

2021 Bulldog Expressions:

Possibility



A Welcomed Activity

Glenda Hartfield

Poetry

A welcomed activity
After a year of silence
And gloom
And sanitized doom.

Free Verse

A welcomed activity
After a year of masks
And Zoom
And freedoms removed.

Life

A welcomed activity
After a year of death
And rigid regimes
And canceled dreams.

Cover Art by Sydney Conway

This project has been brought to you by the students of
Perry Central High School.

The possibilities are endless for these students.
They have survived, endured, and expressed.
Go Bulldogs!

Bulldog Expressions: Possibility
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Following the Music

Daytton Turner

I'm not all together. My life has been about as collected as a shotgun blast. I have a handful of people who have helped me grow enough to soldier through it though. Those few people being my Paran, who showed me my creativity can help me push through, my ex who, whether she knows it or not, showed me that there are ways to drown out the white noise by using the few happy memories I have to hold onto. So now, on my winding path of life that I walk, I'm doing everything I can to follow the music and let it guide my heart to a happy future.

I'm not confident in much, but my music helps people like me who struggle to express how they feel, and that is a good enough reason to keep trying and keep pouring my heart onto a page along with a couple of notes. I have already gone through difficult patches, and I'm aware there are many more to come.

My dream will be very difficult to achieve, but using the struggles as

the gasoline fueling my drive to push on will be the reason I succeed.

Something bad happens? Write about it. Someone hurts me? Write about it.

Money's running thin and I'm struggling? Write about it. The more feeling, the more it means to people, the better it will be. Even if I fail, I still succeed.

It will take a lot of long nights, calluses, and making friends trying to get my music out, but that is what makes it a journey. Otherwise, it's just a brisk walk through life. I'm very lucky I've made it through what I have, so stopping now would just be ridiculous. "I've been sitting watching life pass from the sidelines, been waiting for a dream to seep in through my blinds", and now I have that dream. So, all I have to do now, is follow the music.

For a very long time, I've wanted to take pictures. Most of the time, I want to do it for my mom. I haven't seen her in quite a while, but I know that she's not in a good situation. Sometimes I wish I could give her the same hope she gave me then. Since I can't, I want to give everyone that hope. In these times, there is so much going on in the world that nobody stops to pay attention to the little things.

Everyone rushes to do the next thing. Could-be memories are being passed, people are letting go of what they love, and people fall into depression because they have no hope for the future. In order to give others hope, I plan on taking photos of the most beautiful things I can find. When I do this and share it with the world, it can help take the focus off the bad things. In order to achieve this goal, I need to stay as positive and hope-filled as possible. I know that I can succeed at doing so.

When bringing hope into the world, it can also bring peace amongst all the people included. Violent people or people who don't care for the health of the environment can see what they're destroying. I hope that when people see my pictures, they spread them so everyone can have a little positivity. I hope that the pictures raise questions so that today's society has to communicate with each other. We spend entirely too much time watching the news, or keeping up with the new drama that's going down. It's not very often you see people wonderstruck by the beauty of nature and the hope it represents, but I'd like to bring that back. I know that if I strive to meet my purpose and spread hope, I can do it.

Hey!

Daveon Carter

Hey!

Are you endless like numbers?

Because I want to know if it's true

Because I want to know if its true or not

Is it true about finding your truest thought of yourself

Is it possible that me finding my truest thought of myself
is impossible, or is it possible?

Should I take chances in life, should I be a gambler?

Or should I make a change in my life, like a butterfly?

Hi!

Maddox Canard

With life there is always a spark;

It always comes from our heart;

As our mind procrastinates;

The will of possibility seems to grow stronger everyday;

As life races by

Possibility always stops and says hi;

As the sun lays to rest

Possibility is always up making sure we do our best;

Doubt is only a guest;

Possibility is a best friend;

But doubt is a foe to the end;

Stay

Kimberly Scroggins

Possibility, I have a question,
Why do you leave my mind sometimes?
You roll up as if you're a rollie pollie; are you afraid?
You are a spirit that sometimes disappears,
But possibility, I need you to stay.

I see a vision of you in my head
I need you like a mechanical pencil that needs lead
The day that more of you will arrive
I will wear a smile
That people will see from miles
Possibility, you are a shy little girl but you are important;
don't be afraid to come out and shine.

What if?

