

May 2013

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DAWSON ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

PRESENTS



The Centre for Literacy of Quebec  
Le centre d'alphabétisation du Québec

[www.qwf.org/programs/wic](http://www.qwf.org/programs/wic)

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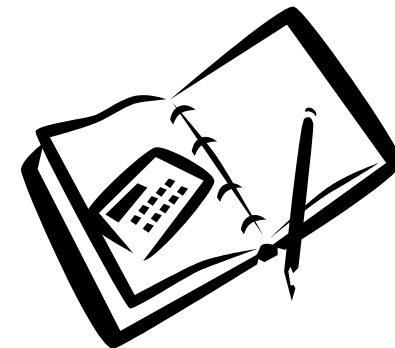


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DREAMS:

BROKEN OR OTHERWISE



Spring  
2013

## WHEN

When I was young  
I remember when I was a good kid  
And I wonder about life  
And wish for a fish

When I was 4  
I remember driving my mom's car  
And I wonder why  
And wish I didn't try

When I was bullied  
I remember how much it hurt  
And I wonder why me?  
And I wish I could have been left alone

When I cared  
I remember doing good  
And I wonder why I changed  
And I wish things would be different

--Raven--

## CLOUDY

There are steps in the solar system, and around this planet  
Every time I jump I am expected to land  
My tricks, my flips, I can't have a glitch  
A broken heart, a broken thumb  
I can't feel numb  
Life is about succeeding against the obstacles  
And when you reach the final step  
You can have an entourage, like Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars  
I can finally reach stars  
I am considered a beautiful bird that has no limits  
And no restrictions  
Once I reach Cloud 9, everyone that has ever accomplished it  
Gets a certificate

-- Dounya--

## WHAT IS DEPRESSION?

It is a black hole that swallows you up  
It is wanting to die 24/7  
It is trying so hard not to take those pills  
It is watching the crimson tears pour out  
Of your cookie cutter wrist  
It is blaming everything on the cat you don't have  
It is never being able to go out and enjoy yourself  
It is being drunk and high all the time  
To mask your pain  
Sleeping all day and night  
It is having sadness consume you  
Wearing long pants and sleeves  
No matter how hot it is  
It is missing him, needing him  
Why can't I be free?

--Cassandra--

## **FRIENDSHIP**

Is a tornado of feelings

Can sometimes be complicated

It can also have ups and downs

Friendship is conditional, which is unfair

Friendship sucks, I really don't care

Be aware of good friendships you can discover out there

Not all friendships suck

But feelings, systems – it's all so hard!

It makes me hurt

I feel so confused

**Trevor, Calvin, Sophia, Leah, Raven, Kalyssa, Dounya, Jaqui, Julianna**

### **untitled**

The feelings are deep

Her, she is the one I want to keep

The tears start to seep

Girl, I love you

Why can't I just have you?

You're the one I adore

This friendship's nice

But I really want more!

**--Trevor—**

### **BUBBLE**

Like a bubble, so bubbly

It floats around so gracefully

Not bothered or touched by anybody

For it is as free as it can be

Any shape or size, it doesn't matter

Don't you pop the bubble!

It may shatter

Like me!

**--Raven --**

### **HAPPINESS**

It is when you're feeling great

And not when you're mad

It's when you're in the greatest of moods

It's not about anger

It is well...when you're happy

It is hard to explain!

It is not hard to BE happy

What is the meaning of life?

**--Calvin—**

## MY POEM

Don't misunderstand me  
What I do has a purpose  
A meaning you may not see  
I know what I'm doing  
Please don't judge me  
From where you stand  
My life is my own  
My decisions are in my hands  
Don't try to make your dreams  
A part of mine  
For I have my own  
Don't misunderstand me  
Be happy in your thoughts  
Happiest recollections of our hours  
Will be enough to help you forget  
The bad times, the hard times  
The sadness you feel today  
--Kalyssa--

## HURT

Pain  
Sorrow, sadness  
Fear of falling  
Hating to cry  
To feel death inside  
Love  
--Kathrine--

## FEEL

I feel like hate is against me  
I just wanted to be set free  
Nothing is fair  
But I'll take a dare  
If I get scared I know who will be there  
But in the end it's all just pretend  
Even if you're not just a friend

--A--

## DEPRESSION

Bleached white  
I've lost my sight  
Skin deep  
In a choking blankness  
Can't breathe, so cold  
Blinding red  
Slashed across the whiteness  
Dripping down  
To the floor around  
Don't know what to do  
If this madness is true.

