

"What hurts my brothers and sisters hurts me."

When a Johnson Governor sets out to accomplish an objective, they do it right. A worldwide pandemic is no excuse for failure. Through the many challenges students and families may have faced this year, we all prospered through the struggle.

*The Mirror* is a collection of student's art that brings peace, joy, and excitement to the community. This year we are proud to present the 23rd edition of the official Johnson Mirror.

# JOHNSON MIRROR 2020-2021



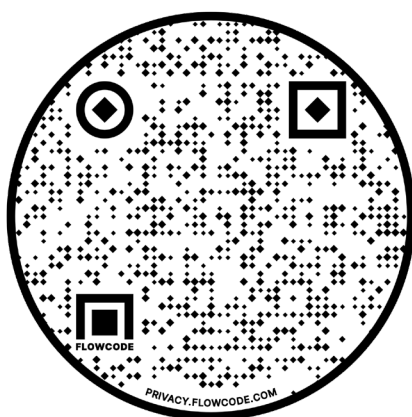
*23rd Edition*



# JOHNSON MIRROR



*Edited by:*  
*Ma Chang & Nang Thao*



**Saint Paul**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

A World of Opportunities

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*Dedicated to Principal Thompson  
A leader who has made a world of difference.  
With thirty-four years in Saint Paul Public Schools, 12 years  
at Johnson as a teacher, and eight years as our principal,  
we're thankful for your support, hard work,  
and positive attitude.*

*You've been an inspiration to us all.*

*Hello Readers,*

*We are proud to present the 2020-2021 publication of The Mirror. We would like to take a moment to thank the amazing people that have contributed to this year's edition. Thank you to all the students who submitted their poems, written work, or art pieces. Thank you to Mr. Boyt for your guidance and helping us get started. Thank you to Ms. Klocke and Ms. Tran for organizing and providing your students' art pieces. And thank you to our principal Micheal Thompson for making The Mirror exist because without your support this wouldn't have happened.*

*Congratulations to Grace Balang on winning the Editor's Choice Prize for your piece called, "You can see, but are truly blind". It was difficult to just choose one piece out of all these amazing pieces, but your poem is truly outstanding.*

*We hope that this year's Mirror shows the students' talents and what Johnson Senior High School students have to offer. There are many beautiful and amazing pieces in this year's Mirror, we hope that you will enjoy reading and looking at them as much as we did!*

*-Editors Ma Chang and Nang Thao*

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You can see but are truly blind

*- Editor's Choice -*

*A small cabin  
In the middle of the woods  
A table in a home  
A living room full of life  
A family reunion  
Parents looking at their young  
Faces of joy  
Their children causing chaos*

*But they don't realize  
The kids are no longer children  
Their eyes no longer sparkle with excitement  
They are dull  
Hollow black holes  
Faces are painted with artificial smiles*

*Their parents are lying  
Mouths are pianos  
Creating a twisted melody  
A living room full of lies  
Causing the air to thicken  
A table stained with memories*

*A father  
His kids  
Reunited after months apart  
Showers them with gifts  
Symbols of his love and regrets*

*He doesn't realize  
His kids are now teens  
Their father  
Words spoken after weeks of silence  
Twenty dollars in their hands  
Symbols of his absence*

*The parents don't realize  
The children know everything  
All the lies, secrets, and untold truths  
Spilled on a table  
In a cabin  
In the middle of the woods.*

*-Grace Balang*





*The Favored Sister*  
*By: Serie*

*I See Myself In a Different Light*

*To see the beauty of humanity  
You must recognize the beauty within yourself.  
You are a statistical miracle!  
Born of fire and stardust,  
Your family conquering a diverse world full of forces  
Who did not care for them.  
They have sailed the seas,  
Grasped the skies,  
And stolen the world!  
Humanity is legendary,  
So are you.*

*-Skye Her*



*Landscape*  
*By: Daniel Kong*

## *Untitled*

*Every time when I do not take a risk  
There is a book that appears.  
It is written about the possibilities  
That could have happened.  
It is written about my capability  
To make a change.  
It is written to show me that my fantasy  
Could have been reality.*

*It is there to threaten me, because I am frightened.  
I am scared of what is going to happen, If I do take that risk.  
But maybe, I just need to enlighten.  
Even If I'm afraid,  
I just need to take that risk.*

*-Aailiyah Vang*





*Mother Earth Is Sick*  
*By: Uriel Vang*

*When I met you*

*Hey,*

*Hello,*

*You asked me what my name was*

*As if trying to figure out a puzzle*

*Or holding a blank sheet of paper,*

*Waiting to fill it up with words learned about me.*

*The need to know*

*When and what we may be.*

*Could it be a future hidden within me?*

*Like picking a strand of grass from a field*

*Or a leaf from a tree,*

*But I wonder why me,*

*And so I answer*

*A name*

*That you'll hold on to*

*When I turn into a memory*

*Or when your need to know turns into the need to let go*

*-Lovena Vang*



*By: PaZong Thao*

*Untitled*

*Beautiful and delicate  
memories,  
made by earths blessings.  
Happiness walked blushing  
creation of peace satisfied hope.  
Lips chuckle and smile  
to the thoughts of pleasure  
and lives always  
connected.*