Cade Hunt

What if I became successful
What if I could make it in life
Buy a big house, where nothing's stressful
Have a nice car, and a wife

What if I fail
Become homeless or in jail
Guards stand there like statues
Nobody to pay my bail

A Brief Visit

Daytton Turner

He visits briefly
When I hear a song
Or write my own
He visits on occasion
But has no concrete home
With fiery red hair
And a tongue like a blade
He lurks behind tinted glass
While plans are to be made
He holds a childish smirk from cheek to cheek
Knowing what will and will not be
Then he walks away
There goes possibility

Anxiety Protects Me

Ashlynn Howell

My head is spinning like a spiral.
My anxiety is winning.
I fear all who approach me,
Who might they truly be?
Anxiety festers up inside me,
raging like a bright flame.
Will this be my downfall?
I step through the halls, thoughts flowing,
like water from the mouths of rivers
All of them make me quiver and shake
I always avoid danger.
This anxiety will be a life saver.

An Unwinnable Game

Leah Turner

It's not that you've left, it's just been a while.
Is it humorous for you to tease those who look for you?
Do you intentionally make it seem like an unwinnable game?
You hide behind the curtain as if you think it makes you invisible.
I know you're there.
Show yourself again!

Unwanted Memories

Ashlynn Howell

Home is a place where you're supposed to belong
Yet at home feel I like I don't belong at all
Filled with memories of things I'd rather not see
Filled with times that I'd rather not remember
I used to belong
I felt it was my safe haven
But home has become a hell
So many things have happened that I cannot unsee
It's still affecting me
The negative energy pools in some rooms
I can feel it surrounding me
I cover my ears
And shut my eyes
I block out the noises and think of what it used to be

LIFE

Tank Gibson

Life can be hard at times.
Life will have you feeling like you're
just going to
make mistakes.
Mistakes will have you
thinking and wondering
When will I do better?
Life is like Monopoly
Rolling dice to make the right decision
If you roll too far you go to jail.

Work Wins

Caden Talley

I like being lazy as daisies,
maybe easy and laid back like a haystack,
But I get nowhere with this "I don't care" attitude

So I hop up and get to work
While my muscles hurt and my stamina "skirts"!
Getting in shape for the sport I love,
So when it comes time, I can shove



Stoneware by Dylan Brunet

Possibility Playbox

Caden Talley

Possibility,

May we interact like two toys in a playbox?

Or are you the broken toy in the garbage can?

If we don't interact, I will be like the kid that found out his toy was broken.

I want to become as close as Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head

I don't know if you're at top or bottom of the box,

But one day maybe I'll dig you out to play.

Hey you!

Quincey Travis

Can you come outside

or stick your head

out your window,

or

are you

like a scared dog?

Are you sick?

I see you

and your momma

at the store.

Hey you!

The Catch

Alex Woods

Screaming and shouting
Sweat has me drowning
Cheers loudly
Yell!

Time seemed to stop
No movement on the clock
Before I knew it I jumped
The ball floating in the air
Hands closing, Heart beating
The ball and my hands meeting
Time seemed to speed up
When I caught the ball
I knew I had won it all!

Wake Up

Alex Woods

I know you are there.
Shaking me like a little boy with a toy.
Telling me “Wake up! I’m right here.”.
You’re endless like space.
You are bright as the sun.
I just need to wake up and see you.

Silence

Nevaeh Bolton

Knock knock.

Who's there?

Silence.

Knock knock.

The woman leaned on the door terrified.

Woosh, the mysterious man blew his breath on the door.

The lady went entirely numb- frozen cold.

Lonely, scared, and uncomfortable, she made no moves.

The silent night with only the crickets to be heard there was worry.

There was the worry of who was at the lady's door.

Knock knock.

Who is standing on the other side of my door?

Vengeance

Marquis Turner

She was beaten, mocked, and fooled

For doing what she loved

Dance and cheer was what she knew best

Giving up her dreams without rest

She was sick but filled with stride

Seeking vengeance was now her pride

She followed and searched until she found.

Over the next few months, she committed

Crimes, she did it carefully no evidence was bound

She lived her life out better now since they were no more around.

Broken Love

Chelsea Freeman

Love is sacred.

If you have my heart don't break it.

I stop.

I breathe.

I sigh.

But later get hurt because of their lies.

