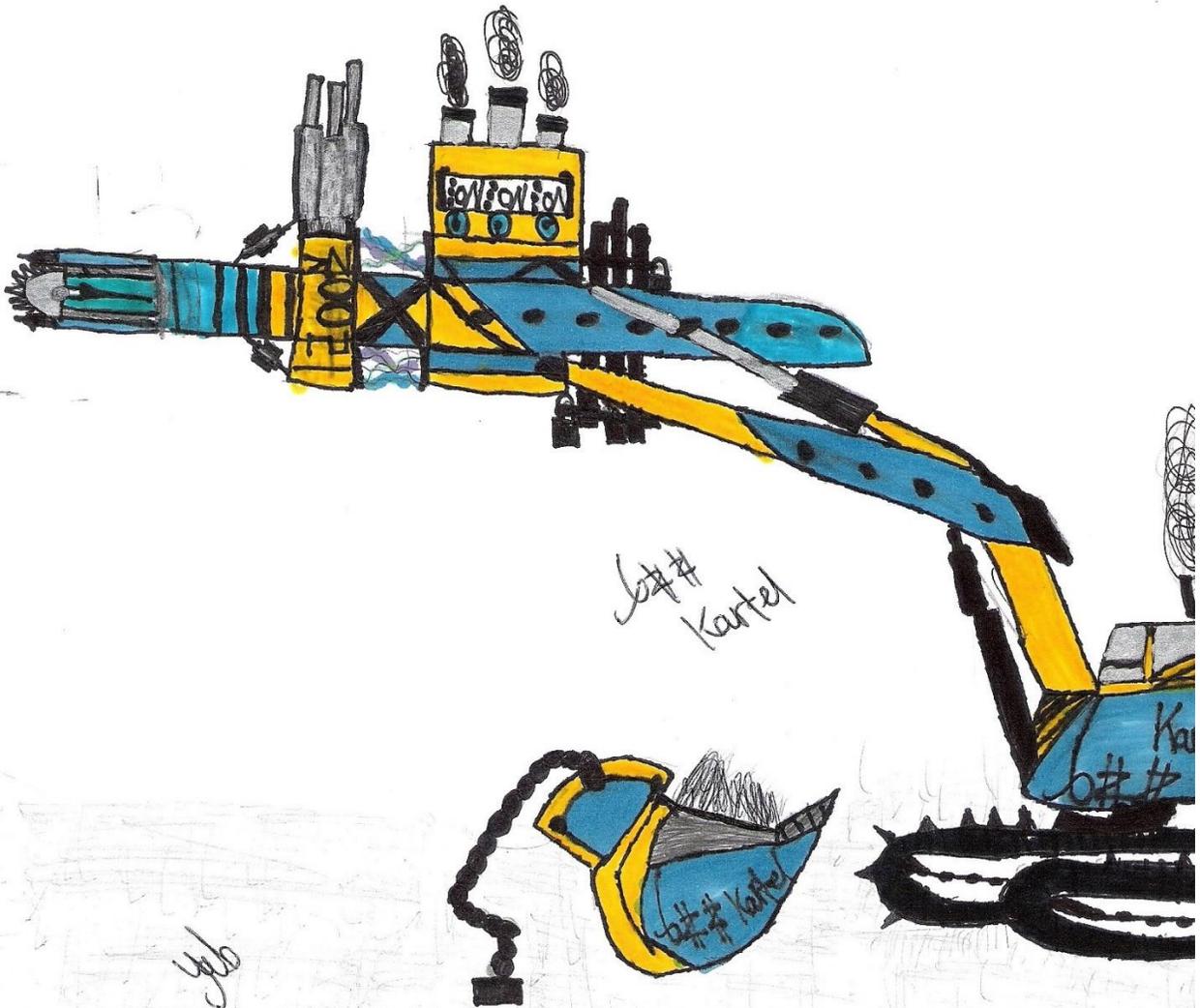


Ya'cob

Humanity is a.....