*-Aryanna Johnson*

*Apple*

*By: Chengyang Vang*



## *Sun Shower*

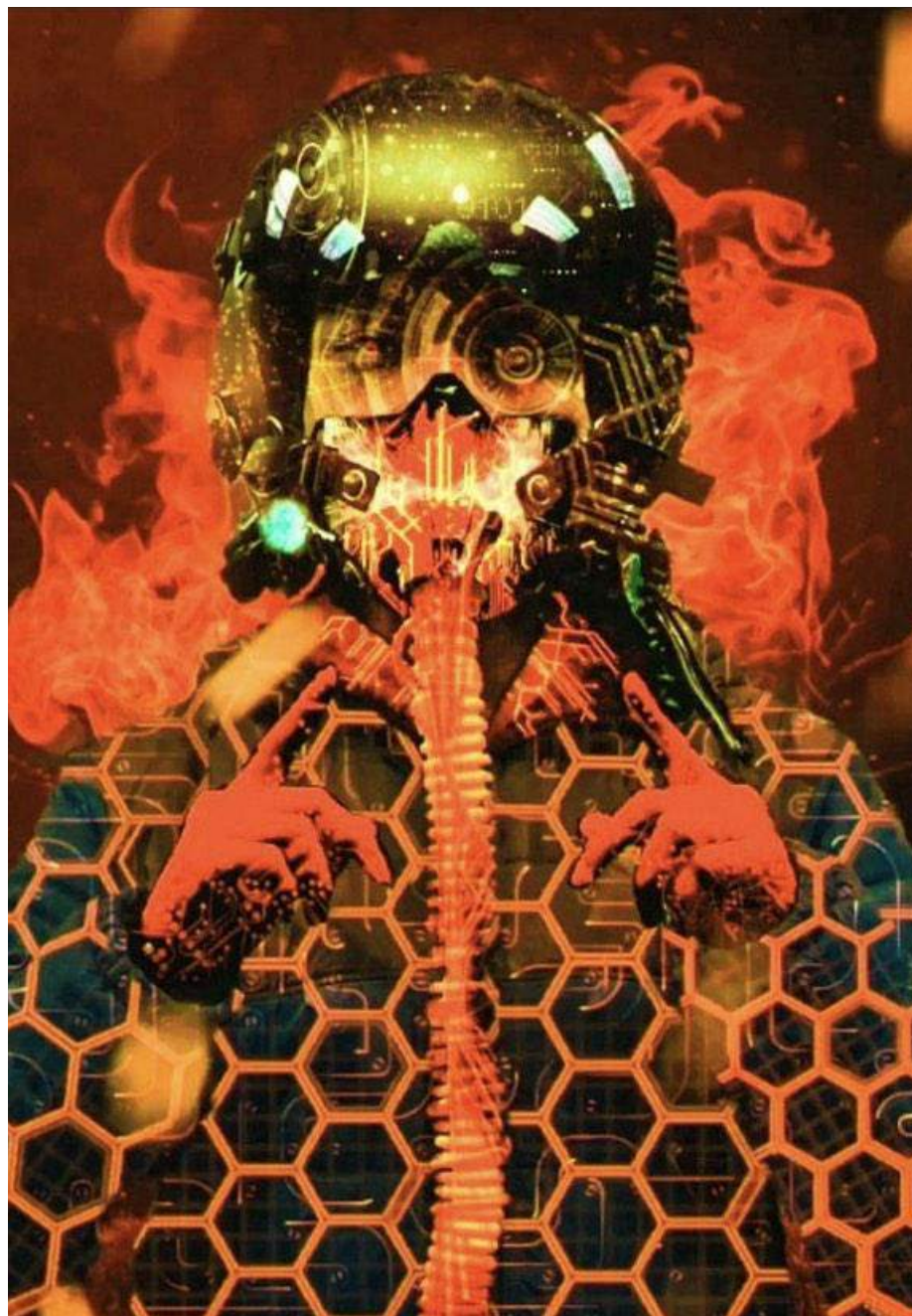
*I always ask myself:  
why does the sun shine, even  
when it rains?  
How can it make such a  
scene look magical?  
Rain makes me feel sad, angry,  
alone,  
but the sun holding the bowl  
of fallen seas  
seems comforting, calm,  
relaxed,  
as if it knows the nerves need rest.  
The way it twists itself among the droplets,  
and reflects itself on the surface,  
making the sky rain with pure gold.*

*-Raeann Wheatley*

*By: Monolisa Thao*







*By: Shawn Lor*

## *Analysis of Basketball*

*(inspired by May Swensen's Analysis of Baseball)*

*It's about  
the ball,  
the hoop,  
and the players.*

*Players shoot  
the ball,  
ball meets  
hoop, or it hits  
the floor.*

*The team takes it in from  
out of bounds.*

*The match begins.*

*Tensions rise.*

*The team begins  
the play,  
passing in the ball.*

*Fast break down  
down the court  
(bounce) the echo  
of the ball heard  
throughout the stadium.*

*An open man,  
the ball is passed  
he shoots.*

*The ball makes  
it in (Swish!)*

*-Demarjai Shaheer*



*Owl*  
*by Kathy Moua*



*Untitled*

*The young hermit crab is on a journey, to and fro!  
Perhaps his new home will be close?  
A new home sighted, will it let him grow?  
The young hermit crab is on a journey, to and fro!  
It looks like he found another one, what a pro!  
Though it seems like this one is see through, how gross!  
The young hermit crab is on a journey, to and fro!  
Perhaps his new home is close?*

