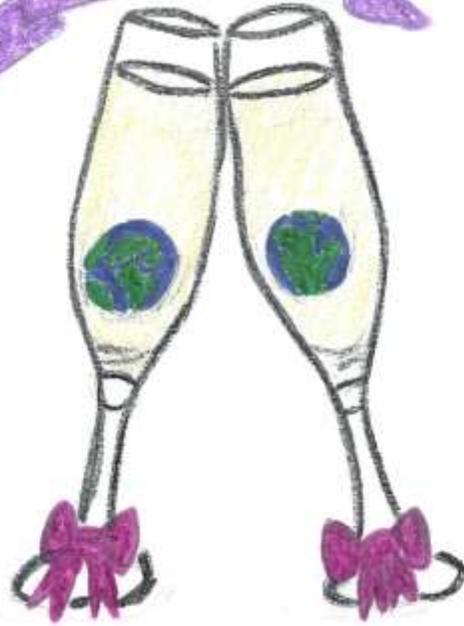


here's to the

World!



Michelle Hoerner

Here's to Earth

By the writers of the Social Justice Committee (Vanguard School)

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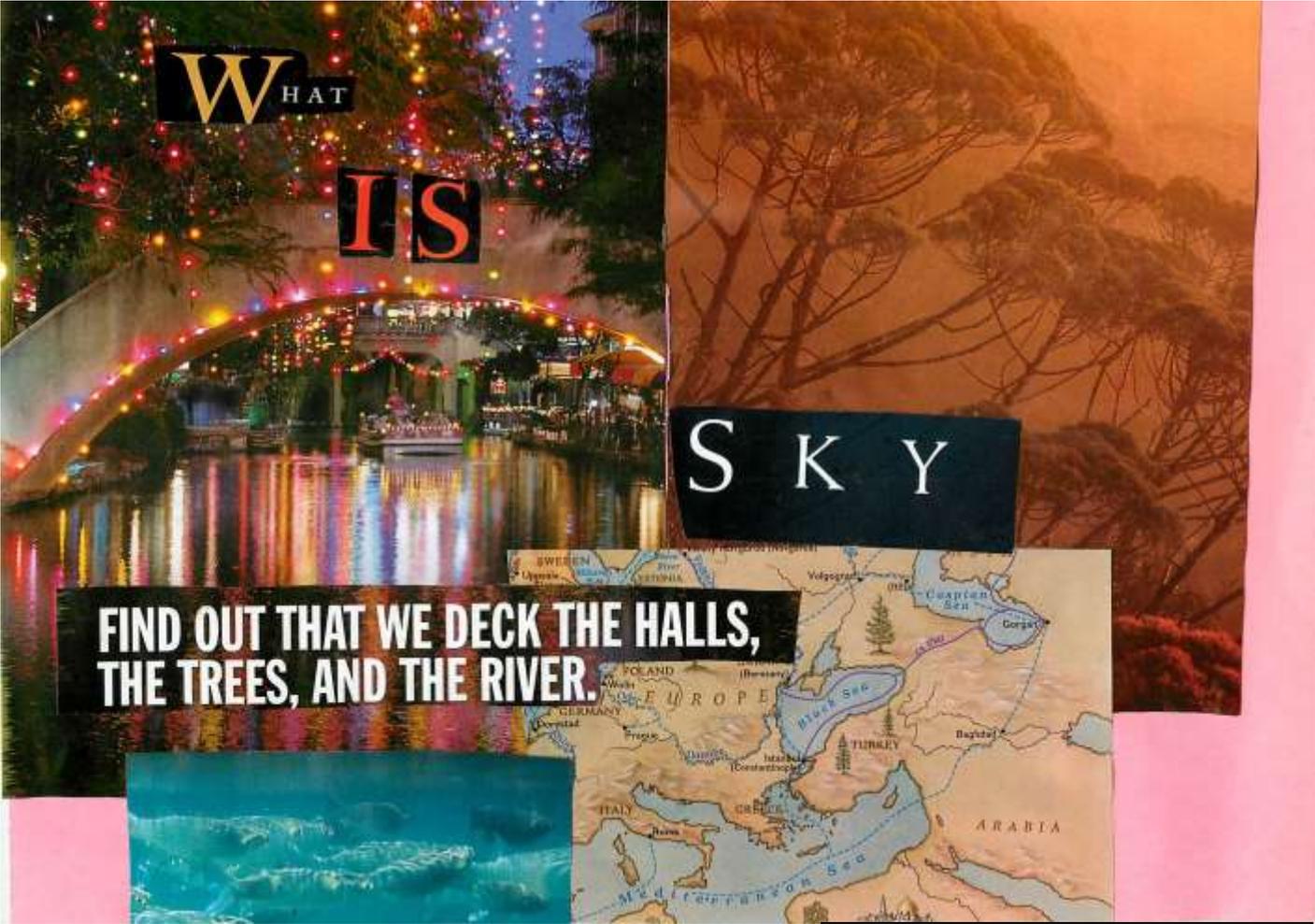
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For more information, visit: www.qwf.org/programs/wic

“In darkness we seek light.”

