

Signal Mountain Middle School Literary Magazine



Collected by William Paturalski

A Child's Life

By Meredith Bennett

A child's life is all play, play, play,
Running around, twirling,
Making believe, fighting dragons,
Rescuing the princess, and more.
But then school comes,
Past 1st, 2nd, and on to 3rd,
Suddenly, you're hanging
Up the too big dresses,
And throwing away all
The tin foil and cardboard swords,
And trying to hide memories.
4th, 5th, you gave away
Those shoes, the dresses,
Memories crashed and gone.
But up from summer,
Cold winds blow, comes autumn,
With 6th grade on it's shoulders.
Book reports surround you, and
Textbooks heavy your back.
Stress and more come your way.
When you get home, you find a
Scrap of cloth, from that green dress
That you wore when you were
Princess and you're back.
To a child's life.

At The Beach

By Drew Lowry

At the beach I feel peaceful
No worries or burdens are on my
shoulders
I hear the waves fall on the sand
And every negative thing is gone
No matter what is on my mind;
As the sun runs through my toes,
It all goes away
My popularity,
My grades,
My make-up work,
Or even my mistakes;
Are all gone,
At the beach.

If I Were

By Daniel Morris, 6th Grade

If I were an airplane
Flying so high
I would lift off
And touch the sky
If I were a sheet of paper
Waiting to be bought
Than I would catch the eye
Of the one that sought
But if I were just a kid
11 years old
Then I would have the perfect life
Winning all gold
But if I were not a kid
Than what shall I be
A tough decision, it is
But it's all up to me.

What if There Were No Friends?

By Hudson Burke, 6th Grade

What if there was no such thing as
friends?
What if we all were enemies?
What if we went to war?
What if we couldn't stop?
What if we trusted no one?
Then what a sad place Earth would be.

What if, one day, we lost our friends?
And couldn't get them back?
What if they turned their backs on you?
What if we learned not to trust?
Where then would we turn?

Everything's Been Blurry

By Jake Little, 6th Grade

Everything's been blurry,
Since that dreadful day.
Everything and all I knew,
Had simply passed away.
I wanted to believe it wasn't true,
But the evidence stated not.
I wanted then to move away,
But his house was what I got.
I wanted then to honor him,
By doing things okay,
But everything's been blurry
Since that dreadful, heartless day.

Growing

By Hannah Acuff

Not shrinking but Growing
Not dimming but glowing
You're crying yet you're smiling
Just remember life goes on
You're going to get old one day, so deal
with it.

Thunder

By Lucy Woodrow

Thunder could be your worst nightmare,
Thunder could be your friend.
Thunder is your cue in life.
Even thunder could rewind the night,
For you and only you.

Someone else could steal your thunder,
But can't keep you from being you.
Could your thunder save a life or
Keep you safe from hurt,
From fear, from fate,
Or from hate.

It is up to you to decide what your
thunder does.
Let's hope you make it something good.

Kids of the World

By Hunter Martin

Save the children in Japan
I just wonder if we can
Save all the kids in Haiti
They've all had some trouble lately
Help all the people of the world I just
wonder if we could
Save all the kids of the world.

Water

By Tanner Triplett

Animals die
People cry
Because there is no water

Deserts form
With no sign of storm
Because there is no water

Rivers dry
I know why
Because there is no water

Do not be sad
Do not feel bad
Because there is no water

For though the valleys
And around the galleys
We will find some water

Fake

By Bailey Bell

It's hard to see
With these blurry eyes
Too many tears staining
This piece of parchment
I can't hold it in
Broken sobs
Pain...
Why am I crying?
I know it's not true...
It's fake
She's fake
But it still rips my heart
Is it true?
Please no...
I want to be your one and only
Please...
Don't leave
I couldn't bear the pain
Of being alone again
Is it fake?
Am I delusional?
This love is real...

Right?

Sweet Misery

By Allie Lancaster

As I eat my last meal for the weekend,
I managed to convince myself
That I really am helping a starving child

I arrive at the 30 Hour Famine
And prepare myself for 30 long, hungry
hours.
The air is bitter and cold
But the day is bright.
My stomach moans from inside as I lift
another log.