*-Joseph Yang*



*Collage*  
*by: Pa Jar Yang*

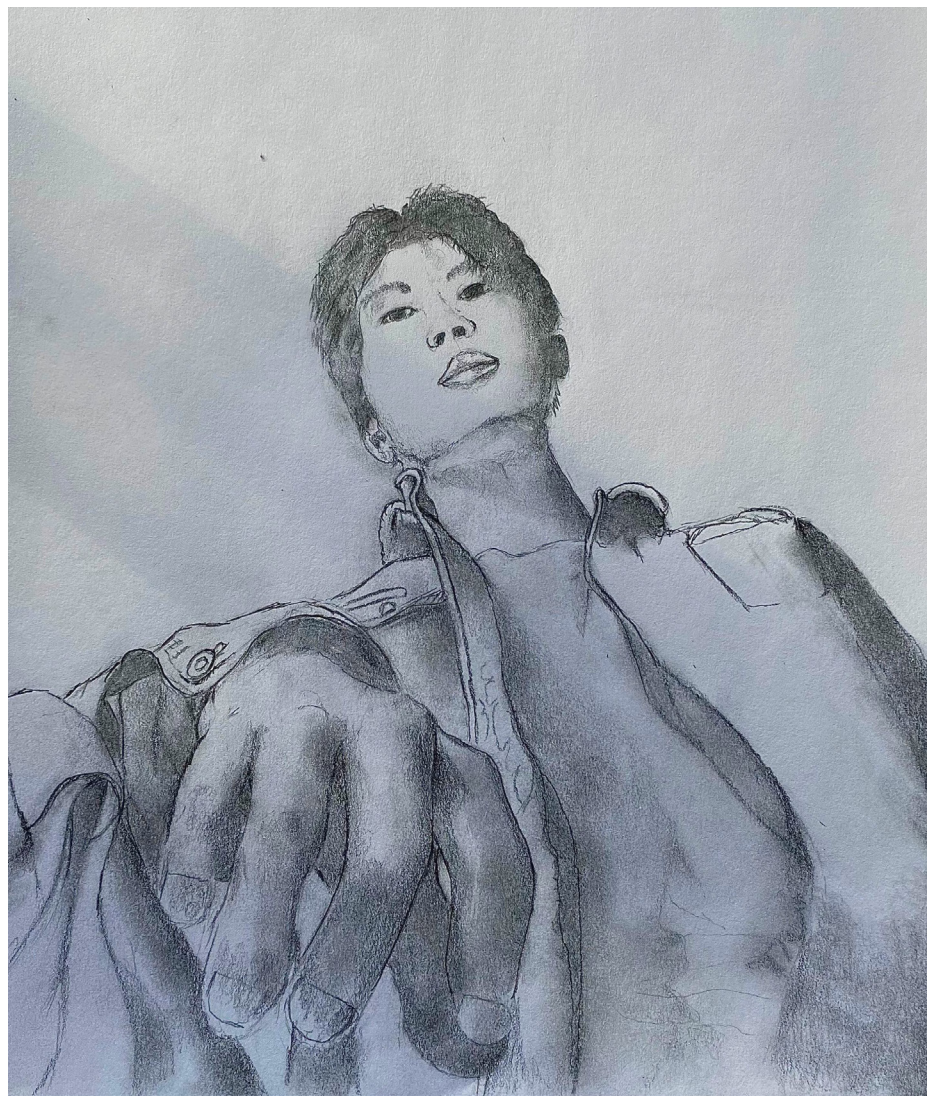
## *Sitting Man*

*(inspired by Edwin Markham's "The Daring One")*

*A man sat on a bench every day.  
He would sit but never say.  
"Look, there's the sitting man!"  
a boy would say. "I wonder if he can stand?"  
Everyone wondered, but no one asked.  
They'd only walk by and take just a glance.  
The sitting man was silent  
It made people wonder if perhaps he was violent.*

*They wondered why he wouldn't stand.  
Maybe he needed a helping hand.  
To this day they still wonder if the sitting man will stand.  
To this day they still wonder if he just needs a helping hand.*

*-Aidan Van Patten*



*Self Portrait*  
*By: Too Paw*

*Greta Thunberg*

*A young teenage girl  
Sails across the polluted sea  
Thousands of miles from home  
Landing in New York*

*She stands before politicians  
Like a flame in darkness  
Her voice burns through their lies*

*Lies of resolutions  
As they lie in piles of money  
While pumping gallons of pollution  
Into our air, oceans, and landfills*

*She starts a revolution  
Fueled by the fear of dying  
Of toxic fumes  
Or dehydration of lack of clean water*

*A teenage girl stands  
Before people twice her age  
Screaming her truth*

*-Grace Balang*





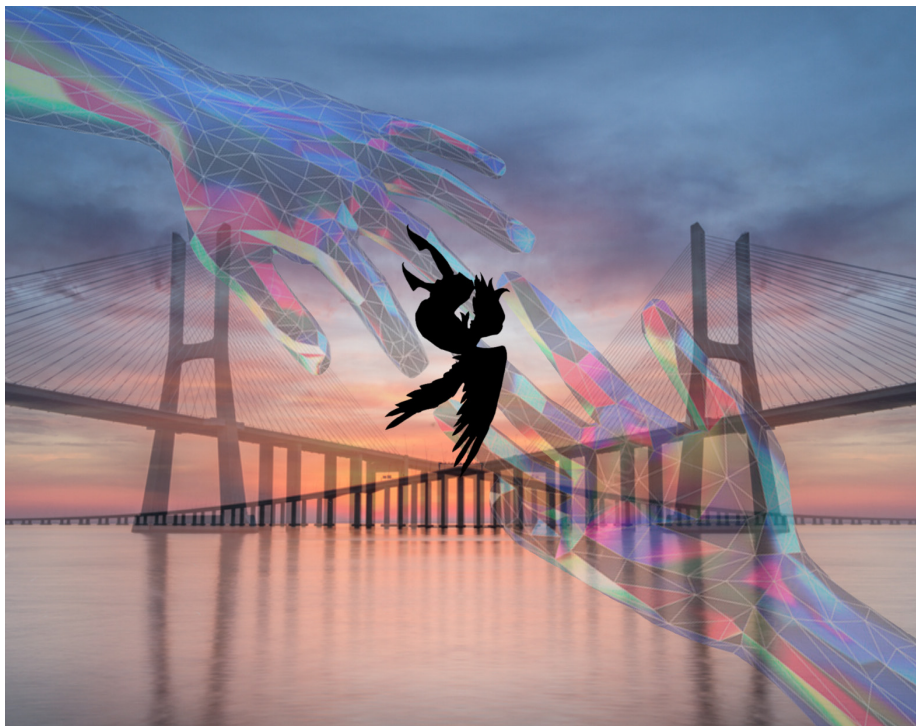
*By: Raeann Wheatley*

*Untitled*

*Everybody is doing something,  
Everyone looks busy,  
Seems like everybody got goals  
Wonder why everyone's chasing dreams?*

