

***KIDS!***  
**SAN DIEGO**  
**POETRY**  
**ANNUAL**  
**2020**



**San Diego Entertainment + Arts Guild**  
Rainbow, California

*San Diego Entertainment + Arts Guild (SDEAG)*  
*Garden Oak Press*  
*1953 Huffstatler St., Suite A*  
*Rainbow, CA 92028*  
*760 728-2088*  
*sdeag.org      sdeag1@gmail.com*  
*gardenoakpress.com      gardenoakpress@gmail.com*

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# Foreword

This collection reflects a year defined by pandemic, disruption, and uncertainty – as well as resilience and innovation.

Despite the closure of libraries and schools which have hosted *KSDPA* workshops in previous years, our dedicated coalition of poets, educators, and community stakeholders launched our first ever series of virtual workshops in 2020 for young people throughout the San Diego region. We thank the public libraries, schools, and other organizations that supported these workshops, as well as the poet-teachers who designed and facilitated them.

And most importantly, we are grateful to the families whose children put to words glimmers from their hearts and minds. Through their poems and drawings, we are reminded that, even when we cannot come together in person, our voices unite us.

—YING WU  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



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YING WU  
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RAE ROSE  
*Editor*

AMEERAH HOLLIDAY  
*Assistant Editor*





## **The Man on the Porch**

The man looked sad sitting there doing nothing.  
He looked like things are going to the end for him.  
He was frowning until I smiled and waved at him.  
He waved back. The man seemed miserable.  
He went back to frowning  
in his rocking chair on his porch.

## People

People at home, people on the streets,  
there are people all around.

There was a man I saw by Costco  
holding a sign that said,  
*Please help and anything works.*

He was wearing a torn shirt that was brown  
and jeans that were also torn.

He looked sad.

He had so much dirt on his face,  
it looked like he hadn't taken a shower  
in days.

## **I Wish**

A man lived on a corner with a sign  
that said, *No food or money*.  
I felt really bad. I wanted to do something.  
I imagined how happy he would be  
having some food and money.  
I wanted to give those things to him  
but I didn't have either one.  
I wish that I could give food and money  
to poor people.  
Some people around the world don't have  
food, money, homes, or a family.

Jennifer Borbon

## **I Wanted to Help**

Saw a family of three, a mom with two kids,  
sitting by a grocery store. The mother was holding  
a sign and it said,

*Please help no home and two kids.*

I looked around but there was no father.  
The family looked like they'd been through a lot.  
I felt so bad. They had no home to go to.  
They didn't have jackets or blankets  
to keep them warm at night,  
they had no food to fill their tummies.  
I wanted to help but I could not.

Sandy Juarez

## **Dust in Their Eyes**

I feel sorry for some people I know.  
I see them every year.  
They're in the hot sun  
with the dust in their eyes  
when I'm sitting here relaxing  
in front of the AC.  
They're asking for food  
while I eat a fresh meal.  
They're in rags.  
I get brand new ones.

## Just in Case

I saw a girl on the side of Denny's  
when I was going to the store.  
She had a sign that said,  
*Can you help me get some food?*  
I thought that she needed some help  
so my mom and I went to get her some food.  
Then we got her some pancakes with two sides  
of fries and a Sprite and iced tea.  
I thought that she was homeless  
because she was wearing khakis  
that had holes and was really dirty.  
Her jacket was ripped and her hair  
was a little messed up  
so my mom and I went to the corner store  
to get her some shoes and clothes.  
On top of that we gave her \$40  
just in case she needed something else.  
She was so happy she started to cry.  
That made my heart feels so good.  
I prayed for her and also started to cry.

## **Saved the Day**

When I was done eating  
I was full, but there were some leftovers.  
I didn't want to waste them so I wanted to give  
them to a homeless person who I'd seen  
outside on the wall of the mall  
with his shopping cart, and  
so dirty he looked like a person  
who hadn't showered in a year.  
But he was gone –  
like the wind blew him away.  
I looked around to find another  
homeless person,  
as if I was a detective.  
I looked 'til I found one.  
The sign said, *Anything would help*,  
and we gave him the food.  
He said thank you, then we drove away.  
I felt like a hero who just saved the day.

