish I was a teacher.  
I wish I pass all my grades.  
I wish I pass all my classes.  
I wish I had a magic pencil.  
I wish I had a magic carpet.

## UNTITLED

by Asanta Cunningham

I have taken a toy that  
was not mine. I am so sorry I say I say.  
But I said I had fun playing  
and playing with it. It was a  
action figure of GI Joe with  
the popout gun. I said I like  
popping out the blaster inside  
the gun.

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## DREAM POEM

by Jamila Smith

He finds himself in a park and he is sitting  
and talking, but not to anyone particularly. But it  
turns out to be a dog. While he talks people  
can't believe the dog is saying words. Now a  
cat comes along and the dog wants to fight it.

Now you find out you are dreaming because  
you are now in a pool with a singing shark,  
and when you get out the shark grabs  
you and starts dancing with you.

When you wake up in real life your  
pet snake is now dancing to the music  
on tv. And you join and you have a ball  
with the snake.

## UNTITLED

by Cory Lee

Cheetah, cheetah, wild and  
fierce, where did you get that  
fur and claws? So fast, so tall,  
faster than a jeep and a dog.

Cheetah, cheetah, wild and fierce  
where did you get that fur  
and claws? So big eyes small.  
Faster than anything in the  
world.

---

## THE MONSTER

by Chyna Martin

The monster in my closet is  
Very scary, and also very  
Hairy. Every time I see him I  
Start to scream, and when I'd get  
Scared, I would hit him with whip cream.  
I would run and run all day  
Long, and he would sing a scary song.

*A Gift to the students of  
Asa P. Randolph Elementary School  
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*Language Where it Lives*