*I think I finally found out.  
Everyone's awake and chasing dreams  
While I'm still asleep trying to find a dream,  
I hope one day I'll wake up.*

*-Chueseng Moua*



*By: Coraima Pacheco Mendez*

*Practice*

*She wiggles her thin fingers  
On the ebony-colored fingerboard of her cello  
She wiggles her slender fingers,  
To make a rich and fine vibrato  
“Wa wa wa wa wa”  
The cello painfully croaks.  
An awful sound  
Echoes all around  
But for elegance to be found,  
She must keep her ground*

*-Kaitlyn Yang*





*Self Portrait*  
*By: Linda Vang*

## *Scarf*

*Bundled tight,  
Keeping you warm,  
In the frigid night,  
With you by that loop around your neck,  
Bound together forever.*

*One quick pull, gone  
One toss in the bin, gone  
Piled with the jacket, gone  
Gloves and hat on top, gone*

*The seasons have changed, you no longer need me.*

*Brandon Strickler*



*By: Xouchi Khue*

## *Leaves*

*Leaves are a perfect reflection of what life is.  
They fall when they're ready to fall.  
They go wherever the wind blows,  
Never know where the wind will take them.  
They're vulnerable.  
If only we can learn to be vulnerable at times then maybe  
Then life wouldn't be so hard,  
But people can be stubborn or ignorant.  
That's why sometimes in the winter  
There are still some leaves on the tree.*

*-Johnny Her*





*By: Derek Johnson*

*An Ocean Filled With Stars*

*(inspired by "Future Memories" by Mario Meléndez)*

*I awoke at an unusual time,  
Looked out the window, and saw  
an ocean filled with stars.  
I grabbed my net and flew  
down the stairs outside the house.  
I ran into the stars  
throwing my net around.  
Now, with my net full of stars,  
I throw them back to where they belong.*

*-Nang Thao*



*Nich*

*By: Ma Chang*



*Happy to See my Fate: A Response to Mr. Hawthorne*

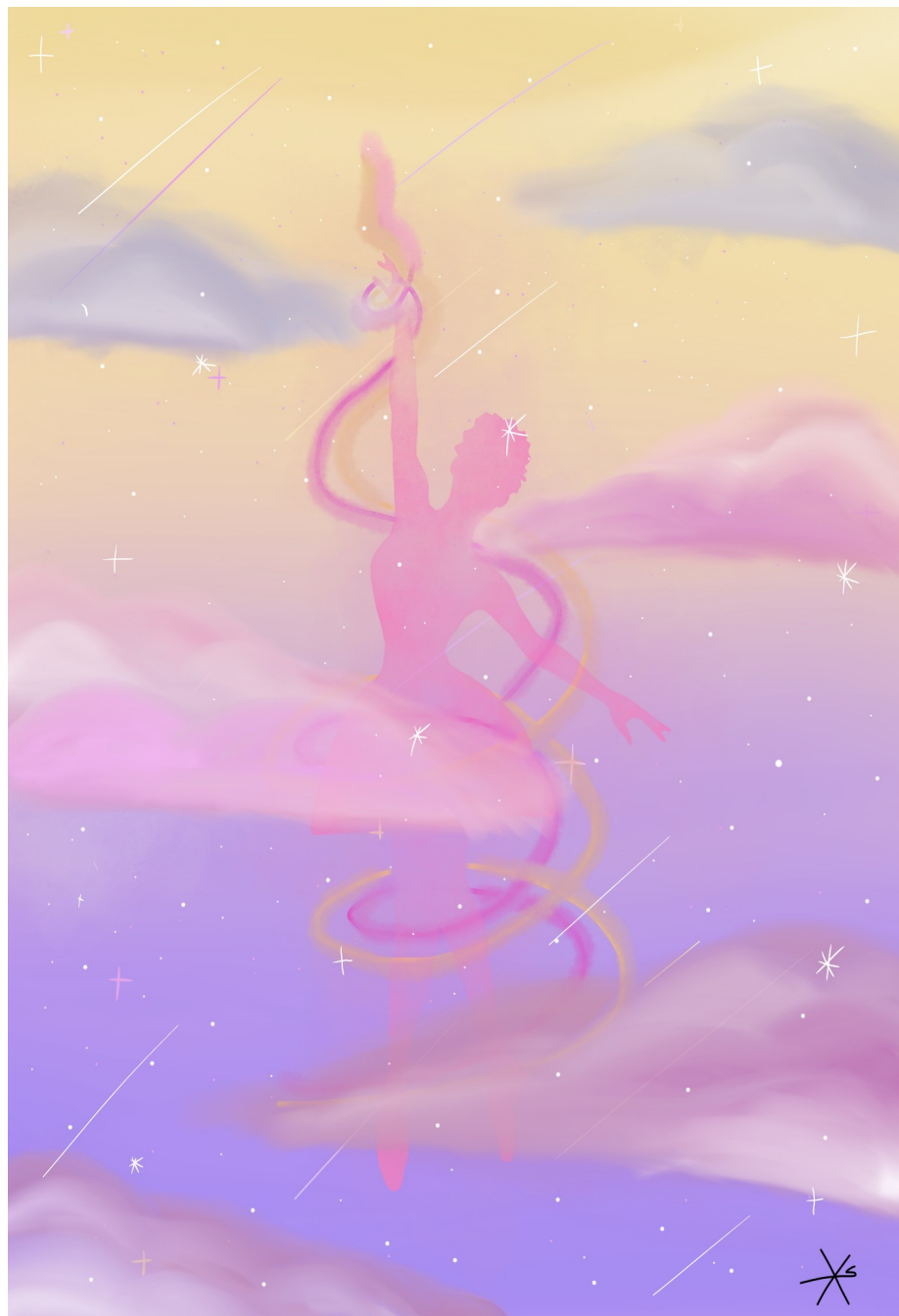
*Oh, I wish I could see that  
invisible life waiting for me.  
Tomorrow where am I going to be at?  
Or with whom am I going to be?  
I am ready and happy to know  
my future whether it's good -- or no.  
I agree, after learning it, I might be depressed,  
but I am not afraid. No. I'd be blessed.  
Instead I will benefit from what I've seen,  
and I'll do my best to live like a queen.  
Don't refuse it if a chance to see your fate you got  
because it's going to happen whether you like it or not.*