The 30 hours is almost through
As the smell of food wafts through the
air.
At that moment,
I know my suffering will mean the world
to a hungry child.

Pictures

By Makenna Jordan

Pictures are reflections
A mirror of what is true
Some times you think you see it
But you really don't

Pictures are memos
Keeping together a weary mind
But when they tear
That memory tears too

Pictures come and go
So does memory
But love never leaves
Home

Going, going, going

By Anonymous

I'm moving.
It sends me in a spiral
My life is here
I can't be moving
A sense of loss washes over me
I'm moving
I'm spinning
Everything is different
I can't be moving
Yet here I am
Out of a home
And into a house
This house is not
A home

Lost

By Anonymous

Everything is moving
Everything is flowing
Too many people
Too many thoughts
I'm lost
Nowhere to go
Nowhere to hide
Too many people
Too many thoughts
I'm lost

The Hallway

By Benjamin Sparks, 7th Grade

He walks through the hallway
Scared of what could be ahead
Tests and Trials would be in front of him
He of course does not know of
The Temptations and Horrors
That could Befall him.
He knew it would be Hard,
But This...

My Heart Will Stop

By Jack Tucker, 7th Grade

One day, my heart will stop.
My skin will turn cold and pale
Never again shall I eat or drink, speak or
think,
Or enjoy the company of those around
me on this Earth.
My mind will cease to remember all that
I knew
And all that I did.
But others will remember.
Others will remember what I did and it
will be all that
Is left of me on this planet.
So how do I want those around me to
remember me?
The question that should guide the life I
live until the day
When my heart will stop.

Bed

By Shey Thaxton, 7th Grade

"No," I thought to myself.
The breath of my fan chilled down my
back.
It was my midnight cavern versus the
Siberia of my room.
Light was trying to break in but I would
not let it.
I let my foe win after a good fight,
As I fell asleep.

Heaven

By Taylor Luthringer, 8th Grade

Heaven is a place to go,
Where the land is as white as snow,
If you need a place to reside,
God happens to be your guide,
Heaven is a place without sin,
It talks to you from within,
Streets of gold up in the clouds,
They speak to us quietly not loud,
We will all meet up there someday,
And then there will be enough time to
play.

Don't Take that Step

By Knox Billings, 7th Grade

Don't take that step,
The cave of unknown.
The shadows of every corner
Won't be shown.

Don't take that step,
The path will confuse you.
The cave of misfortune
Will bewilder you too.

Don't take that step,
The searing pain will burn.
The cave is vicious
When you make the wrong turn.

Don't take that step,
The darkness is like a dagger.
The cave has millions of turns,
That will leave you in a stagger.

Don't take that step,
The depression will get you killed.
The cave of creeps
Will destroy your will.

Don't take that step,
The bats will say your name.
The cave of demons,
Will put your soul to shame.

Don't take that step,
Into the cave of the unknown.
The cave is deceitful,
Although it isn't shown.

Now,
Take that step, if you please.

The Girl

By Bay Patten

She walks through the halls with her
head hung down
Her eyes are misty and mouth with a
frown

What makes this girl so sad inside?
What's going on that she wants to hide?

Day after day, she looks just the same
And I think to myself, "what a shame"

Is it something at home that causes this
gloom?
Or is it something happening in the
classroom?

Does she have an abusive dad like me?
Or is this the work of a school bully?

What ever it is, I can change her day,
By smiling a smile and saying a "hey!"

Maybe all she needs is a
compassionate friend
Maybe I can help all her pain end

It's amazing that so many people are
blind
And don't have the sight to simply be
kind

Cliques are for cowards and rules can
bend
At the end of the day, you'll have a new
friend

REFLECTION

By Stella Strength, 6th Grade

The reflection in the water,
The identity we hold
Is a piece of us and no one else,
Our story to be told.