Job

December 2019

This zine was produced as part of Writers in the Community, a program run by the Quebec Writers' Federation.



www.qwf.org/programs/wic

Many thanks to Julianna Kozma

We would also like to express our gratitude to the following supporters, without whom the Writers in the Community program would not be possible:

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada



Conseil
des arts
et des lettres
du Québec



electronic.recycling.association



George Hogg Family Foundation

The Hay Foundation

Hylcan Foundation

Eric T. Webster Foundation

Zeller Family Foundation

Zhubin Foundation

RX

WISH POEM

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I USED TO WISH TO BE A PRINCESS

TODAY I WISH FOR HAPPINESS

EVERY DAY I WISH FOR GREATNESS

MY WISH IS THE COLOR OF RED HEARTS

IT IS THE SOUND OF FLYING DARTS

MY WISH IS ALWAYS POSITIVE

MY WISH IS NEVER NEGATIVE

MY WISH SHOULD BE FULL OF GREATNESS.

MCS

My life in 6 words:

LIFE will **ALWAYS BE** WORTH *living.*

LM

AM I **BEAUTIFUL?**

AM I A **CREATURE?**

SHOULD I **SURRENDER?**

TO ALL MY HATERS.

I KNOW I'M **SENSITIVE**, AND I CAN BE **DELIBERATE**.

BUT IF I **DISSAPEAR**, THEY MIGHT BE IN **TEARS**. YOU NEED **PREPARATION** TO FIX YOUR
CORRECTIONS. I'LL LIVE FOR **ADVENTURE**, BE STRONG TO GO THROUGH THE TORTURE.

I FEEL LIKE A **PRISONER**, BUT CLEAN LIKE A LOVE LETTER...

YOU CAN SEE THE **EVOLUTION** IN ME,

YOU'LL SEE ME BECOME A MUSICIAN.

LET'S ALL **CELEBRATE**.

BRING UP ALL THE **ENJOYMENT**.

LET ME **ELABORATE** HOW I FEEL...

I FEEL **ABANDONED** BECAUSE NOBODY WANTS ME.

I NEED TO **REFLECT** WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME BEFORE I CAN NO LONGER BE FREE.

I FEEL ALL **DISTORTED** BUT MORE LIKE CORRUPTED.

I NEED HELP AND I ADMIT IT.

PICK UP THE **TELEPHONE**, BEFORE I TURN INTO A GLITCH.

LET'S ALL DO A **GATHERING**, SO I CAN FINALLY START FUNCTIONING.

M.C.S

- 1) I am good at?Rappin. It's a way to express myself in ways I can't explain.
- 2) I am not good at?Expressing myself to people and talking about my past.
- 3) I used to be?A good yute den
- 4) But now i am?evil within and out because I been hurt, mislead so much I don't know how to be good to anyone.
- 5) I am not good at?living with these yutes who think their problems are worse than others.
- 6) I am good at?Makin money
- 7) If you?push me
- 8) Then I'll push back 10 times more
- 9) I like?weed because it calms my nerves and my mind. It allows me to close my mind for a moment.
- 10) I don't like?fakers and liars. It eats me alive when someone lies and you catch them in it.
- 11) I know a lot about getting money and keeping my nana livin'
- 12) I know nothin about? soccer
- 13) I admire my nana because she never once left me and she played 3 roles in my life and me growing: mom, dad, nana
- 14) I don't respect waste yutes
- 15) I belevin?myself
- 16) I don't belevin?love because it'll always break you in the end. I love those who been there for me.

- **YB**

one day, I got excited. I thought that I was going to die
 I could have never believed it, that I keep telling them that it was a lie
 I couldn't wait to sign the contract, that on my face, I had a great smile
 I imagined myself being on the stage on American Idol

MCS

I saw the best minds of my generation, destroyed by madness,
trying to please others, when you should only care about what you think of yourself
because you'll drive yourself crazy trying to please others.

Learn to love yourself because soon you'll lose that ability to love yourself.