Sean Smith



WHAT

IS

SKY

FIND OUT THAT WE DECK THE HALLS,
THE TREES, AND THE RIVER.

By Alessia

The bird upon the hill

By Shaun

I am the bird watching down on the world
The believer full of doubts
I wonder about the music of billions of beings
I see the energy of the howling wind
I want to fly from all the hatred climbing this hill
I am the bird watching down on the world
the believer full of doubts

I pretend I fly above all others
I feel nothing
I touch the snow at the mountain's peak
I worry about the future of all below me
I cry for the future

I understand the colour of the snow
I say we must change
I dream of that which cannot be dreamed
I try to understand all below me
I hope for a better future
I am the bird watching down on the world
the believer full of doubts

Serenity

By Michelle

(based on "The Chant Freedom" by Banira Giri)

Lights, return my resting eyes
Sky, keep me lifted
Outdoors, break me free from the sheltered walls
Body, open my comfort
Streets, walk on a path of thrill
Sea, bring me inner peace
Sound, dispose of uneasy noise
War, free me from all the harm in the world
Peace, step into our world
Whiskey will not bring us a comforting life
Day, buy me lots of time
Night, buy me sleep
World, bring my inner me

the power has no justice

By Adrianna

Inside the prison bars, we have no opportunity to explain.
It was really bad to live in the shadows.
I bow my head in reflection to find a way out of this hell.

Oceans

By Carli

The Ocean is a wonderful place.
We need to take care of it before it's too late.
The Ocean is a wonderful place.

Pick up a fish and look at its face.
The sharks and whales we should not hate.
The Ocean is a wonderful place.

I don't think that this is a phase.
I don't think that this was meant to be fate.
The Ocean is a wonderful place.

This isn't one big chase.
The sharks shouldn't have a low birth rate.
The Ocean is a wonderful place.

These creatures shouldn't feel like they're running a race.
All creatures should have a mate.
The ocean is a wonderful place.
The way we treat it is a waste.

Brother
By Adrianna

we live,
we fight,
we die,
as brothers,
we're all best friends as family,
we learn,
we have fun,
we have our adventures together,
we have our differences,
as brothers,
I am happy they're in my life,
I am happy to call him my brother

The temple speech

By Sean

(based on "The Chant Freedom" by Banira Giri)

Temple free me
from the suffrage of these chains
Wildlife free me
from my guilty conscience
Body, spirit free me
from this awful place
Waterways free me
from these sea creatures
Sonic pulse free me
from this headache

Escaping the World

By Ariana

I like reading fantasy books.

Divergent and *Harry Potter* are my favourite nighttime books. They all provide an escape and give me hope.

When I feel blue, I read and it makes me feel happy.

Reading makes me feel full of life and it makes me feel amazing inside me.

I like reading fantasy books.

The world is full of misery, suffering and injustice. A simple book can change the world for the better.

One word of a book can provide an escape for anyone and everyone.

It provides an escape and gives me hope.

When I read, it takes me to another dimension and I leave the earth behind.

When I share what I read with others and they read the same book as me, I feel I inspired someone.

I like reading fantasy books.

Imprisoned Anxiety

By Sabrina

Identical in our features
not in our souls
yours is a twisted galaxy
where no living being can breathe
though your islands are beautiful
your flowers flourishing in wonderful colours
sand whirls in my visions
concrete walls barricading me
there is no beauty in restrictions

Free Me from the City

By Ariana

*(based on "The Chant Freedom" by Banira
Giri)*

Doctors free me
From the blob on my lungs
Factory free me
From your filthy fumes
Sidewalk free me
From your cracked, stony surface
Crowds leave me
Traffic free me
From the rise of uttering horns
Crowds leave me
Let me live life as it should be



**A Day in the Life of a
Teenage Girl**
By Carli

My name is Stacy; it's been two weeks since my boyfriend dumped me. He said I was "too fat" so now all I do is drink water and eat small salads. I'm so skinny that you can see my bones through my skin. I'm sick. My mom cries by my bedside at the hospital. I'm dying, cold, oh so cold. How do you like me now?! Am I perfect, or am I still not good enough for you?