This identity we carry,
Is ours and ours alone
So why tear pages of the book
And cause ripples in the water when we
can follow our own path
Rather than theirs to borrow?

GRATEFUL

By Emily Perez, 6th Grade

There comes a point when I must say
I'm grateful for many things today.
Sunny skies and sandy shores,
When it's cold outside but warm indoors.
Snowy days and leaves of red,
My nice clean room and soft warm bed.
All my friends and family, too,
And dogs that bark and cows that moo.
And though I could go on and on,
I'll have to stop, this poem is done.

The Eagles Soar

By Sam Wickizer, 6th Grade

“Look at those Eagles
Fly, fly, fly”
Above the rest,
In the deep blue sky,
The competition gazes up
From far below
In awe
Wondering
How we reached so far,
So fast,
Wondering how
They came in last.

Normal Days

By Maggie Lingle, 6th Grade

Normal days pass on
Children on their way to school
Happy thought buzzing
in the minds of everyone
Crisp, hot, summer, though,
Autumn is around the corner
Subways rumbling under their feet
But something else is ringing in the air
Look up! Quick! Run!
Terror falling down from the sky
Crashing down on us suffocating air
Loud sounds flying metal the cries of
others
Explosion Crash Down
What happened to this normal day?

Boredom

By Cecilia Abello, 6th Grade

Sitting here sitting,
Thinking about nothing
Not knowing what to do,
Nothing sounds fun.
Fiddling with my fingers,
How long have I been here?
It seems like forever.
I need to face the fact
I am bored.

Our Problems

By Anonymous

Imagine the earth
With no problems
Imagine the earth with no worries
Where people could live
With not a trouble in sight
If the earth could be like this

Imagine the earth
With no violence
Imagine the earth
With no pain
Where people could live
Without fear for their life
If the earth could only be like this

Imagine the earth
With no sorrow
Imagine the earth
With no grief
If people could live
Happy with all
If the earth could only be like this

Untitled

By Sarah Gravett, 8th Grade

“Son, what would you like to paint today? Your canvas is ready. Whatever you desire, I will heed to your every need.”

“Father, I desire white snow to paint designs across the Great Smoky Mountains, and enough sun to make it glisten with your light. I will paint patches of daffodils in the valleys to prove there is life where none is shining.”

“To show the beauty of the ocean you made, I desire a trio of dolphins to swim from shore to shore. They will show your mercies to even the most careless one.”

“I’ll paint you an old-time preacher and a revival of souls to follow him, for your word to be found by those who are lost.”

“I need all the colors of the world found in the rainbow. How else would I make the aurora glow with its beauty of the science I made?”

“In the hospitals of the world, I will paint smiles on the children’s faces, because a smile sinks farther into the heart than words of love.”

“Father, my desires are to paint your glories for you. I just ask of you one thing. Please clean my brush and retrieve me a new canvas each day and maybe, just maybe, I can do better tomorrow.”

December 14th

By Gray Klassen

A road to where I always go,
A place I stay,
A place I know,
A road where I always go,
Would cause more pain than my mom
would know.

I love you,
Good day,
Get on your way,
I'll see you later,
Later today.

Little did they all know,
It was my final goodbye.
A life unlived,
Would come untied.

I love you mommy,
I love you daddy,
I love you both,
Please don't be sad.

I'm going away now,
On December 14th,
But I'll see you one day,
Just be there for me.

I love you mommy,
I love you daddy,
I love you both,
Please don't be sad.

-In Memory of Sandy Hook Elementary

The Letter in the Mail

By Gray Klassen

Ribbons are tied around her mailbox,
Words of reassurance scratched on
letters by friends and neighbors,
And the whole town sees,
The ribbons tied around her mailbox.

She waits for him everyday,
Though she tells herself he's not coming
back,
He is fighting for his country,
So far overseas,
But still,
She waits for him everyday.

A letter in the mail,
What could it be this time?
She opens it and cries,
Who knew that there would be,
This kind of letter in the mail?

She is ok,
She stops crying,
She is done with that,
The letter has sent reassurance.
This time it wasn't from a neighbor or
friend,
But from him.
He will be home,
She is ok.