I saw too many lost in the clouds, lucid minds running to catch up with the rest of them, don't play catch up
with yourselves.

- **YB**

WISH

When I was young I used to wish I was never born
Today I wish I could live forever
Everyday I wish my life could go back to the way it used to be
My wish is the colour of the blue sky
It is the sound of rain and clouds
My wish feels like butterflies in my stomach
My wish is always positive
My wish is never completely negative
My wish is to change my life

- **SBE**

Let us go then you and I shall go
To a place unknown
Somewhere in the snow
Freezing in the cold
Because we are bold
And we are going to let everyone know

AJ

I am good at love
I am not good at Personal Space
I used to be immature
But now I'm mature
I am good at love
I am not good at Personal Space
If you leave me
Then I'll still be waiting
I like friends
But I don't like fakes
I know a lot about living in a group home
I know nothing about living on my own
I admire love
I don't respect being stabbed in the back
I believe in love
I don't believe in holding grudges

AJ

I am feeling courageous and great

I am curious about life and faith

I am hearing myself be happy when I'm preparing to go on a date

I am at an amazing restaurant where the chandeliers are bright

I wish to become someone who is bright and I desire my heart to be full with lights

I am someone who puts a smile on my face because depression makes me sad

I am creative so when I'm sad I make music when I'm around rats

I am who I am so nobody should judge or be mad.

MCS

Swallowed my pride and started asking for help sadly my mind still got waves, oceans calling my name. Surprised by the outcome that came to be. Celebrated birthdays hoping one day my family would be reunited. One call, one visit all disappeared like everything else I love. CALLIN on the telephone talking to the dial tone, thinking I could hear my sisters', Brothers' voices again. Hypnotized by hate towards the system hoping every person who pulled us apart would die. Day by day hurricanes running through my mind. I survived things people wouldn't believe but this took every part of my heart and soul. (souless) that's how I feel, even if things change things will never be the same. Happiness wasn't part of my life, fake smiles, people thinking they were real but I know the truth. Every day instigated to kill those who took my life. Looking back at the days we were together, all of a sudden gone, driving down the street, tears coming down our faces wishing I could see them again. Not knowing how long it will be until I see them, if ever I will, if we will even remember each other. I FU**ED UP the damn door, the voice all I can remember, and I'll never forget. So many years passed I won't get back, deliberated running, dying. I cried so many tears not even sure they could be retracted. My younger siblings, I heard their eyes close knowing we might not see each other. Overwhelmed with hate, tears, killing, I don't want to see that ever again for no one. I was prisoner in my own home for years, no one my age to talk to, no one to relate to and no one could understand. 8 years later we are slowly reuniting and I will never lose them again. Ain't no one ever gonna take them from me again. I will end those who dare to test. Loving the feeling seeing them again, talking, hugging but it hurts to say good bye. I don't show my tears cuz I know I'll see them again and I won't let anyone take my family again. WE WILL NEVER BE BROKEN APART AGAIN.

YB

Sleepily I walk the halls in the morning

Sleepily as people are snoring

Sleepily as I walk at night

Sleepily as drunk drivers cruise tonight

Sleepily as I lay in bed

Sleepily loudness is what I dread

AJ

I saw the best minds of my generation, destroyed by madness and assassination. Wars around the world children are dying and we are leaving fathers and mothers crying.

AJ

IF I SHOULD DIE, THINK ONLY THIS OF ME...

I was never perfect but I try to be.
Claiming I'm okay but that's a lie to me.

Lately been at war with anxiety
Lately I've been crying only silently
In my privacy, no one's eyes can see
I try to hide my tears crying quietly
Heart and my mind that's a rivalry
Thinking I might die maybe finally.

Can I end it now? Can I stop the cycle?

Almost every day, I'm feeling suicidal
When I say I'm happy that's in denial.
Even feel depressed, can't fit my title.