Love is like a drug.

They break your heart.

And then sweep it under the rug.

Then, later I see a bug.

As it swishes by my ear

Voices in my head as I gain fear.

I stop.

I wonder.

I can feel my heart plunder.

When you get hurt,

it feels as if someone is pulling you under.

As I'm getting pulled under.

They can see my lightning,

But they can't feel my thunder.

Stop and Listen

Quincey Travis

Stop and Listen

Stop being a hot head

Listen

It's not hard to learn to control your mouth

Some people get mad

Fussing and cussing for no reason

When I say what I want,

it's a problem

When I fuss and cuss,

it's a controlling problem

Stop and Listen

Don't Get Behind

Chloe Lloyd

I organized my things

So I don't get behind

I organized my time

So I don't get behind

I avoided distractions

So I don't get behind

I took a break

but only to refocus

So I wouldn't get behind

The Flames
Daytton Turner

She finds me
Laying my body amongst the ashes of who came before
And sets me aflame
My pain and suffering keeping her warm and safe
The burning being worth it
The flames, eating away at me
But showing my love
I burn till I'm only ashes
My usefulness exhausted
Then she selects another
Laying them upon my ashes
So my remains shall be a foundation for the next
My love and affections
And those who come before and after
Keeping her safe and warm
Till we are no more

Finding a Way
Cade Hunt

Sometimes I sit in my backyard
Wondering why life can be so hard
Am I just a bad person with lots of bad luck?
Is that why my life tends to suck?
But I can't just sit there crying all day
So I overcome all my obstacles and find a way.

Feathers Spread

Auroura Garcia

Possibility,
Life is full of you
Flying through the sky as an angel
Wings spread, feathers blowing in the wind

Climbing a tree as if young and free
Swinging from a branch,
breathing in the fresh air
Life is full of you

Winning a race, graduating high school,
getting the job of your life,
Succeeding in life



Bird's Nest by Ashton Garner

Curtains

Marquis Turner

The curtains have all the time in the world to move around
Yet stay still as a statue in a quiet room
Wind makes them dance around in little motions but are still when found
It's hard to tear them down but easy wrap them around
They come in all shapes and sizes and are colorful too

They sit there for years wasting away rotting and getting dirty and old
Until they are washed and renewed, they rip and tear but can be fixed
They break and bend at the top of the stick just like hearts on a bad day.

Pop Goes Possibility

Chelsea Freeman

Will you listen?
Or go cold turkey and go missing?
I know you seem willing.
But you're like a paralyzed leg with no feeling.
As we sit staring into the fields
Do you know if Jeepers Creepers would appear?
Do you know when things in life will pop out at you?
You say you know fear.
Is that something you feel or hear?
Are we thinking what to do?
Are we foreigners with no clue?

A Wolf

Amiyah Moody

I am a loner
But can be in group
if I wish
I can be very aggressive
playful or calm
it can depend on my mood
I love to be free and alone
I would love to run and go as far as I can
I want to have very few boundaries
to never back down from a challenge
To give my enemies a piece of my mind
to bask at the moonlight
But I'm just little worried about the world just past my own eyes.

Snake

Marquis Turner

Sneaky or I blend in
Every now and then
I shed into a new skin

I can be nice but it's not my nature
It's not my fault I'm hated by all
People are taught to stay away but
Some stay to play

Although I'm not liked I still make friends
When I do I hold on tight and I won't let go
Until I know they have nowhere else to go

Life Of A Squirrel

Savannah Tyler

She scurries across, collecting her food for winter
She has to pause when she sees them walk past
The people... they scare her, She doesn't want them to see
She looks like a berry in a field while running...
She could easily get lost in the sea of people
Being small is only good for hiding and movie fast
She gets scared while everything towers over
She lives, but not without fear

At Your Own Pace

Alexsis Bennett

Moving a little slow
but that's how you win the race,
practice slow and steady..
go at your own pace.
Staying in that shell away from all the world
While others move too fast, it makes you want to hurl
Go at your own speed, wait until the right time
Then when you're sure you're ready
You can say "the world is mine"
Never try to rush
because the others are still behind
Keep moving at your own pace
and you'll be just fine

A Roach

Dayton Turner

A roach
Small and insignificant
But such a nuisance
Resilient
Yet hunted till they can take it no longer
Thriving on opportunity and luck of remaining hidden
Living off of what others threw away
Often unnoticed from afar
But despised and feared when known
I am a roach
Not much to look at
Resilient but always in danger
Hidden if lucky
Hated if seen



Looking through Flowers by Savannah Tyler

Blooming

Autumn Dantzler

Starting off as a seed
I had to grow
Patiently everyone waited
I needed sun but wasn't receiving
Soaking in every drop of rain
Grateful for every ray of sun
I soon bloomed.

