

May 5, 2017

Sponsored by Hank Werronen, Class of 1961

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| <p><u>Grade 6-8</u> <i>First - Morgan Braemer</i> <i>Second - Maya Hess</i> <i>Third - Jennifer Soria</i> <i>Runner Ups - Zoe Ferris,</i> <i>Caleb Jones</i></p> | <p><u>Grades 9-12</u> <i>First - Rashawn Alston</i> <i>Second - Lydia Shaw</i> <i>Third - Ashlynn Craft</i> <i>Runner Up - Liz Olvera</i></p> | <p><u>Honorable Mentions</u> <i>Victoria Palmer</i> <i>Owen Meachum</i> <i>Emily Bradac</i></p> |
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Middle School Finalists:

Left to Right: Morgan Braemer, Maya Hess, Jennifer Soria, Caleb Jones



High School Finalists:

Left to Right: Rashawn Alston, Ashlynn Craft, Liz Olvera, Lydia Shaw



Honorable Mentions:

Left to Right: Owen Meachum, Emily Bradac, Victoria Palmer





May 5, 2017

First Place - Middle School

Just One Smile by Morgan Braemer (7th Grade)

Just One Smile

Click, Click,
A pen in the back of the class,
A shy, quiet, and frail they sat
Clicking, and clicking

Ring, Ring,
The bell for the next class rung.

Down the corridor whispers,
Glares and perhaps-
Rumors stumble about.

Students now rushing for class,
Trying to be on time

Teachers call names one by one,
Each person has the same response.
Here,
Here!

H-here

Glares go to the back of the class,
All but one. One was sort of-
Annoyed?

A smile came from that look,
Hopeful, and friendly

Then a smile returned,
And hope, and more strength
Then more every day

With just one
Little,
Smile.

May 5, 2017

Second Place - Middle School

If I Were by Maya Hess (8th Grade)

If I were

If I were a seed,
I would grow and stretch my leaves into the sky.
I would break out of my shell, leaving the darkness,
and reach for the light above calling for me.
And I would love it.

If I were a duck,
I wouldn't get comfortable hiding in the brittle walls surrounding me.
I would break out of the shell that was holding me back from the world.
I would stretch my neck, open my eyes and take in the atmosphere around me.
And I would love it.

If I were a wolf,
born in a den,
I would seek adventure.
I would try to catch the sunlight beams that dance on the rock walls around me.
I would conjure up the courage as a cub,
and step outside of the cave that shelters me.
I would take in the fresh air and the hills.
And I would love it.

But I am just human.
Still trying to break free of the ties holding me back,
Trying to capture the happiness others have.

If I weren't afraid,
I would fight harder,
take more chances.
trust more,
but I am human.
and I am afraid.
But I am seeking strength.
And I somehow seem to find it when I need it the most.

May 5, 2017

Third Place - Middle School

Strength by Jennifer Soria (8th Grade)

Strength

Her sweaty palms bouncing the round orange ball.

The crowd is cheering and only a few seconds left before the buzzer goes off.

She is tired and panting really hard due to the running.

She felt like time has stopped.

She was so exhausted of running that she wanted to just give up at that moment.

Just a few more steps.

She was almost to the basket.

Three more

Her whole body hurts

Two

She looks and notices she is underneath the hoop

One

She used the strength that she had left.

She scored.

May 5, 2017

Middle School Finalist

Real Strength by Zoe Ferris (8th Grade)

Real Strength

If the floor is cracking, hold to every flying dream you have.
They will save you from ever feeling alone.
If the belt around your waist starts to strangle you, look around at how lucky you are to be alive.
No one can say you look any other way than how you want to look.
If the desk is cold with every difficult question that hits you, just ask for the seat closest to the sun.
The sun is await with open arms to warm you.
If the bracelets you wear feel more like shackles, take them off.
No need to impress us, let other know your here and they will follow.
And if there's nothing else but endless sorrow filling your life, tell someone.
Someone's willing to listen, even the one who's name was never spoken before by your friends.
If when you enter the class and don't see anyone you know, don't shy away.
We're all human. Our blood is as red as yours.
If you feel like your higher then the clouds in nervousness, don't panic.
The people who will whisper about you and laugh are only seeking attention they already have.
If your thoughts are telling you to stop, and you feel like breaking down,
It all depends.