## Poverty

One time my mom and I went to the store.  
I saw someone with a kid. I wanted to help  
but didn't have any money. I thought to myself  
they might buy drugs so I decided  
I wouldn't give them money,  
but I would give them food.  
In my life I have hope and everything,  
but I ask myself – do kids have hope?  
Everyone has nice clothes  
but this kid had torn clothes.  
So why is no one helping him?  
My mom and I went to the store.  
I got the family some food.

## **Why?**

I saw a kid  
wearing rags,  
torn and dirty.  
I thought to myself,  
*Why?*  
Why won't anyone help him?  
As he passed by,  
I started thinking.  
*What if that was me?*  
Would people not care?  
Then I made a decision.  
I found him and  
gave him my lunch.

## Fluffy

Once I saw a man on a corner.  
He seemed to be hungry.  
He also had a dog.  
I felt bad for the dog.  
It looked skinny. So did the man.  
His clothes were torn and dirty.  
He had a sign that said,  
*Can you help me and my dog get food?*  
So my mom and I went to get  
some food for them.  
Then the man said he was happy  
and the dog was wiggling.  
He asked me to name his dog  
so I named him "Fluffy."  
Then I petted Fluffy  
for a few minutes and left.

## Happy

I always see a lady at a store –  
clothes torn, out in the cold.  
I'm standing there wondering  
if she has any children.  
So I asked my dad if I could have \$20.  
I bought the lady a warm meal  
and some new clothes.  
That made her day, and mine, too.  
Before we left I looked back  
and saw two kids go up to her.  
They were her children  
and they were all happy.

## **The Smile**

I saw a homeless man  
with brown pants that were ripped.  
He had a white shirt and wore  
white and blue shoes.  
He was sitting on  
the sidewalk next to KFC.  
I felt so bad so  
I just smiled at him  
and he smiled back.

## Grateful

I've seen a guy  
always in the middle of the street  
holding a sign  
so he can get something to eat.  
But he barely got food from people.  
So I gave him some  
because he looked in bad shape.  
His clothes were ripped and his teeth  
were bad. I gave the man some  
gift cards so he could get some food.  
A lot of people use the money for other stuff.  
But I give them gift cards  
for some food if they're starving.  
They always say, "Thank you so much,"  
and I tell them, "You're welcome."

## **Our Differences**

I saw a man  
and thought to myself,  
Raggedy clothes –  
clean straight clothes,  
Holey shoes –  
nice brand new shoes.  
Next to IHOP  
we just ate at.  
Thought of our differences.  
Wanted to give.  
Time goes by so fast  
and I could not.  
So I said a prayer  
hoping it would be answered.

## Wondering Why

On a cold night  
a woman and a man  
sit under the black starry sky  
as people walk by and wonder why.

These random two people  
were asking for supplies.  
When offered, they judge them  
for not having good materials.

A boy walks by, asks them why  
they ask for supplies.  
He replies, "I mostly need supplies  
for my wife. As long as she's okay,  
I'm fine."  
I asked my mom for money.  
She hands me \$10, and I go back  
to the man and woman.

## Because of One Man

On a street corner nearest Murphy's, a man who looked hungry, ripped shirt and pants, ripped gloves, shoes with holes, dirt and dust on his face, had nowhere to go. No home! Only a sign that said: *Help me please. I need food.* He was sad with generosity in his eyes.

Another man looks him in the eyes and says, "I will help with all I can."

The woman gives the man a box  
with unknown ideas.

As the man leaves, he says, "This will give me hope."

The man had comfort,  
but also uncertainty with the box.

He needed to open the box but was nervous, scared.

What the box had inside might change his life –  
food, clothes water and money as well.

This generosity gave him hope,  
hope that things would get better.

This would help with the colder-than-cold times, the  
badder-than-bad times. The man was happier  
than a child on a trampoline.

He was ecstatic, now knowing he will be fine.

He can help himself and his family.

He is finally someone who feels comforted and safe.

He's happier than ever because of one man.

## Grass

Grass is a living coloration, Mother Nature,  
a part of our hands.

Help with its cultivation –

a material that saves our lives.

Beautiful as the sunrise shining.

Grass is like water getting poured in your mouth.

Grass makes you feel like a part of your family.

Grass can lead you to heaven for your living.

Grass is such a gorgeous plant.

People crush grass like it's not your savior.

Grass is family – your family ???

People think this life will die, grass is a living thing.

What is grass to you? Not just to walk on,

but your pathway leading to heaven,

for grass will be on your side to live.

Well, you may think your life is worthless.