*-Safa Idris*

*Lilly By: Jinting (Lilly) Lu*







*By: Suwanne Xiong*

## *Wise Fool*

*"You wise fool!"*

*My friend always called me that and  
I hated, hated, that because I knew it was true.*

*I always act without thinking ahead.*

*I am a fool*

*Sure I know some stuff*

*But I never apply it to my life.*

*I am wise*

*enough*

*To be patient for everything*

*I am wise*

*enough*

*To not judge simply on looks*

*I am wise*

*enough*

*To understand that there are no wrong feelings*

*But I'm a fool*

*to think*

*So ignorantly*

*A fool*

*to act*

*So arrogantly*

*I am a frog stuck in a well.*

*I could not possibly understand the ocean.*

*I am like a dragon*

*To think that nothing can harm me*

*But in fact, the things that do, hurt me the most*

*I am a wise fool*

*to think*

*I am wise*

*but*

*Wise*

*enough*

*to know I am*

*a fool.*

*-Johnny Her*



*By: Byron Thao*

## *Sunset*

*Walking in the park in the evening,  
All alone,  
Through a little breeze,  
The leaves are blown.*

*All alone on the swings,  
I feel helpless,  
How could I leave the house,  
Leaving the family, am I careless!?*

*The sun gets dull,  
And I am alone,  
Through a little breeze,  
A leaf was blown.*

*-Sai Yang*

*By: Antoni Yang*



## *Untitled*

*I can't hold myself back from it.  
It just looks into my eyes and captures me.  
It takes my soul bit, by bit, by bit.  
I can't hold myself back from it.  
I feel dizzy, a good dizzy, light like someone's wit.  
for all that is, is all I see.  
I can't hold myself back from it.  
It just looks into my eyes and captures me.*

*-Raeann Wheatley*

## *Neurographic*

*By: Leona Xiong*





*Be careful please*

*Be careful please*

*She says to me.*

*Acting as if the wind could chase me*

*And hold me captive,*

*Running from nothingness*

*With my little feet.*

*Maybe it's because I finally knew how it felt to move so free?*

*Making one wrong move*

*And now I'm on my bleeding knees,*

*Be careful please*

*-Lovena Vang*



*Neurographic*

*By: Pa Jar Yang*

## *Literature of Gangs and Crime*

*Kids are dying  
Moms are crying  
Continuous sirens  
Bad boys slangin iron  
Shots keep coming  
Innocent bystanders running  
They all dream of something  
But right now the only thing that is  
Is to see the next morning  
No matter the season  
They all shooting for a reason  
The only goal is to not be the one bleeding*

*-Tyzhane Carthon*



*Collage  
By: Angel Lee*

*-Life-*

*Life is like a poem.*

*You can put your whole heart in it*

*And not like the results.*

*You can try your hardest*

*And not feel exultant.*

*You can try to learn almost everything,*

*feel as if it has to be perfect*

*But how? When you feel nothing but imperfect.*

*Maybe sometimes, you just have to leave it as it is.*

*Don't try to fix it, don't try to perfect it, don't try to amend it.*

*-Aailiyah Vang*

*Koi in Pastels*

*By: Kaitlyn Yang*





## *In My Head*

*In my head, I wish I could scream,  
but do not fret— I'm sure I'm fine.  
Although I feel I've lost my mind,  
I can balance on this line.*

*In my head, time always goes by,  
faster than I can notice.  
And I wish I could take it back,  
as I feel I've hit my lowest.*

*In my head, I wish I could scream  
Bbcause I'm about to slip.  
Although I keep myself going,  
I can't balance on this line.*

*-Tyden Her*

*By: Imani Bradley Williams*



## *Invisible Boundaries*

*Light and Darkness fight,  
but the battle goes unknown.*

*Thrown away from view,  
darkness is known as evil.*

*Light.*

*Seen and felt,  
Providing warmth and security.*

*Impurity is no matter to light.  
For light shows no boundaries,  
never failing to shine.*