--Tanina--

## I WANT YOU TO KNOW

I want you to know what it's like  
When a person is depressed  
I want you to know how I feel  
When I'm scared  
I want you to understand my pain  
When I'm hurt  
I want you to know my heart  
My love is like mom's love

--Calvin--

## THE DRUG

Hot box, let the bass pump  
I'm high at a rave, let ma fist pump  
I love the feeling of getting high  
So fly I wonder if I'm dead or alive

Those pills, that crumb, that roach  
Tries to get attention by eating a damn cockroach  
Cocaine brings out the devil inside  
A drug dealer gots' to be sly

To escape that buzz seems so impossible  
I bomb the world, take no prisoners  
There is no bottom, you have no use  
No one knows what I am

I'm a black hole

--Calvin

## VOICES CRYING OUT

It's like you can't breathe  
No one knowing how you truly feel  
I'm standing in a full room and screaming at the top of my lungs  
And no one even looks up  
I feel invisible, and no one can see, hear or feel me  
Voices crying out in pain and sorrow  
Crying for help but no one moves an inch  
It's like I can't breathe  
My cries, my tears, fall away into  
A pit of emptiness  
Where voices cry out in pain.

**Tanina, Leah, A, Kathrine, Cassandra, Jaqui**

## ICE CREAM

Is so yummy  
So fattening  
Can be vanilla, or chocolate  
I love Dairy Queen on a hot June evening  
Gaining ten pounds from all the sugar  
Ice cream is cold  
Just like you...

**Tanina, Leah, A, Kathrine, Cassandra, Jaqui**

## DREAMS

A space to fly  
Imagine your future  
Somewhere where there's hope  
I want to believe, I want to dream  
That life doesn't have to be like this  
There's no point in dreaming  
When they just shatter before your eyes  
So why dream?

**Tanina, Leah, A, Kathrine, Cassandra, Jaqui**

## COVER UP

She tries so hard to act hard as a rock  
But as soon as the curtains close  
She makes more than oceans with her tears  
But she fears that the makeup sex won't hide her true colours anymore  
So she piles more on prayin' to the man above  
That he'll let her shadow be her knight  
And she'll stop crying for just one night  
And when the sun goes down she'll know just where to run to.

--Leah—

## MAMA

Cradled in mama's arms  
Saved, alive for another heartbeat  
Didn't last long  
Once the drugs that created my life  
Mama not strong enough  
Don't want to fall, just learning how to crawl  
And in the end to stand tall  
Mama got help, she let the drugs melt  
In the end she relied on liquor  
It made everything thicker, and gave her a snicker  
Life got bad, mama got sad, dad got mad  
Passed down to the new generation  
Left me without a heart,  
Stuck in a pen like a locked up criminal  
Where the only safe place is being hypocritical

--Tanina--

## FEAR

Scared  
Anxious, frightened  
I don't want to lose it  
Broken, shattered  
It's the best thing I never had  
Love

--Leah--

## THE MIRROR

Now I just wanted to act like them  
Because I grew up with them  
I don't know what's best  
But then when you look in  
The mirror being like them  
Was just a mess

So we tried to sound like them  
Because I need to get new friends  
That's my only motivation  
Being like them is just a one-way thing  
I've seen my peoples' dreams die

I recognize that being like everybody else was just wrong  
But one morning I woke up  
It was too late  
I just gave up  
Never knowing it was going to make me suffer and happen to me

--Alessandra--

### **A DAY**

There will come a day  
When the world has turned  
And the sun is not sunny  
So f\*\*k the world, f\*\*k the sun  
Sit back  
Relax  
And wait  
Till the world turns sunny again

--Kathrine—

### **I REMEMBER**

When I was 7, I remember I had my first dog named Shadow  
And I wonder how he's doing today  
I wish I could see his face again

When I was 11, I always wanted to grow up  
But this time faster!  
And I wonder why?