Inscrutable

Leah Turner

I gaze out my window with the absent comfort of nature
To think of the window itself, it's a beautifully painted picture;
A peek at another world you haven't yet stepped into
But a picture has only one scene

Anyone can give a window the misspoken description of an 'appealing
portrait'
But a picture's attraction is only skin deep
A window's enchantment lies behind it
Where lies the beauty if there's no mystery?

Nature's Song

Maddox Canard

As the sun is up at the rise of dawn;
Everything in the forest becomes a little less calm;
The birds chirp their usual rhythm;
Into mid-day we hear the wind's beautiful song at play;
We lay there in the meadow full of color;
But Life didn't care to bother;
As we listen harder;
We can hear more than the wind's song;
nature is old, but its song never seems to age;

Haiku Trio
Glenda Hartfield

Wildflowers blooming
Sinker bobbing, making rings
Ten pounder swimming away

Dragonfly bouncing
Dancing on the sleepy lake
Bigmouth bass luncheon

Springtime sunset glow
Whirrrr! Whip! Set the hook right...Now!
Finally supper!

Cookie Dough
Ashton Garner

Warm stove
Mixing by hand until sticky
and polka dotted
My old friend
You help
Warm my heart
And finish my recipe.



Gloomy Days

Autumn Dantzler

Rainy dark days
Listening to the sound of thunder
In the corner with thoughts flowing
through my mind
Feeling like this will never end
Everything hurts, especially my heart
Grieving on someone who's still alive
I wouldn't wish this hurt on anyone
Remembering that it's alright to cry sometime
Storms don't last forever
Maybe I should thank him for breaking my heart
I couldn't be sad forever
Tomorrow isn't looking so gloomy
I saw better days
I saw more smiles
But there's still some gloomy days
Thoughts rushing onto me
Overwhelmed, but the sun has to shine some day.

Lonely Corners

Leah Turner

Dark corners in your mind
you didn't know existed
You used to be accompanied
but now its all twisted
You think to yourself,
“what all went wrong?”
As you sit dazed and confused,
like an old, woeful song.

A sudden burst of light,
a new page of the book
A plot twist? A curveball?
An odd turn you took?
Maybe an old friend
who came by to visit
But the footsteps
pass the doorway.
Maybe they missed it.

Your Mother's Voice

Alexsis Bennett

Cry about all your trauma
Listen to the nonstop drama
Wipe your eyes before they call your name
This we call the crying game
They've yet to see the pain they've caused
Or see the girl they've almost lost
Tears falling like the rain
The most excruciating pain
Most girls' trauma comes from a boy
Who treats their heart often like toys
This girl's trauma comes from her mama
Her biggest blessing and main cause of drama
You can cry in the bathroom but don't make a noise
Shh...I think I hear your mother's voice.

Peace

Tank Gibson

Peace

Something I never get

Listening to this piece is instrumental

Makes me feel calm as if I have no worries or doubts.

Peace is not something I get all the time.

As if peace is a temporary thing.

Not everyone can listen to this instrumental and seek peace .

But me

I can

because peace is all I ever wanted

Peace is what makes me feel better in life.



Troubled Memories

Jake Ryals

Gloomy

If I could only have one more day, only one more.

I would pick up the phone and tell you I love you.

I would thank you for loving me unconditionally

And I would thank you for helping me to be me.

If I could only have one more day.

I pray heaven is everything you dreamt it to be.

I pray you're safe and free from pain.

And have met up with loved ones.

Manic and Frantic

Ashlynn Howell

exhausted , desolate, melancholy.

Life on a reel of film

On display in a museum

Didn't do much in life..

A little sad, depressing, and stressful.

Suddenly joyful-

Jovial!

Switching like channels on a TV

Euphoria overtakes

Thoughts erratic, slightly frantic

Manic!