MCS

- 1)Souless, minds looking for a body to consume
- 2)Souless, heartless, to the point death won't bother
- 3)Souless heads poking out, bright eyes stalk U.
- 4)Souless roaming for the sand to drift it, right.
- 5)Souless , I wish LOVE was sumthin' I was given. Only those who been there understand
- 6)souless, body gossip, and hate those who brighten.
- 7)Souless, cuts bleed to comfort my mind
- 8)souless, ganja burns and lightens my mind and allows it to rest. Worries gone for the moment but quickly return.
- 9)Souless, bones crumble as you pass by.
- 10)Souless bodies drop, for more to return. Seconds later.
- 11)souless, minds cheat, expecting happiness.
- 12)souless, tears drop and disappear as does everything else, time doesn't stop
- 13)souless, they see you smile but they don't know what you been through
- 14)souless, words fly not knowing they have no meaning
- 15)souless, time goes, hoping you can catch up
- 16)souless, money, people, burn and leave as fast as they come.
- 17)souless, pain flows through my veins, burning my hope and tears hoping I'll forget him. Neva! R.I.P
GRANDDAD I LOVE YOU
- 18)Souless, lock me up, but can't close my mind.

YB

-Sadly-

-Sadly i slam the door...

-Sadly i drop down the floor...

-Sadly i can't talk anymore...

-Sadly i regret being born...

Then happily I opened a new door...

SBE

The telephone rang it was then that I realized that it is time to socialize we have surrendered our freedom and became prisoners of technology yeah I know this is a very sensitive matter, now I want you reflect on the last time you and all your friends gathered and didn't use your phones it has probably been awhile, I mean who can blame you? Without technology we feel abandoned and overwhelmed and we have the sensation to check our messages and e-mails 24/7. Let me elaborate on why it isn't good to be using technology before you go to sleep people these days have become very sleep deprived because they are watching Netflix or YouTube, messaging people or checking Instagram to see who posted what right before they go to sleep so the light from the technology it sends signals to your brain that it isn't time for you to go to sleep. This is not an imaginary problem it is universal lets go back to tradition where we are stretched out on the couch undecided on which book we should read where we see kids playing in the park having their own little adventure if we all stop using technology it would be legendary and the response would be immediate we all would be surprised we would be less fatigued, we would have better motor skills and a quicker reaction time. Let's all make a correction and have more happiness in our lives let's let technology slowly disappear from our lives.

AJ

THE ANGEL OF DEATH

the angel of death has been chasing me lately
i hope it don't get me , i hope that he don't
i'm holding my breath it's been driving me crazy but
instead of crying, i roll up and smoke

next up i'm ready, i'm second in line

and just hit up my link and the powerful fire shit

**thanking my struggles the one that inspired this, all go for nothing to early
retirement**

wait on it wait on it don't put a date on it

but imma take on a shape of a great

shoutout my homies, they know when I'm down and then go
out their way to make sure that I'm straight

I'm playing god, i guess haters are prophesy

holy shit dawg, all i do is create

**be smart when you making decision, regret is so heavy,
all you do is carry the weight...**

MCS

Happiness is how I feel on my Birthday

Happiness is seeing my friends

Happiness is feeling free

Happiness is having a roof over my head, food on the table, and a bed to sleep on

AJ

-Love-

-Love is a feeling that you get around someone that you trust...

-It makes you feel very comfortable with that person...

-When she or he is talking to you, you can't help but to stare at them deep into their eyes...

-He or she's the only person you can think about...

-When she/he is upset or in a bad mood, you can easily understand how they feel...

-Getting worried if she or he is too quiet...

SBE

I REMEMBER...

WHEN I WAS 14,

I REMEMBER I GOT RAPE

AND I WONDER WHY THIS HAPPENED

BECAUSE I FELT LIKE I WAS THE BLAME.

**ITS CRAZY HOW I SWITCH, I LOOK LIKE A DIFFERENT
PERSON**

IM AFRAID OF MYSELF, I COULDN'T FIND A REASON.

MCS

America, I've given you all and now I'm nothing

With everything I've done you can't give me something?