*Darkness,  
knows only one boundary:  
Light.*

*The might of Darkness,  
thwarted by its enclosure of Light.*

*Darkness,  
refusing to make itself known,  
Binds itself to the shadows.*

*Light is triumph, joy, all things good.  
Continuing to prevail over Darkness.*

*-Ben Sheldon*



*A Greeting Card*  
*By: Tou Lao Moua*

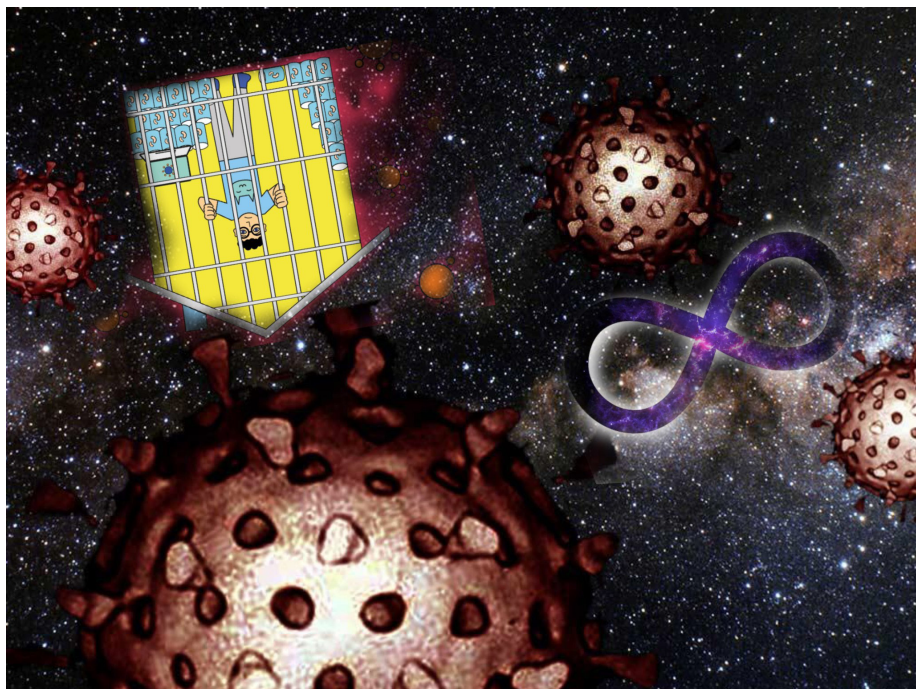
## *Darkness*

*Alone and silent  
Sitting by myself on the porch  
Cool wind hitting my face  
It's like the breeze is my only friend  
It's dark but I can see the car lights  
Taking in the darkness as my  
Time to be free  
Taking in the darkness as  
My favorite place to be  
Never wanting to leave  
The darkness is a part of me*

*Somewhere I can just sit without being  
Talked to or questioned at  
Never feeling uncomfortable  
Only feeling complete and safe  
People think it's weird  
But the quiet night and cool wind  
It just doesn't make you care about  
What the people think.*

*So free and happy, never thought  
I could feel this way, but  
they said the darkness will only keep  
me happy for a while,  
but I think it'll make me happy  
for whenever I am pained.*

*-Kayli Lo*



*By: Joshua Sanchez Garzon*

## *Sorrow*

*There is a place.  
There is a place where laughter echoes  
Around the corner.  
Where bringing up nostalgic memories  
Helps numb the pain*

*A place draped in flower petals that are  
Wilted and strewn about  
A lavender and a lilac  
For death  
A cyclamen and a forget-me-not  
For farewell*

*Choked up whispers and untold thoughts  
Fill the room to the brim  
As the falling of teardrops  
Echo throughout the space  
That seems much too large*

*A permanent resting place  
Is where flowers are placed.  
A Sakura flower to signify how beautiful  
But fleeting a life is  
And a daisy  
For secrets kept*

*The rolling green hills  
Are darkened and dull  
And the sky is an angry grey  
That threatens to cry.*

*The sobs of the weeping willows  
mix with the cool breeze.  
And alas, I start to think,*

*Is the reason the deceased get more flowers than the living  
because longing and regret are more powerful than happiness?*

*-Mikayla Xiong*





*By: Valerie Vang*

## *Envy*

*What is envy?  
Is it when you get a full night of sleep?  
Or maybe the days where you manage not to cry?  
Though I don't know, the times I see you  
smile even on the worst of days  
I know that that's envy.  
Aren't I an envious person.*

*-Jamie Gallo*



*Collage  
By: Touger Xiong*

*Pernicious an Exercise in Writing a Compound/Complex Sentence*  
*pernicious: having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or*  
*subtle way*

*Because*  
*the doses of poison*  
*were small,*  
*it was only pernicious,*  
*but he felt*  
*the effects.*

*-Charles Gadea Dominguez*



*Neurographic*  
*Self Portrait*  
*By: Touger Xiong*

*Man and Life*

*(inspired by Frost's "Fire and Ice")*

*Some say . . . that man will never tire.  
What I have seen with my own eyes  
is a man that they admire.  
He is a man who always defies,  
but if I had to live his life,  
I think I would rather be dead  
as I'd have to escape that man's crazy wife  
who I dread  
with her sharp knife.*

*- Victor Crispin*



*Neurographic  
By: Angel Lee*

## *Old*

*A man walked past my room last night  
He had a pair of scissors  
Saying he was off his pills  
and that he needed them.  
I saw it happen. I swear.*

*A bird flew to my widow this morning  
And it sang a beautiful tune  
It had blue feathers like my eyes.  
I saw it happen. I swear.*

*The other day when I was walking to my room  
I saw a man push another man down the stairs.  
We laughed, but he's okay.  
I saw it happen. I swear.*

*The next day the bird came back  
And sang a pretty ugly tune this time  
Something was wrong  
I saw it happen. I swear.*

*At night I am a bear hibernating  
I sleep through the commotion  
I sleep through the pain  
I sleep through it all.*

*I saw those things but the doctor said it wasn't real, but yet it  
happened.  
I heard those things but the doctor said it wasn't real, but yet it  
happened.  
I'm beginning to think the doctor isn't real,  
but I know you'll believe me. Right?*