Panic-

Moods switching like a light switch

Mixed Emotions

Savannah Tyler

Rain patters and bounces off the roof
The horses in the stable haven't lifted a hoof
Suddenly the thunder cracks really loud
By now, no longer is the night without sound
The sounds of the storm are no longer calming
By the sounds outside, you'd think a truck was stalling
Suddenly I'm back to the times
When cartoons were only songs and rhymes
The easy times when I didn't have to try
They were the times when I'd never cry.



The Dark

Eli Thomas

It's dark
like the clouds above my head.
the thunder rings out
while my inner demons
scream and shout.
Man,
oh how I hate those
dark clouds
always bringing the pain
back out.
Out of the happy person
I try to be,
but
the smile you physically see,
Isn't coming from that
inner dark me.

The Beat in the Night

Caden Talley

The flow so dark and creepy
So slow and iffy
Haunted and dead
All I do is lay in the bed

Then this chill tone comes on
So nice and soothing
with an energetic beat
Like a race with a good pace

Stone

Jared Boyd

My heart is stone
And for this I cannot atone.
Feeling numb to the bone,
I have always been alone.

Emotion I cannot find.
I am losing my mind.
I just want to feel.
Why is it such an ordeal?

I should be grateful
But what is to gain
When there is no pain?

It's just not fair
But who would care?...
I can't either.

Empty

Jared Boyd

I'm tired of holding in these feelings
But if I let them go it's only rage
Like I'm caught in a cage
And I still can't let it free

I feel so alone
I can't catch my bearings
When will I finally be free
And catch some needed rest.

Milk and Honey

Ashton Graham

America,

What are my possibilities?

To be like an eagle soaring
In the land of milk and honey

Living life with possibility.

The Coastal Wind

J'Vontae Dortch

The coastal wind

In my hometown

Hard winds

Lights flickering

Gaseous setting

I looked up to the sly

I saw a fly

It wandered and I pondered

All through my home town.

You See That Tree Over There?

Kimberly Scroggins

You see that tree over there?
The one no one seems to see.
The tree feels as if it's dying every time a leaf leaves.
No one including the tree, believes it will be pretty again,
but the wind whispers
to the tree, "wait and see."

Now look at the tree big as can be.
Everyone saying "The leaves are so beautiful to me,"
Tree tall as a giant, so that everyone can see.
The tree wishes for the wind to whisper again,
The wind says "I didn't do anything,
you just had to believe."

Being Patient

Leah Turner

Soft whispers
Wars in my mind
Waves of relief
Flames in my stomach

Sweet melodies
Relentless clamor
Safe 'get aways'
Escape!

A Father's Farewell

Auroura Garcia

Windows open
Pumpkins carving

Laughter in the distance
moo of the grazing cows
Baseball in the field

Happiness turned to sadness
A chair once filled

Oh how the sadness defeats me
Joyful memories once filled the room
But now are replace with sadness and doom

Memory

Maddox Canard

Memories they are so clear to me;
Like the sky;
Memories are something cherished;
It's the thing that we don't want to perish;
Memories live with us;
It's always inside our heads waiting to be replayed;
As we replay them our hearts remember the feelings from back then;
Stored safely inside our heads.

A New Me

Ashton Graham

In the day time
the sky as dark as night.
We have seen no sunshine
it is definitely not a delight.
Another crime
we must fight.
Tomorrow not so gloomy
there will be a new me.

Obstacles

Alec Howell

I don't know if I do this right
But how I overcome obstacles
is to just deal with it.

Because

When life throws something at you.
The only thing you can do
is get through it.

If I am being honest



Maned Lioness by Ashlynn Howell

A Maned Lioness

Ashlynn Howell

I am strong

I am loyal.

I can be feminine

I can be masculine

I am a maned lioness

It's unexpected of me

My mane is longer than most male's

Yet shorter than them too.

I AM a maned lioness, and I wear my mane with pride.

The Heart of Lion

Tank Gibson

I am not like you

I am brave

I am fearless

I am kind

I am motivated

I am generous

I follow my own path

I have the heart of a lion

Like a Cat

Leah Turner

I'm more like a cat

I get into things

I'm easily amused

Can sometimes be mean

It's not what you think

I'm still able to be nice

But stubbornness is consuming

It's happened more than twice

Ant People

Quentin Plerce

People should be like ants.

Ants work together as a team.