I've fought these wars and I'm still struggling

But I'm going to rise to the top to prove that I'm something

AJ

THE COPYCAT

**Temple, free me from abandonment and hatred
From the sounds of bell and conch causing me pain
Sky free me from depression and sadness
I feel like electric bolts, I'm going insane
From bent and curving branches from the tree
Palm free me and let me be set free
From fate's tangled lines, I will never lie
Let me be happy, not thinking to die.**

MCS

A poem by AJ

When I was young I used to wish to touch the stars

Today I wish to touch a heart

Every day I wish to get a fresh start

My wish is the color of red hearts

It is the sound of breaking hearts

My wish feels like sweaty palms

My wish is always to love

My wish is never to hurt

My wish is to touch a heart

HALLOWEEN

HAPPY HALLOWEEN, HOPE YOU HAVE A GREAT SCARE
LET US PLAY A GREAT GAME, LETS PLAY TRUTH OR DARE
SCARE PEOPLE TILL THEY DIE
THE SPIRITS CAN BE FILLED WITH LIES
LET'S ALL PLAY A GAME, LET IT BE FAIR A SQUARE

Mcs

CHRISTMAS

**This the season to be happy
Spend some time with your family
Fill the place with colourful light
'tis the day that no one fights
You should all feel lucky**

MCS

SORRRYYY....

Roses are red, violets are blue

I'm still in love, but not with you

You thought you hurt me, and you made me cry

But now I'm talking to this other new guy

Simply because you have no class, go ahead and kiss my ass

Go ahead and talk your shit, screw you because you make me sick

You think you got better? Cool story bro,

I hope you get herpes from your little hoe

You said you love me but that wasn't true

Well guess what sweetheart? I found another boo.

MCS

THE UNIVERSAL CREATURES ALSO KNOWN AS
OUR UNDER PREPARED SOCIETY WILL ALWAYS REMAIN
MAY AND MUST ALWAYS
THEY MUST

THEMSELVES TO THEIR SUPREME OVERLORD. IN DOING SO THEY WILL BE
IMMEDIATELY

"TERMINATED". THE VERY ELABORATE AND SENSITIVE COMPOSITE OF
REALITY VERSES THE DISTORTED SENSATION OF

IMAGINATION CREATES A HAPPINESS HURRICANE THAT REVOLUTIONIZES THE
DISAPPEARANCE OF STRETCHED AND GATHERED

HUMANS OF
PRISONERS. THEY
OBEY IF NOT

SURRENDER

ABANDONED AND

THOUGHTS.

LM

I CAN'T STOP FOR DEATH

BECAUSE I could not stop for death... Because I have to keep moving on with stopping until I reach my goals because I am going to continue to reach out for my right to keep on moving on and until I succeed like TERRY FOX.

LET US GO YOU AND I

LET US GO THEN YOU AND I...will keep moving, for Canada and save peoples' lives life from danger so that everyone would be happy in the end. So we will continue to fight for Canada forever and ever. We will fight till the end, saving peoples' lives so that they can live happy and happily ever so there is no more wars.

Poems by TP

YOU ARE MADE OF ENERGY

Imagine a light bulb, a light bulb has many different shapes and sizes different colors and brightness, but inside its not black or white it's not Asian or Caucasian it pure energy. Imagine a guy named Jim in the inside he's the energy, but on the outside he's the light bulb, and he's in the hospital getting surgery, he dies. His body is still there but his energy inside him left him. The moral is that you are the energy inside but you're the bulb on the outside.

PEACE!!

-LDM-

WISH

When I was young I used to wish to hold hands

Today I wish to be young and,

Every day I wish to go back, back to the bus

My wish is the colour of red bandanas

It is the sound of a light switch turning off

My wish feels like its forever never coming

My wish is always just a wish

My wish is never ever coming

My wish is just a dream

- LM

- **Aj's Beginning**
- Temple free me
- From the sounds of yelling and drama
 - Sky free me
 - So I can go back home
 - Tree free me
- From people that are fake
 - Palm free me
- So I can leave this place

MCS POEMS...