- Barbie Girl

free me / don't free me
By Adrianna
(based on "The Chant Freedom" by Banira Giri)

god free me
from these electric bolts

someone free me
from this tangled life

fallen angel free me
from the heavenly fire

superhero free me
from the evil inside of me

mickey free me
from sacrificing myself
for the guy that I call family

don't free me
from the sound of the blades
crashing into each other cause
I have to fight my own battles

don't free me
from the night, I am better
in the shadows

don't free me, I am ok
I have a family that loves me,
they teach me everything they know,
I learn from them sometimes,
I found where I belong, so don't free me,
I am ok

Another year

By Shaun

(based on "The Chant Freedom" by Banira Giri)

Temple hold me
within the safety of your walls
Sky hold me
onto the soaring angels
Tree hold me
from leaving the safety of your branches
Country hold me
to sing the anthems of old
Street hold me
so I may walk on thee
River hold me
so I may swim in thee
Sound hold me
So I may listen to all
Life hold me
So I may take another step

Day release me
So I may witness the night
Night release me
So I may witness the day
Humanity release me
so I may walk a path
Death wait for me
For I anticipate thee
Heaven witness me
for I await thee coming

Peace

A word not wanted this year

Peace

I await thee next Year

Love

By Alessia

Some people say it's hard to find love. People need a love that consumes them. You shouldn't love someone for how they look, you should love someone for their personality.

To be honest, I don't know what love is, but I know I will find it someday. When I do, I hope it will never end because knowing that you are loved and you will be loved just makes you happy.

One thing you should never do is when you are with someone, and they don't treat you right, don't kid yourself by telling yourself that it's love because it's not. If someone doesn't treat you right, it's their loss because you're wonderful in your own way. Like they say, there are so many fish in the sea, so if you don't meet the one right away, there will be others. That's a promise I can make.

Some years ago—
having little or no money in my purse,
I thought I would sail about a
little and see the watery part of the world. It is a way I have of
regulating the circulation. I
find myself growing grim it is a
damp, drizzly November in my soul; I find myself
pausing before coffin warehouses,
my
hypos get such an upper hand of me, that it requires a strong
moral principle
knocking people's hats off—, I
account it high time
for pistol and ball. With a philosophical flourish
There
is nothing surprising in this.
cherish very nearly the
same feelings towards the ocean with me.

An erasure poem by Carli
Original text from *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville

negative feeling logical,
like every feeling generally.
effect of the consciousness of the law, and
in relation to a cause, , the
subject of pure practical reason which is supreme
being affected by
humiliation
There is no feeling

An erasure poem by Sabrina
Original text from *The Critique of Practical Reason* by Immanuel
Kant

Some years ago—
having little or no money and nothing
to interest me I thought
It is a way
driving off the spleen and regulating the circulation. I
find myself growing whenever it is a
damp, drizzly November in my soul; I find myself
involuntarily pausing and bringing up
the rear of every funeral I meet;
a strong
moral
the street, and methodically knocking

An erasure poem by Alessia
Original text from *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville

However small [redacted] appear [redacted] thought [redacted] we
come to reflect and care [redacted] we shall be struck with
wonder [redacted] and shall discover
[redacted] elephant that ranges the forest [redacted] and when
we consider the least
[redacted] creature that we
can imagine [redacted] of which are too small to be discovered
[redacted] that each of their
differences [redacted] which they receive
with the power of
[redacted] action, how natural the
[redacted] wisdom has thou
made them all. [redacted] that they are the [redacted] great,
[redacted] Almighty [redacted] that [redacted]
they are all capable of feeling pleasure and pain,
[redacted] every kind [redacted] of creature
inside yourself.

An erasure poem by Adrianna
Original text from *The History of Insects*



An erasure poem by Sophia
Original text from a newspaper clipping

stay strong
By Adrianna

when I walk in the room, I only see him
he is the only one who brings me down in class
I have to stay strong for me, not to show him my fears

I wake up every day and I say I don't want to go to school
I don't want to see him every day in class
when I walk in the room, I only see him

I am not to get bullied by him, I cannot anymore
I don't want to get hurt again
I have to stay strong for me, not to show him my fears

I try to stay strong for everyone and me because I am scared to
show the real me,
at one point in life, I will break out and I will be myself without
people bringing me down.