*-Johnny Her*



*By: Simeon Vang*



*Time*

*3...*

*2...*

*1...*

*Waiting for each second to pass by quickly*

*In silence,*

*Praying peacefully*

*As she laid down,*

*Like a towel*

*Dragging her body around,*

*Touching her long brown hair*

*Suddenly,*

*He comes home furious,*

*Waiting patiently*

*Staying up late*

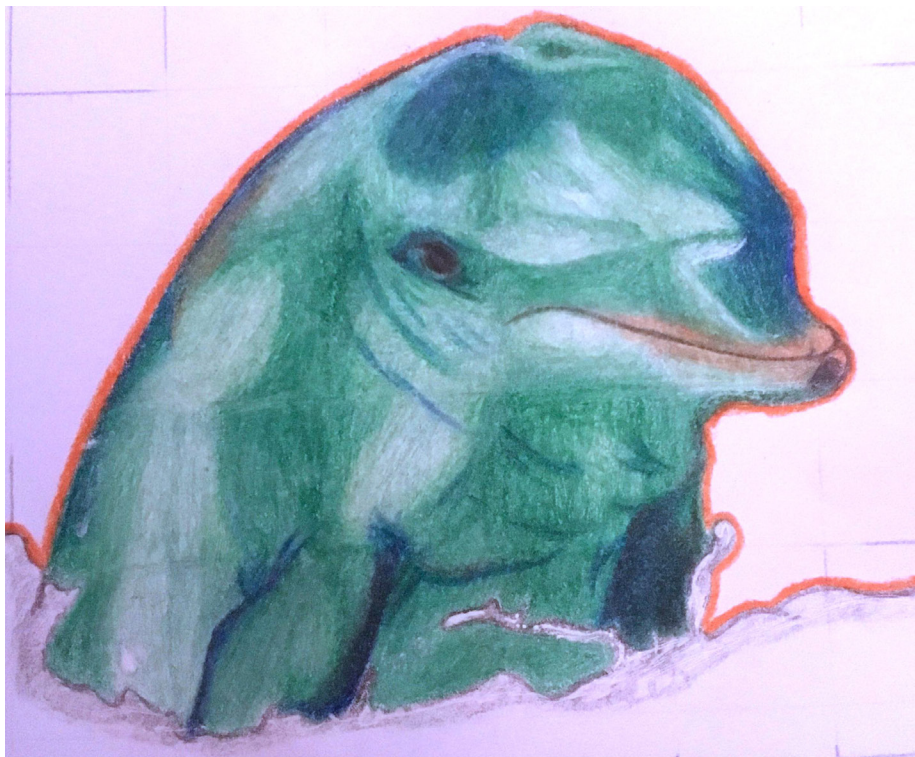
*(Now read from bottom to top)*

*-Kaokalia Xiong*

*Tiger*

*By: Eyitayo Akakpo*





*Dolphin*

*By: Kathy Moua*

*Please Remember*

*(inspired by Sara Teasdale's "Let it Be Forgotten")*

*Please remember, like a child who a promise remembers,  
Remember the burning passion that was once inside you,  
Try and remember again and again,  
Let it be again, something you always knew.  
If someone asks, let yourself remember  
As if it were yesterday.  
A promise, a passion, a screaming event,  
That memory locked away.*

*-Charles Gadea Dominguez*

*By: Leona Xiong*





*Collage*

*By: Joe Lothrop*

## *Childhood*

*Holding it tight  
with all my might,  
furry as can be,  
It was the safest.  
You must believe.*

*Bigger than me  
at least 6 foot tall  
needless to say  
it stood like a wall.*

*Its beady brown eyes  
were such a sight  
shiny eyes like the sun  
it was so bright  
it was my friend  
'til I was ten.*

*Then, when the sun started to rise  
I saw its beady eyes and  
woke up next to a bear  
that wasn't alive.*