I am not feeling depressed anymore

I may be not curious about taking risks that go too far

I do not hear anything when I'm down

I cannot be in a place that is way too loud

I do not wish to become someone who no one can trust

I don't want to feel like I'm just a piece of dust

I'm not depressed and mad

I'm now not somebody that easily gets sad.

They told me that I would be rich

I started acting up and I felt like I was acting like a bi**h

I agreed and signed the contract

And all they started telling me, was big real facts

I will soon become a rapper

Some people will call me a capper

But I don't care, ill touch the moon

When u see me, you'll be acting like a fool

Don't be talking trash, I'll start spitting out some facts

I'll be cashing out some gwuap, call it dope but I call it cash

MCS

slide me the roller blades, calling out the group, call the whites out the highway
swerving through lanes, trynna' duck, bit**es throwin' shades
you got that sauce, when they trynna' throw somethin' on your name I can't complain cause i probably do
the same, if I wasn't who I was just to face the same lane
speculating from the outside, craving for the fame, it's a shame, who ever let these bit**es get fu**ed up
the game
that's right when I be, I be it to myself
a mother trucker that I need, ion not one yet
cash me outside when I'm drippin' in some checks
might catch me in a club, in an all-black dress
platinum blonde 26 inch diamond neck
even if you don't admit, you ain't even catch
this drip coming from my neck, I ain't talking 'bout sex
come and let me break your knee in a broke cabinet.

MCS

SMTG RARE

People be looking at me daily thinking I'm crazy. My school be looking whack with all these girls on crack. Everyone be wearing masks but all they want are these racks. I be playing music from my speakers but these bitches just turn out to be leakers. Girls brag about being able to spell coconut but I just sit back and say "you a loconut". I'm dealing with my social worker but everyone just seems to be a lurker. People ask me aren't u a hoe? I turn my head and say no. I be waking up to my alarm, when others wake up to self-harm. My future looking bright cuz guy I'm always right. When guys ask for my number I just say pull up in the summer. H**s just post pictures and I just focus on my literature. I keep me a diary so I can know when they lying to me. Christmas is my favorite holiday cuz I feel like I own that day. I know I'm beautiful but people can be hurtful. I see everyone being extra, I just say "hold up I can smell ya". I just want the truth but not everyone can be as honest as Ruth. I can see solutions but that means that these h**s are illusions. Everyone knows I care and I guess that just makes me rare.

J.H.G

Dark life...

- I found the **END**...I feel **CONTAMINATED** and **POLLUTED**.
 - Soon, everyone might be **EXTINCT**. The world has **COLLAPSED**. **POLICE** are killing innocent people
 - Everyone has the right to be **DEPRESSED** and **ANGRY**. But not everyone should be **MEDICATED**
 - I **PASS** on my pain. Even though I say it's **MEANINGLESS**. People look for **FAME**
 - It seems **IMPORTANT** and that is the **TRUTH**
 - People go to prison and kids don't go to **SCHOOLS**
 - Everybody likes to **MODIFY** other people. No one should judge about others' **RELIGIONS**
 - We should all be **LOVING**. Not by telling "I will **KILL YOU**"
 - DEATH** is on my mind. Some people have **SEX** on their mind
 - Some people can **TWERK** it out. Some people use **VIOLENCE**
 - TECHNOLOGY** is popular. Some ideas have been **STOLEN**
 - People are filled with pride but it turns into **HUMILIATION**
 - A **LOT IGNORE**, and most **BLAME**. Leave it in the **PAST**, focus on the money and try to get your **DEGREE**
 - You will see that you'll become **VIRAL**. I love to **LAUGH** and **SHARE** but don't make me feel **DISCRIMINATED**.
 - I was **BORN** to be who I am, but I'm not a **SPECIALIST**
 - I put on **MAKEUP** cuz they tell me I'm **BEAUTIFUL** with it. I don't have **SELF-ESTEEM**, I admit
 - I test my limits, and I don't have **STANDARDS**. I don't feel like I **FIT IN**, I'm not really **HAPPY**
 - I might have **MADNESS**, but I fall fast asleep. I'm filled with **KINDNESS**, people say I'm **CONTAGIOUS**
 - Let's all be **MINDFUL**, so we will be full of **GOODNESS**. I have **COMPASSION** so y'all gotta **FORGIVE** me
 - That I might not feel **WORTH IT**, even though I'm not **TRYING**. I have a big **HEART**, I don't say **LIES**
 - Y'all will be **BRAINWASHED** with all my **TRUST** and you'll be able to recognize. I might be filled with **ANGER** - and **HATRED**, and I might be **CRUEL**
 - I still have **SYMPATHY** and more of some **KINDNESS**
 - LOVE** is a **POWERFUL WEAPON**
 - It all has his **ACTS**... So this world is an **END**
- To fix it, let's all start a **PATH** with a new **BEGINNING!!!!**