This is me
By Ariana

I am special and bright.
I wonder what life is like outside the city.
I hear my favourite characters from novels in my head.
I see a strong teenager with lots of life in a mirror.
I want to be the best I can be and reach my full potential.
I am special and bright.

strength
By Adrianna

go ahead, tell me that I'm not good
enough tell me I can't do it,
because I will show you over
and over again that I can

Imagine
By Emre

Forests were burning
War was fighting
People were starving

Rivers were drying
People were crying
Forests were burning

While we have everything
They have nothing
People were starving

We can help if we try
Until then...
Forest are burning
People are starving

I am me

By Ricki

I am friendly and loving
I wonder what will happen in future years
I hear voices in my head
I see beaches everywhere I look
I want to go far in life
I am friendly and loving

I pretend to live amongst the stars
I feel pain and sorrow
I touch the fur of a snow leopard
I worry about my family
I cry for help when I need it
I am friendly and loving

I understand different languages
I say whatever I want
I dream of becoming rich and successful
I try my best to get good grades in school
I hope to be successful in life
I am friendly and loving

Happiness vs. Sadness

By Alessia

I wonder if someone can truly be happy
I sit alone sadly
Life is really crappy

Find someone who is truly happy
Ask them what they do so gladly
I wonder if someone can truly be happy

I hear the pain of someone burning
I love the sound of people healing
Life is really crappy

I am a dreamer and I am a believer
I try to fake a smile when I'm hurting
I wonder if someone can truly be happy

Every day my pain goes away
I feel that my happiness is still far away
Life is really crappy

I hope I will find love
You love, you shouldn't hate
I wonder if someone can truly be happy
Life is really crappy

Penny for My Thoughts
(an elegy for Robin Williams)
By Carli

What was once a bright shiny day has turned cloudy and
grey.

I want to leave, but I really should stay,
And let the chips fall where they may.

I really want to sleep but I keep hearing the sounds, the
sounds of your voice and the sight of your face.

But I try to remember that you're in a better place,
It's a nightmare I try to get out of, like I'm running a race.

Then I wake up and it's back to reality
And thank God it was just me.

Just a dream I put myself through to try to not think of you,
But what can I do?

I open Facebook, it's you, I open Twitter, and it's you.
I'm stuck in a maze and all I want to do is get out of this
daze

But I know it's just a phase!

I just can't believe you're gone, I guess the pressure
became too much, too overwhelming and such.

I just wish it didn't have to be like that.

Untitled
By Sean

Ten white one red what's that mean.
Out of ten people only one is true to himself and to others.

I Am Carli

By Carli

I am creative and curious.
I wonder if I will ever sing a song.
I hear the sounds of my bird chirp when I wake up.
I see a world with no danger.
I want a world with peace.
I am creative and curious.

I pretend like I have nothing to say.
I feel the darkness pouring over me.
I touch the handle of a pitchfork.
I worry that my dreams won't come true.
I cry when I think about the death of Robin Williams.
I am creative and curious.

I understand that my friends stay by my side.
I say that sharks deserve to live in this world.
I dream of being a female wrestler.
I try to improve my writing skills.
I hope to make it through high school.
I am creative and curious.

Nothing

By Shaun

-In the dark of the night I heard faintly the whistling wind
I felt nothing

-As the Shadows crept upon me in the darkest of prisons
I felt nothing

-Through these walls seeing the landscape I thought of a
poem
I felt nothing

-The moon shone faintly behind choking clouds, turning the
moon black

I felt nothing

-Those around me sang of hope and revenge

I felt nothing

Once a hopeful man full of dreams

Crossing the wide sea

I felt wind passing through me

carrying away the dark past

Happiness holding me

now a person sits alone leaning on a window

Now I feel nothing

no anger

no hate or bitterness

Only nothing

I am

By Adrianna

I am a dreamer and an adventurer
I wonder if we ever find love
I hear the sound of the wind's secrets that are untold
I see horses racing through the field
I want an adventure, like in book
I am a dreamer and an adventurer

I pretend about the people standing beside me
I feel like nobody can take me down
I touch like I can't be stopped
I worry about the people I love and have loved
I cry when the people I love get hurt or something bad happens
I am the mockingjay

I understand things like nobody knows
I say fear doesn't shut you down - it wakes you up
I dream about adventures and being the hero
I try my best at it
I hope for the best and worst
I am the saviour