Feeling worthless makes you worry about your life.

Life is ??? People love each other,

but God made us to be happy, not gloomy.

Gloomy means your life doesn't need to be

as lonely as grass being dried, and dying

in your own eyes.

It may be difficult to be one with the

grass, but you are one, my friend.

Sherlyn Lopez  
Quechan

Once the world was perfect  
My Native Culture is Quechan or Kwtsaan  
I am the Hoka  
The Bird Songs teach me our Culture, our language  
I am from the gourd rattle and the gourd  
When I hear coyotes, they howl  
The collage team showed me  
that you can do anything  
The medicine comes from tribes and helps people  
when they are sick when there are no doctors

Sherlyn Lopez  
Quechan

I am Sherlyn Lopez  
I wonder who was ever first ever born  
I hear laughing  
I see dogs and cats in the street  
I want an art set  
I am Sherlyn Lopez  
I pretend to be a football player  
I feel something about my cat always by me  
I touch a light bulb  
I worry I'm not getting answers right  
I cry when someone hurts my feelings  
I am proud  
I understand when I get answers to questions  
I say unicorns  
I dream to be an artist when I grow up  
I try everyday to do my work  
I hope one day to meet an artist  
I am proud to be myself

Rocco Howard

La Jolla

Once the world was small  
My Native Culture is Native American  
I am *nusun*  
The Bird Songs teach me speak  
I am from the gourd rattle and gourd  
When I hear coyotes, I listen  
The collage team showed me loyalty  
The medicine comes from berry picking

Rocco Howard  
La Jolla

I am funny and nice  
I wonder what happens in 2021  
I hear my mom's voice  
I see a shadow  
I want VR headset  
I am funny and nice  
I pretend to have powers  
I feel happy  
I touch the clouds  
I worry about bullies  
I cry at sad movies  
I am funny and nice  
I understand ghosts are real  
I say I believe in the Loch Ness monster  
I dream about being in my favorite TV show  
I try be the best at playing video games  
I hope for 2021 to be good  
I am funny and nice

Presley Howard  
Cheyenne, Luiseño, Cupeño

I am Cheyenne and Luiseño-Cupeño  
from my dad and my mom  
I wonder if COVID-19 is going to stop spreading  
I hear my cat purring  
I see my cat sunbathing in the window  
I want an ice cream  
I am Cheyenne and Luiseño-Cupeño  
from my dad an my mom  
I feel great  
I touch my phone  
I worry about my cat, he's been with us for 3 years  
I cry because my cat is getting old  
I am Cheyenne and Luiseño-Cupeño  
from my dad and mom  
I understand that my cat is old  
I say I believe in scary stories  
I dream of my cat that went missing 1 year ago  
I try to paint my nails but I always mess up  
I hope COVID-19 will stop  
I am Cheyenne and Luiseno-Cupeno  
from my dad and mom

Presley Howard  
Cheyenne, Luiseño, Cupeño

Once the world was fresh  
My Native Culture is Cheyenne, Luiseño, Cupeño  
I am the *Ahom*  
The Bird Songs teach me to never give up  
I am not from the gourd rattle  
When I hear coyotes scrap, they make my dog bark  
The collage team showed me family  
The medicine comes from my family

Miley Magee  
Rincon

Once the world was peaceful  
My Native Culture is Luiseño  
I am the *nokiïyam*.  
The Bird Songs teach me to dance  
I am from the gourd rattle  
and I don't come from that  
When I hear coyotes, I ignore them  
The collage team showed me nothing  
The medicine comes from the ground

Miley Magee  
Rincon

I am miley magee  
I wonder what it would be like if  
my loved ones were still here  
I hear the drum  
I see *tishmal*  
I want my family to be happy and healthy  
I am miley magee  
I pretend to be a designer  
I feel happy most of the time  
I touch the stars  
I worry the way the world is  
I cry over the loss of my great-grandpa  
I am miley magee  
I understand that life has up and downs  
I say the creator is a great mystery  
I dream of the world one day healing  
I try to be better person  
I hope to make my family proud  
I am miley magee

## **I Believe**

I believe that all native  
americans have their own culture.  
I believe that all native americans can fly high.  
I believe that all native americans can believe.  
I believe that all native americans can  
learn, and my name means *my son*.