Ants gather food and take care of each other.

Ants tunnel to keep each other safe.

Ants are humble,

They care for each other

and work together and try to please one
another.

Ants fight to protect each other.

People should do what ants do.

Maintain Your Vehicle

Austin Holder

You need to listen to your vehicle.

Vroom!

You need to feel how it purrs.

Better its maintenance,

better its mobility.

The better, better and better

it runs.

Vroom!

It's Just a Baseball

Caden Talley

And there it goes a white pearl over the back stop
Never ending rolling down the black top
Boom!!! Bang!!! Bop!!!
Crashing cars, setting off alarms
Bouncing like a bouncy ball
It bounces right over the wall
Into the votech it goes
Everyone knows
Without a key that's a NO!
One down eleven to go
Foul!!! Foul!!! Foul!!!
Wow!!! Wow!!! Wow!!!
Sixty six dollars a dozen for balls
All twelve of them over the wall.

A Shocking Life Lesson

Quentin Pierce

Life lesson: be who you are.
Life lesson: don't be ashamed of who you are.
Life lesson: don't grab an electric fence.



The Porch
Eli Thomas

My porch
is my favorite place.
It's like when I go onto it
I take a break
from reality.
Like taking a trip
to another world
to clear my mind.
Then I leave and
the dreams fade and reality hits
like a hammer striking a nail.



The Darkness of Love

Auroura Garcia

Sitting in the deep dark damp forest
Waiting, wondering, watching, listening,
afraid of what may appear next to me

I run it follows

I stop it stops

I fall It drags me deeper and deeper into the dark damp forest

I'm wet.

I'm cold.

I'm petrified of what's to come next
It takes my heart consuming it with love and fear
And that is the true darkness of love.

At the Corner of Alma and Gaynell

Daytton Turner

At the corner of Alma and Gaynell
There sits a home
Queer and silent until the moon rises
Then the house bustles
Like a New York subway
With oceans of friends and family
Far as the eyes can see
Music and kids yelling and horseplaying
While the adults are playing cards, drinking, and laughing
The occasional yelling from Ms. Tammy
Then back to laughing
Not sleeping till the AM
Or till everyone leaves for home
Quite similar to a dwarven cavern
But much taller and less weapons of course
Happy and idiotic
There are the best nights
At the corner of Alma and Gaynell

The Cowboys Ride Away

Caden Talley

Like a mansion so nice and clean
I haven't seen something like that

So free and comfortable
Grandma's cooking makes everyone full

There is boomin' bangin' bopping' going on in the game room
While the boys are playing the stereo

A lot of fun when we sit outside on the sunny day
Listening to George Strait as he sings, "The cowboys ride away"

Happily Ever After

Nevaeh Benefield

It was an early morning after a rough year.

We all sat in Nana's living room.

The tree stood taller than the roof.

The decorations hung brightly like shooting stars.

The smiles on the kids faces were bright as they opened all the presents.

The laughs were big and the hugs were safe.

The dressing and ham was even better than the year before.

We all sat together when we said grace.

For a day it felt like home..

24-7 Our Time With God

Donteria Bradley

Do you know a person you can depend on 24-7?, Yes, God!
God is the one and only person that will truly be there to listen to you.
He is always on call no matter what time of the day it may be;
When you are praying for a miracle, just be patient.
God is going to work it out for you!

God is a miracle worker and he always will be.
You can depend on him for your whole entire life.
Through good or bad our God will always be there.
He'll never judge; he will just be there to guide you down the right path.
He will guide you to the night, never to the darkness.

Always know and don't forget God is available 24-7.
Be ready to give him your attention.
He will always be there to listen.
24-7 and nothing less!
He will comfort you if you can not get any rest.

Definition

Alexsis Bennett

All of the pain and the agony,
seems to creep inside and
take over me.

I sit in the tub to rinse it off
but nothing seems to
make it stop.

I cut everyone off because I
hate them all

They want to see you rise but
don't help when you fall

But out of all of this there's
nothing I gained

This...
the true
definition of pain.

Realization

Alexsis Bennett

As soon as I roll over,
my mother kisses my head
and wakes me up,
yet again with breakfast in bed.

She hands me a tray with all of my
favorite things, she even covered my fruit
with sprinkles of tajin.

She opens my blinds,
and my dad walks in too, giving me
today's details
of the things that we'll do.