Green Takeover

By Ricki

the greenery around me blinds me with daylight
the animals gather in broad daylight
the forest and greenery always seem to amaze me when I least see it
coming

the wind blows through the trees sending the leaves away
the plants begin to fade away and then reappear later on
the greenery around me blinds me with daylight

everywhere we look we see plants growing and taking over our lives
people sit and observe the world around us and we take note of the dying
world we live in
the forest and greenery always seem to amaze me when I least see it
coming

as the sun rises it hits the leaves and feeds them with energy
people go out and use the greenery to work on becoming golden during
the summer
the greenery around me blinds me with daylight

the animals use the greenery as food and energy to keep them going all
day long
the vines begin to grow longer and longer until they can touch the ground
the forest and greenery always seem to amaze me when I least see it
coming

the power of the greenery helps us conserve our energy
we all want to be free and live in a life full of plants and greenery
the greenery around me blinds me with daylight
the forest and greenery always seem to amaze me when I least see it
coming

Set Me Free

By Carli

Temple free me from
The sound of anger and negativity
Sky free me from
Threatening storm clouds
Tree free me from
The ignorance of the world
Palm free me from
This crazy place
Street free me from
Loud obnoxious people
River free me, get me out of here,
take me far
Sound free me from
The chaos that is this world
World free me
From war
Peace free me from
Loud noises
Music free me from
Shyness and insecurities

Words free me from
Complete, utter silence
Day free me from
Pointless thoughts
Night free me from
Constant chitter chattering
Dreams free me
From reality
Stories free me from
Daydreaming
Life free me from
Imaginary worlds and places
Nightmares free me
From disappointment
My cherished poem free me from
Awkward discussions
Hey,
The word is in, that I'm finally
free to be whom I want to be.
Free me from the nonsense of
your letters of a fake reality.
Your words are meaningless to me,
let me be free.

Circles

By Michelle

I assume no one is there.
I am awakened night after night.
I just want to rip out my hair.

Why waste my time on this stupid care?
I am awakened night after night.
I assume no one is there.

Why waste my time on a stupid care?
I am awakened night after night.
I just want to rip out my hair.

Why waste my time on this stupid care?
Awake night after night.
We start to pay attention.

Trying to repair what was once there.
I wake as the sun rises.
I feel at ease.

Why waste my time on a stupid care?
Walking away from my foolishness.
Closer to everyone who was once near.
I am no longer running in circles.

Three short pieces
By Ricki

The self ended and the world began when there was a big boom that came from miles away. It was so loud that everyone heard it. It scared them so much they went into hiding and did not come out until they were given the ok.



The girl is looking in the direction of the exit of the forest because she's tired of always being shouted at by photographers to look their way and pose for them. She wants a fresh start at life because she doesn't want to have the perfect body, the perfect life, the perfect job and the perfect clothes. She wants to have a normal job and a normal life. She wants to be able to have someone that loves her and not just her money.

The Chant for Freedom

By Sabrina

Temple free me from my body, not yours
Sky free me from limitations and missed opportunities
free me from breaking hearts and souls
body free me from fate's tangled lines
street free me from footsteps of strangers
free me from force and sounds
sound free me from catcalls and honks
war free me from unnecessary arguments
peace free me from unnecessary sacrifice
free me from nettled irritation
property free me from single moms without support
day free me from your grimy hands
night free me from the stars' brightness
nation free me with a better education
world free me from the poisoned moths and villain eyes
life free me from constant propaganda
death free me from empty stomachs and lives
my cherished brothers and sisters free me from confirmation
world that follows media
that's not freedom
free me from the lies
and the depths of your spells

Holiday Poem

By Carli

Winter's here, so it's time to huddle for warmth, stay near.
Sipping hot chocolate by the fire, or sitting in the heat we
don't need fire. Building snowmen, sledding, or skating,
feeling cold like a vampire, better get a warmer attire.
Let it snow, let it snow the flowers won't grow and the sun
won't show. Don't feel so low, there is no reason to mow.
It looks so divine when the snow starts to align.
It looks so pretty when the snow starts to shine.
Don't let me hear that whine, it will be fine.
Winter is a beautiful time, the holidays bring people
together.
It doesn't matter who had wool, or who has leather.
It's a time for giving and sharing, but don't forget about
caring.
Be happy with the people you have around you, be grateful
too.

Voices for Justice

By Sean Smith

My name is social
and I must do justice.
A great speaker said,
“I have a dream”
of a better future.
A great hockey legend said,
“Il faut que ca change.”
A great President said,
“The best road to progress
is freedom’s road.”
A great visionary said,
“People don’t know what they want
until you show them.”
So I say,
Show them justice.



By Sabrina