*-Pajar Yang*

*Hedgehog  
By: Kaitlyn Yang*





## *You Got This From Me*

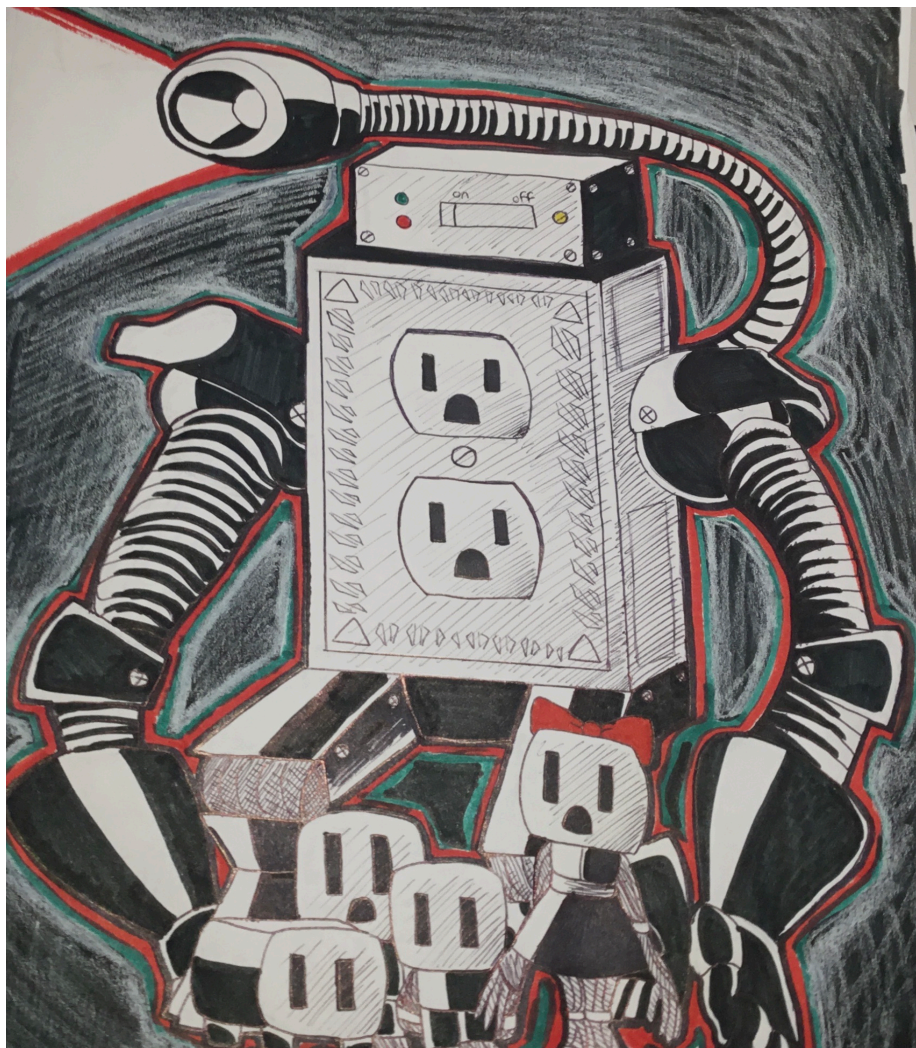
*"You got this from me"  
But did I?  
I was a prisoner in my own body  
Taught that men were after one thing  
And if I gave them what they wanted I should be ashamed  
You made me carry what you couldn't have  
But as I grew before my eyes  
I realized that what you taught me was flawed  
I am a person who had to rewrite her script  
Her beliefs  
Climbing mountains  
For one thing  
To succeed  
So no I did not get this from you  
I got this from me.*

*-Lovena Vang*

*By: Pa Zong Thao*







*Outlet Drawing!*  
*By: Leona Xiong*

*Almost*

*Dreary are the days  
I pull myself from the dream world  
And realize you're  
No longer here.*

*I look in the mirror  
And who I see  
Is not me.*

*Or is it who I am now?*

*Thoughts of you  
Come in all hours of the day  
Where are you?  
What are you doing?*

*The old songs you love,  
Although happy  
Seem to fade in and out  
Always just out of tune  
Cracks run their way across my heart*

*And I stop to think  
Almost, could I have helped you.  
Almost, Had my aching feet made it to you.  
Almost.*

*But I am always  
Much too late.*

*-Mikayla Xiong*



*By: Valerie Vang*

*As Above, So Below*

*Facing the grief of those who had been lost,  
sends us into another picture of tainted love.  
The folks up above join us in the river,  
taking our souls through the entrance of the night.  
Complaints full of hope traveled within the rainy slope,  
here our minds became an episode.  
Faces full of empty waste and disgrace,  
suddenly became a good place,  
“you must yell to break the case”,  
our inner complaints suddenly become the air’s empty space.  
Looks of losses become the profit of the lifelong prophet.*

*-Nevaeh Smith*



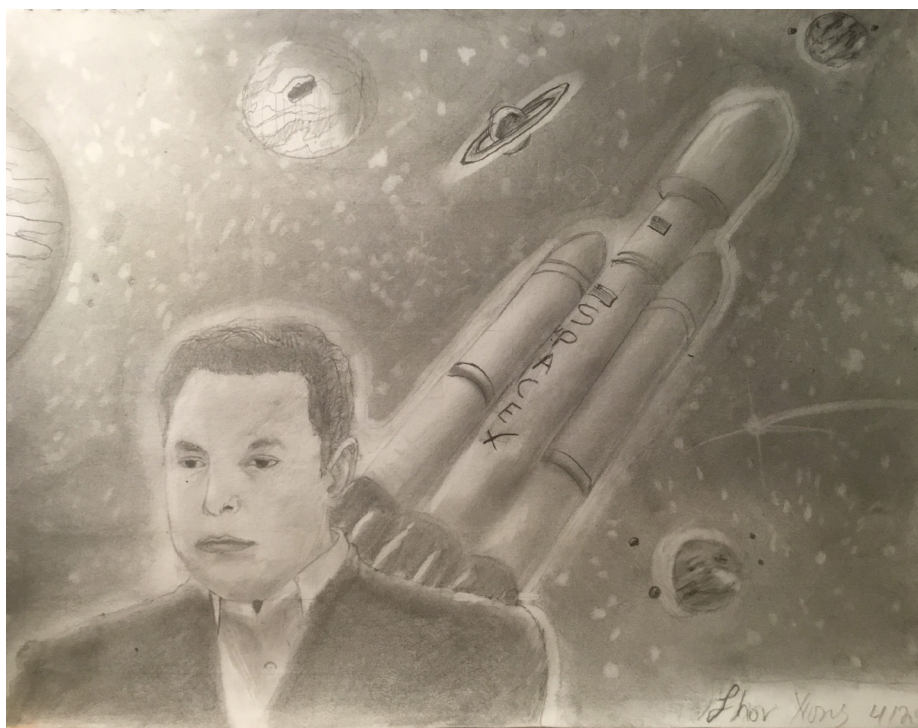


## *Catastrophe*

*Catastrophe looms  
closing in over our heads,  
but we will prevail.*

*-Ben Sheldon*

*By: Thor Xiong*





## *Red or Dead*

*If god was real, what would the color of his skin be?  
Would it be white or black, yellow or red?  
I don't mean to be racist, hear this plea  
I just hope to be the right race when I'm dead.*

*-Pheng Xiong*

## *Neurographic Portrait*

*By: Pa Dong Yang*







DON'T LET IT  
*MELT*