When I was 12, I started smoking and stealing  
And I wonder why I did it?  
I had never done it before...

When I was 13, I started disappearing, and leaving the house  
Now I remember the times I was at home  
--Shaianne—

### **THE SCARS**

I am the happy one, who likes to smoke so much  
She thinks she might reach the sky  
I am the hyper crazy one, who might believe in heaven if there was one

I am the defiant one, I am a leader  
I am the one with the scars and their secrets

I am the messed up one who thinks they'll never change, it happens all the time  
I am the helpless one who can't change or even cry, show emotion  
All I feel is madness

I am the hurt one, but much more hurt on the inside  
I am the one with the nightmares, and their angry message is: leave me alone  
I have always just wanted a home with a picket fence and a chandelier

I am the strong one, who is determined to help my family out of poverty  
I am the dreamer, who imagines life when my parents wouldn't have to worry  
Or cut their checks in half and have no money for themselves  
This is my type of hell

I am the childlike one, who remembers not to say anything to anyone  
because it's a secret  
I am the one with the scars, but they are not me  
And one day their meaning will be  
Live the best life you can have  
Let hollow words brush your shoulders  
When you're mad, there is much more to life  
Than being sad.

--Dounya--

### **untitled**

Hands swirling  
Stomach's twirling  
Babe, it's you that I want  
Why won't these feelings just stop  
Your smile, dammit, hits my spot  
Don't want to cry  
But if I said I didn't want to  
That'd be a lie  
F\*\*k this shit  
I never want to say bye  
But I do and it hurts  
So I just think about  
Walking around in my shirts

-- Trevor--

### **LONELINESS**

When no one is by my side  
I feel hated when no one wants to talk to me  
Isolation and depression without hope  
When will life just let me be free?  
Free as birds  
Why does everyone avoid me?  
I want to be happy  
I don't want to be lonely anymore  
I just want people to listen  
Listen to my voice  
So I can understand me and my life

**Trevor, Calvin, Sophia, Leah, Raven, Kalyssa, Dounya, Jaqui, Julianna**

### **INDESTRUCTIBLE**

Darkness seeps through me like an unread book  
Touched but not touched  
Always wanted to be the centre of attention  
Always wanted to know what it felt like to have somebody  
By your side when you were hurting the most  
I feel like a mistake that someone was trying to erase  
But didn't quite get the job done right  
I feel transparent, invisible, dead  
Depressed, sad, mad, dangerous and untouchable  
Every word you say  
Still hurts me the most

--Kalyssa--

### **POTHOLES**

How do I fix a pothole?  
It's easier than fixing my life – I think!  
Standing on the edge, the brink of everything  
Noticing that one brick broke  
And now I'm flying high in the sky  
A cloudless sky, no air  
I can't breathe  
Once you fall in a pothole, you can't get out  
Watch out for the road, it's full of potholes  
Don't blink, for life is a surprise

**Trevor, Calvin, Sophia, Leah, Raven, Kalyssa, Dounya, Jaqui, Julianna**



## I AM

I am the strong one

Determined to prove to others that I can succeed

I am the dreamer

Who imagines a different life, imagines a time when our society isn't at risk

Of strangling each other

I am the childlike one who remembers

When the only problems in life were missing mommy when she was at work

And one day their meaning will be what I fought for

What I accomplished and

What I went through to get here

I am the unhappy one who likes to cry in the corner

When no one's watching

I am the hyper crazy one who might look awake, but I'm lacking days of sleep

I am the defiant one who would never do something a teacher says

Just to look cool for my friends

I am the only one who knows

I am the messed up one who thinks life is fake, it's all pointless

I am the helpless one who can't change my thoughts

To please another

I am the insane one who dreams of a clear mind, sanity is all I want

I am the one with the nightmares and their angry message is

Why are you still standing?

Collapse already!

--Trevor--