Nothing's going wrong, today's the
perfect morning.
Then I open my eyes to my alarm clock.

They

Savannah Tyler

Taller than the tallest building they stand

They lock my path and attempt to frighten me

In my mind

I have seen worse than this

In my mind

I have felt worse than this

Once they realize the worst, they move

All of a sudden they move, because they have no reason

No reason, that is, to stay in my way

When you've been through worse...

obstacles are as good as none.



Cracked Concrete by Savannah Tyler

Patience

Alexsis Bennett

Maybe I should have waited
Maybe If I had kept you, my trust wouldn't be gated
My mind wouldn't be los, and I wouldn't have been confused
I should have seen it coming since I'm used to being used
Instead of trying to make friends, I should have focused on you
Like a baby is with candy or an animal at the zoo
Like a mom focused on her child or a granny focused on sewing
I should have seen it coming
But she did it without me knowing.

That Time Of The Month

Alexsis Bennett

Smile in public and cry behind closed doors
Does anybody care?
They never ask anymore like “ Hey, how ya been?”
I'll say I've been fine.
But I'll smile fakely hoping they see the pain in my eyes.
And if you're reading this now, I'm doing divine.
Just turn and look at me can't you tell I'm fine?
Check on your friends and your kids too.
Mental health is real and they might need you.

A Long Shower

Alexsis Bennett

Sitting and crying while in the shower
Little lines developing on your skin
It's been hours
Nobody's come or knocked at the door
What other reason are you in here for?
Same unnoticed sobbing in the same bathtub
Unnoticed heartbreak, is there not enough love?
Like the water dripping from your head to your feet
Tears falling

Beauty *And* The Mirror

Leah Turner

That mirror didn't line up with my young minded, self-righteous opinions
Unable to correct the irreversible reality, I desperately tried
to alter what was in it
My mother's abnormal perspective loved what was reality to her
She loved that old mirror

Offered encouragement: promising that what was, was astounding
Two different realities in one lens
Still, my stubbornness refused to let me see beyond her vision
She loved that old mirror

Confused we stood staring
I couldn't understand why she admired that mirror so much
Both puzzled for incommensurable reasons
She loved that old mirror

Memory Lane

Nathan Clifton

This house is a memory
Inside my living room, I got hit in the eye by my baby sister
with a wrench
Go up to the kitchen had my funniest Halloween dress-up party
Go over to my sister's room, which is where I played
with my baby sister
We go to my parent's bedroom and bathroom;
I was not allowed into those rooms
Inside my bathroom is where I had my first ever
shower and not a bath,
Go down to my bedroom I got my first ever
PlayStation 4 for Christmas
Go to the garage; we had
baby chickens, two baby rabbits, a husky, a cat and a pig
Head outside where a black bear showed up in my yard
My step-dad tried to scare me through my window
with a Halloween mask on.

Comforting Home

Austin Holder

A home full of joy
It always smelled like fresh baked cookies
We played with the toy kitchen set as we would make the ssss noises
We would paint every Saturday
Every morning we would wake up to the roosters crowing
We had pancakes and eggs every morning
My granny would say, "Y'all are as energetic as a litter of puppies!"
It was the best place ever.

The Good, the Bad

Ana Franklin

I have so many memories
Some good some bad
With all the laughs and cries
With all the tears and lies
I wouldn't change it for the world
When the storms come and it brings the rain
In the end I see a rainbow
From getting to see my brother for the first time
To getting to hold my aunt's hand until her last breath
Though my parents might fight
And it sounds like roaring thunder
I know it will be better by night
Though I go through hell
I will never stop in it,
I will keep pushing through
Like the leaves in the winter

Feels Like Yesterday

Quentin Pierce

So much loss in such a short time.
Feels like yesterday we were sitting on a creek bank.
Feels like yesterday we were casting our line in the water.
Feels like yesterday we were watching a western on the tv.
Such much loss in a short time,
but always remember the memories that count the most.

Leaving

J'Vontae Dortch

I hear music
The music is playing
The music started getting louder

I felt the music calming and
mellowing me out
Many people don't like music
The music is pretty
The music is wandering
I love hearing classic music

Classic music is leaving.