Dear future or 2020...the world is not coming to an end...

The air is fresh

The oceans are filtered

The animals are safe

Intelligence is rewarded

The people are calm and happy

We smile at each other on the streets

More people want 5 years of education

Ratings aren't more important than the truth

Our government is building more shelters and schools

It's easier to find a Big Mac than drugs

90% of songs on the radio are about love

Technology has given us everything we could ever want

Everybody knows something

Everybody's doing something

Not many humans are being left alone anymore

Money is saved

The jobs will pay enough

Drugs may make you feel happy but not for long

So what is the solution to this problem?

Love

Not the love that you hear in the movies

Real love, true love

You can love each other

From the moment you wake up to the moment you pass

Instead of trying to change others we can work on ourselves first

We can change our lives...

S.B.E

The world is polluted. The police are corrupt. Intelligence is rewarded. People are angry. We can't live with ourselves, every one's medicated on the streets. If we speak it's 15 seconds of fame and a lifetime of ratings. Our prisons are processed and modified. Lie I'll kill you. 92% of kids watch 5 hours of violence on the screen. Technology has everything and stolen everything. Pride is all we have. Ignoring someone is lingering in the past. Money is evil yet we tell our kids to get that job. Good deeds are only done when there's misfortunes of others. We laugh at our friends and they laugh at us. We are hiring specialists to make girls beautiful but they are beautiful already. Meet those impossible standards face all of this madness and chaos, love each other, perform acts of kindness. Let's start planting seeds of goodness let's show compassion and that we can forgive. 300 years from now that grudge you hold against your friend will change you to sell lies, become brainwashed, exhibit anger, hatred and cruelty towards others. Kindness is greatness. Work to change events that will make the next generation great that will open a path towards a new beginning. It all starts with you.

AJ

LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

The world is polluted, police are corrupt. The people are depressed. We can live with each other. We pass each other on the streets. More people want 15 seconds of fame rather than a lifetime of meaning and purpose. Ratings are more important than the truth. Presidents lie, Race will always be an issue. 92% of songs on the radio are about sex, Kids don't play games all they watch is Youtube and twerk videos. Technology has given us everything anyone of us could want. Nowadays everybody knows everything about everyone, everybody's going somewhere. Money is still the root of all evil. Jobs don't pay enough. There are states where people can legally be discriminated against because they were born a certain way. Little girls feel like they need to wear "makeup" to be beautiful which eventually lowers their self-esteem. This will make you happy but not for long. We can love, I mean real love, true love. We can forgive because 300 years from now will that grudge hold against your friend, your mother, your father have been worth it? Instead of trying to change others we can only change ourselves. Love is the most powerful weapon on the face of the earth.

J.H.G

I AM

1. I am something special
2. I am a car
3. I am Mount Everest
4. I am in happiness
5. I am stuck in a group home
6. I am curious about school
7. I love my family and friends
8. I am human

PERIOD!!!

LDM

MONEY MONEY

Money Money is gone now imma' look for it but now
I got lost and I can't go home

LDM

6# #
Kartel



yob