How it seemed

By Gray Klassen

I once had a dream,
That there would be,
Laughter and dreaming,
From sea to sea,
Or is that just how it seemed?

I once had a dream,
That there would be,
No pain, no suffering,
We would all be free,
Or is that just how it seemed?

I once had a dream,
That there would be,
People coming together,
On every street,
Or is that just how it seemed?

I once had a dream,
But could it be?
No,
That is just how it seemed.

Trust

By Carla Slabber

Trust,
Believing in someone,
Knowing you can feel safe.
Understanding that they are there,
For you.
Trust,
Feeling assured
Placing your confidence in
Them.
Trusting them.
With trust comes
Defiance
Doubt
Distrust.
This happens when you place trust in
someone
Who doesn't deserve it.

Who can we trust?

People tell us things
Some are right and some are wrong
When there are no options,
Who can we believe?

Words can be altered
Changed to perfection
We are controlled
What should we listen to?

We have no other way of knowing
We can't verify everything
We are told what they want us to hear
So who can we trust?

Think

By Raven Hall

Think before you speak
Think carefully about your words
Think about all the people you could
hurt
Think about your actions
And their repercussions
How much it can hurt
Someone's self-esteem
Think about their life
Do you even know them?
What would happen to their life
If you said something about them?
Don't just think it won't affect them
Don't think you can't hurt them
Don't think you can do this
Think before you do anything
You might just see a difference

What We Have

By Anonymous

Is what we have enough?
Is it barely enough to get us by?
Is it more than we really need?
What we have never seems to be
enough,
But to others it's more than we need.
Envy, greed, hunger.
A world that is not equal-
Not even close.
But could we have what we need?
Could we have enough?

Don't Let it Out

By Ben Lockhart, 6th Grade

Every day there is more, more, more
On the ground, floor, everywhere
Trash, litter, pollution, a can
A can in a man's hand
A can that will soon transform as it's
thrown out
Out of the window that's seen so much
of this dirty world
Out of the window that's seen the
smoke, smog, the brown sky
The window that wants to hold the trash
in, but is forced to open and let it out
The window that can't do anything, but
desperately tries
So many are like this man, forcing the
window to open
But don't be the man, be the window
Keep the trash in.

Air

By Jamison Shander, 7th Grade

What rusts metal
Howls with life
Rips through walls
Like a scrape from a knife

Starts the wildfire
Ends the campfire
Begins life
Ends humanity

Knows the secrets
Of everyone,
Picks up trees
And crashes dreams

Frightens people in the night
Kills things you take care of
But only knows it is right
It has the purpose,
It is air.

Stolen

By Katharine Gruber

Your family
Your education
Your life
Are stolen.
Assault
Labor
Prostitution
Are all you have now.
You are part of an illegal ring,
Trapped in a giant monster
That is too big
for anyone to save you.
Human trafficking has swallowed you
whole
And doesn't plan on releasing you
Anytime soon.

Imperfection

By Trinity Donnellan

At my simplest, I am complex.
I'm the truth behind your lies.
I can cure insecurity,
And also cause it.
I am the book, with a misleading title.

Many wish to lose me.
Many want some part of me.
But I take no effort to achieve.

I'm the game you can't win,
But can never lose.
I'm the puzzle,
That's always missing one piece.
I'm the disease all have,
But don't show.

You can't lose me,
So embrace me.
You don't want to love me,
But you always will.
I don't intend to cause pain,
But I do.

Your pain is caused by me,
And healed by me.
I'm the angel on one shoulder,
And the demon on the other.
I'm not like a memory,
I can't be forgotten.
No matter how hard you try.

Embrace me, or hate me.
You can never lose me.
Give me a chance,
And you'll succeed.
Just do not ignore me.

I'm the dream, and the nightmare.
I'm the emotion all feel.
I'm the roller-coaster you ride,
And also control.

I make up your personality.
I cause your attitude.
I am your individuality.
I am your whole life.
I am your family.
I am you.

I am imperfection