Porcelain Doll

Kylee Spooner

Fragile, yes! but beautiful. I was
simply natural.
Crafted by the Master.
Then came the fire.
Pain! Beauty. Pain! Beauty.
Am I finished with the fire?
Am I a completed project?
The Master may never stop painting,
but with every firing I am made
stronger and more beautiful.

The Old House

Kimberly Scroggins

Walking in the old house seeing memories left and right,
I see me and my brother rapping about life.
Sitting on the couch yelling you go first,
talking smack about our family in every verse.

Walking further I see myself,
cutting but thinking I'm just combing my hair.
My mother came to me and asked why she sees hair,
I told her I thought I was combing it but she didn't care;
she grabbed a switch and whooped me til she saw a tear.
I didn't know it was a razor comb, so I didn't think that was fair.

Next I see me in my old room laying down with a straw
trying so hard to pull out my tooth.
As I watched I was very confused,
because what made me think that was cool.
When I got the tooth out,
I rolled over and curled up like a little baby and shut my eyes
so I could get my money from the tooth fairy lady.

As I walked to my mother's room I see me, her, Manman, and Jason
Me and Manman singing Jason a church song
him and mama were smiling
We all looked so happy,
I wouldn't trade these memories for a thousand dollars.

Outside the boys playing, I see myself yelling telling my brother,
"Mama said come in the house!"
The boys outside copying me laughing thinking it was funny
I see me telling them to hush while looking behind me
making sure my little brother is coming.

Going outside riding bikes remembering mama saying,
"Be in before the street lights!"
Seeing fights between grown people being nosey when knowing
we didn't need to be nowhere in sight,
Wow I miss the apartments that's really where my life started.

The Rose

Amauri Johnson

There must be something
That exists beautifully
Within the sunshine
That warms my skin
With the slightest touch of rays
So delicate to the eye
The beauty of the petals
fall so flawlessly within.



Rose in Rain Glenda Hartfield

My Loose Tooth

Autumn Dantzler

Remembering to brush my teeth daily
A tooth became loose
Getting my dad to pull and pull on it
Very excited because it's my first
tuggin' and pullin' until it finally falls out
Ready to go goodnight to see what the tooth fairy has in store
But waking up to nothing....
Disappointed, sad, as every little kid would be
Throwing a fit!
My dad has now become the tooth fairy
Happy as ever I became.

Moving to Arkansas

Hayden Hinton

It was January 1, 2013
My mom woke me up, and had me breakfast from Wards.
She told me to eat, then start packing.
I ate and started packing,
then my uncle came in the room to help me.
I was thinking in my head
I want to give him something to remember me.
When he took my Drew Brees poster off the wall,
I knew that's what I wanted him to have.
It was perfect;
he liked the Saints so a picture of Drew throwing touchdown pass
would be perfect
He said, "Where do you want this?"
I said, "I want you to have it to remember me by."
He laughed and said "I will never forget you;
When it comes to you, my memory is like God's."
So we finished loading everything in the U-haul
and moved to Arkansas.
We moved back a year later,
The first thing I did was go to my uncle's house.
He had the poster on his wall
and it made me remember the day we moved.
Eight years later the poster is still on his wall
Everytime I see it
I laugh and think of the time we moved to Arkansas.

Home

Chloe Lloyd

A place for gathering in
laughter
A safe place surrounded by
loved ones
Home is belonging and
longing
To be home.

Quiet Time

Eli Thomas

That soft, fluffy fabric
is like a hug
from an old friend.
Even the creaking of the
springs comforts me.
My old, hand-me-down chair
Always warms my soul and
allows me to rest my mind.

Memories

Kimberly Tanner

So many come and so many go.
They say time will never slow, stop, and pause;
memories will go on the road.
Time is supposed to help you grow.
Memories are like snowy days in a southern forest;
it barely happens, and when it does,
the memories fade like the melting snow.

Memories are made by good and bad deeds.
People in your life can share certain memories.
They are important and they sometimes last.
Time will come and time will pass.

The Sound of the Music

Kimberly Tanner

The sound of the music was graceful,
like a child on a lonely day at the park.
Imagination sparks the mind of the child from light to dark.
Swinging high and low watching her hair in the wind get blown.
Sliding down the slide in the shape of a cone.
Puddles of water about to be gone.

Time passes by and it's time to go home.
She had a great day like no other has known.
She eats her food as fast as she could see.
So graceful the day as honey on a tree.