If you cry in front of one person or a million people, it will be the same.
Friends will comfort you.
Leaders will help you.
Jerks will laugh at you.
And only The Strong will know when you cry, that you'll be stronger than before.

Middle School Finalist

Strength is smarts by Caleb Jones (7th Grade)

Strength is smarts

Strength is not muscles
It's about smarts

Think about Batman
Instead of Superman
The world's greatest detective
Vs a big brute

Use Franklin's light
Instead of hitler's kill count
The founding father
Vs a maniac

Wonder about science
Instead of war
The peace
Vs the death and despair

Think about Einstein
Instead of Arnold
The genius
Instead of the body builder

What about nerds
Instead of bullies
Good education and future
Vs mean, nasty and a job at Mcdonalds
This is my vision of strength

May 5, 2017

First Place - High School

Rising Above the Dark by Rashawn Alston (10th grade)

Rising Above the Dark

If I were to be a catfish
On the bottom of a pond,
And you were depressed,
I would be brave and rise to the surface
To be there for you even If I were only a fish.
I would pull a boat to you
For you to get on
and I would pull you around the pond
To relax and drive the thoughts
Out your head,
I would keep pulling and pulling until the sun comes up
And you finally meet your peace.
Which allows me
To show bravery and toughness,
I am a catfish.

May 5, 2017

Second Place - High School

Resilience by Lydia Shaw (9th Grade)

Resilience

Peacock's do not have physical strength
But, for some reason they have everyone
Stopping in their tracks. How fearless they must be
To stand flaunting in front of danger. To be so powerful
And bright is strength,
strength that I'll never
be.

May 5, 2017

Third Place - High School

"Be A Man" by Ashlynn Craft (11th Grade)

"Be A Man"

"Be a man," they say
As their fists fly towards his face.

"Fight back," they say
As their arms pick up the pace.

But, he's been through worse,
And they would know,
If they picked up his shirt
And looked at the scars below.
He didn't want to "be a man."

He knows what they do.
He couldn't fight back
Because he'd be a man too.

And when they were done,
He'd go home for more.
When his Father finished his drinks
And barged through the door.



May 5, 2017

High School Finalist

I See Strength Everyday by Liz Olvera (10th Grade)

I See Strength Everyday

Someone stands out
They get bullied
They stand up

I see strength

Someone becomes an adult
They fail fighting for what they want
They try again

I see strength

Someone becomes a parent
They have fears
They don't give up on their love

I see strength

Someone becomes elderly
They have anxiety of what is to come
They have acceptance

I see strength



May 5, 2017

Continuing Excellence Award

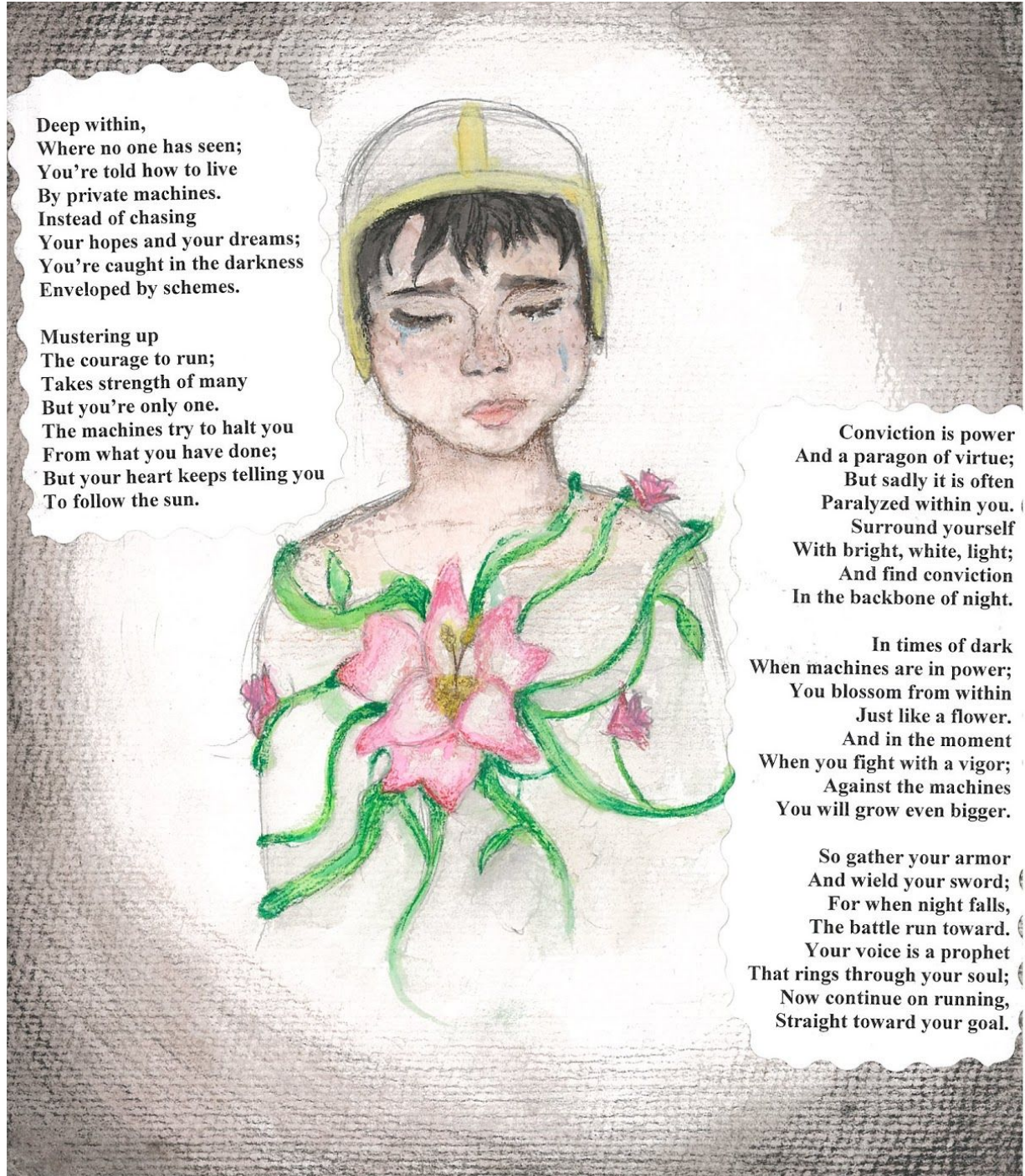
Our Little Universe by Emily Bradac (8th Grade)

The grey clouds seemed to cover
The entire big empty space
That is our universe.
Rain water pouring down
From the infinite sky.
And the autumn leaves swirling with the wind
Into oblivion.
Little children press their
Noses against windows,
Staring out into their
Own little universe.
A land of
Their own creation.
They're unaware of what is
Beyond the borders
Of their minds.
What is that, you might ask?
It is our sky, our Earth,
Our universe.
As for me,
I stare out
At the whole universe
And everything in it,
Inhaling all of its beauty.
And, of course,
The entire universe stares
Right back.

May 5, 2017

High School Honorable Mention

Private Machines By Victoria Palmer (10th Grade)



Deep within,
Where no one has seen;
You're told how to live
By private machines.
Instead of chasing
Your hopes and your dreams;
You're caught in the darkness
Enveloped by schemes.

Mustering up
The courage to run;
Takes strength of many
But you're only one.
The machines try to halt you
From what you have done;
But your heart keeps telling you
To follow the sun.

Conviction is power
And a paragon of virtue;
But sadly it is often
Paralyzed within you.
Surround yourself
With bright, white, light;
And find conviction
In the backbone of night.

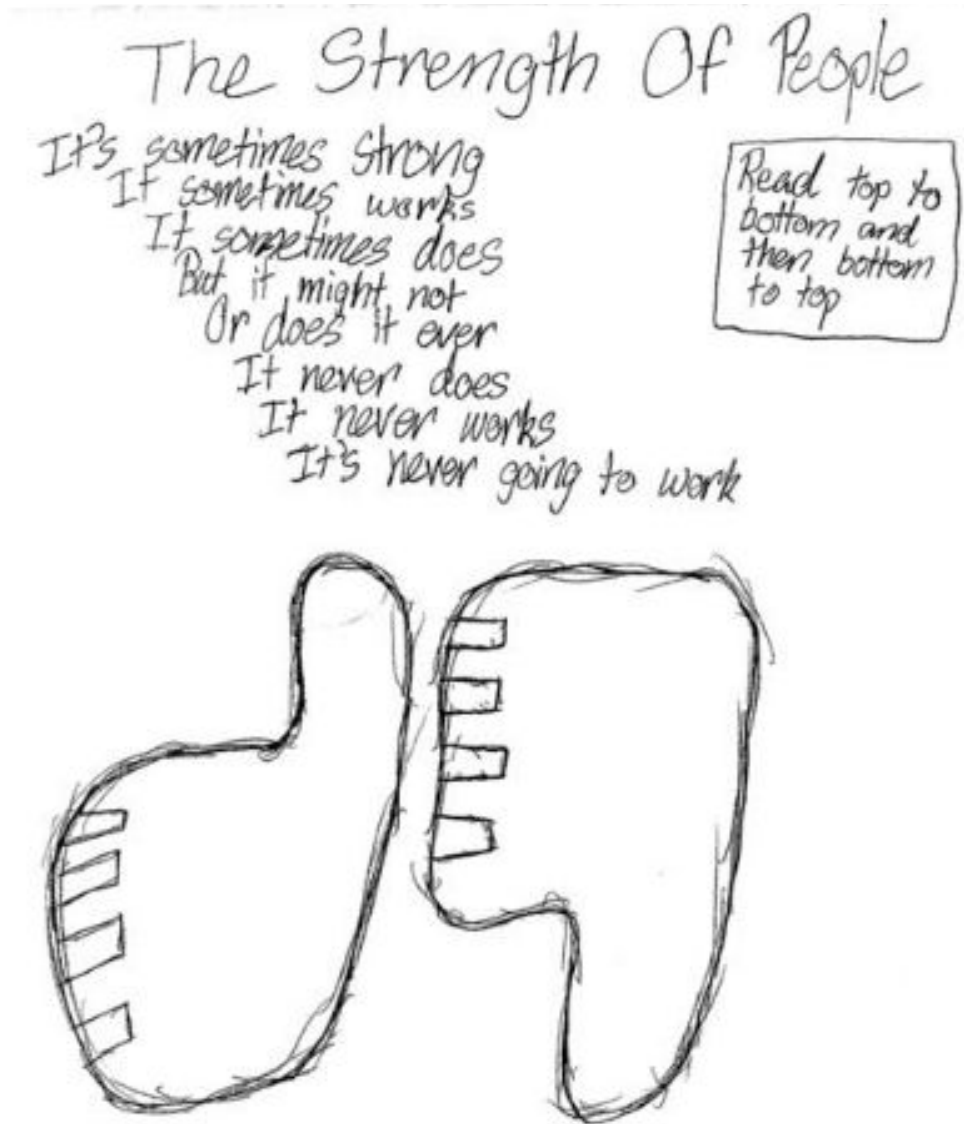
In times of dark
When machines are in power;
You blossom from within
Just like a flower.
And in the moment
When you fight with a vigor;
Against the machines
You will grow even bigger.

So gather your armor
And wield your sword;
For when night falls,
The battle run toward.
Your voice is a prophet
That rings through your soul;
Now continue on running,
Straight toward your goal.

May 5, 2017

Middle School Honorable Mention

The Strength of the People by Owen Meacham (6th Grade)



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A special thanks to our Fair Poet Sponsor Hank Werronen, Class of 1961 (Pictured below on the right) along with State Representative John Rogers (Pictured below on the left), from District 60, who came to present an award to Victoria Palmer (Pictured in the middle) for her art project which has been on display in the Ohio State House for this school year. We thank you both for supporting the arts at our school - whether our artists have written poetry or essays on paper or drawn on canvas, your support has meant a lot!