Nokaamay Calac  
Rincon

I am Native American  
I wonder, can I learn my culture  
I hear animals  
I see land  
I want this chaos to end  
I am a Native American  
I pretend that I have a million dollars  
I feel nothing  
I touch animals  
I worry that I am going to die  
I cry because of my sister  
I am Native American  
I understand cooking  
I say, help me  
I dream that I have a million dollars  
I try to have a million dollars  
I hope I have a million dollars  
I am Native American

Isabella Sanchez  
Diegueño

Once the world was clean, now it's not clean.  
My Native Culture is bird dancing.  
I am English.  
The Bird Songs teach me about the past and now.  
I am from the gourd rattle and palm seeds.  
When I hear coyotes, I think, *bad luck*.  
The collage team showed me how  
to show a good role model.  
The medicine comes from the Earth.

Isabella Sanchez  
Diegueño

I am sleepy and mad  
I wonder what life would be without me  
or when I'm older  
I hear my old friend's voice in my head  
I see my imaginary friend  
I want to be a music hunter  
I am sleepy and mad  
I pretend to play with my imaginary friend  
I feel weird like sad or mad it's a weird feeling  
I touch my imaginary friend's hand  
because when  
I was little he used to hold my hand  
when I needed one to hold  
What worries me is when I think about when I die  
I cry when I talk about my past  
I am sleepy and mad  
I understand slender man is still alive and hidden  
I say I believe in sally  
I don't have dreams  
I have some nightmares  
I try to be a better person everyday

Isaac Guzman  
™ and La Jolla

Once the world was peaceful  
My Native Culture is La Jolla and ™  
I am the *neyuul* chi-ish  
The Bird Songs teach me La Jolla  
I am from the gourd rattle and fiesta  
When I hear coyotes, I feel a good vibe  
The collage team showed me our culture  
The medicine comes from culture

I am from ™ and La Jolla  
I wonder if COVID-19 is going to end  
I hear clock  
I see a red light  
I want money  
I am from ™ and La Jolla  
I pretend to skydive  
I feel  
I touch money  
I worry when I go to school and I get in trouble  
for no reason  
I cry when the Raiders lose a game.  
I am from ™ and La Jolla  
I understand that I am a Raiders fan  
I say that I am going to be a rapper and be famous  
I dream me being a rapper  
I am from ™ and La Jolla

Evelyn Toedt  
Rincon Cahuilla

Once the world was peaceful  
My Native Culture is Luiseño-Cahuilla  
I am a *Nushune* (my sweetheart)  
The Bird Songs teach me about creation stories  
I am from the gourd rattle and make music  
When I hear coyotes, I get scared  
The collage team showed me pictures  
The medicine comes from our ancestry

Evelyn Toedt  
Rincon Cahuilla

I am tiny and bossy  
I wonder if the corona virus is going to be over  
before Halloween  
I hear relaxing songs  
I see a waterfall falling into a river  
I want a quad for Christmas  
I am tiny and bossy  
I pretend to be bigger and wear makeup  
I feel funny  
I touch clouds and rainbows  
I worry about failing school staying in 5th grade  
I cry and am sad when I get hurt  
I am tiny and bossy  
I understand my work sometimes  
I say family will always love you  
I dream about becoming a nurse  
I try to be good in school and make good choices  
I am tiny and bossy

Atilano Bojorquez  
La Jolla Band of Indians  
La Jolla Indian Reservation

Once the world was whole  
My Native Culture is a mix  
I am a descendant of Chief Arimo  
The Bird Songs teach me our culture  
I am from the gourd rattle and drums  
When I hear coyotes, I burn sage and pray  
The medicine comes from Earth and my Mother

Atilano Bojorquez  
La Jolla Band of Indians  
La Jolla Indian Reservation

I am Nelson-Bojorquez. My clan is Guassac.  
I am Luiseño, Mohave, Sho-Ban. I am Native.  
I love my home. I love my land.  
La Jolla Indian Reservation.

Oshiila  
Luisseño

Once the world was damaged.  
My Native Culture is Luisseño.  
I am a Luisseño Indian.  
The Bird Songs teach me what my culture is.  
I am from the gourd rattle and La Jolla.  
When I hear coyotes, I don't care for them.  
The collage team showed me  
how creative I could be.  
The medicine comes from plants and herbs.

I am brave, confident  
I wonder if I can become an author  
I hear the angels singing  
I see the songs with joy  
I want to be successful in life  
I am brave, confident  
I pretend I'm going to be okay everyday  
I feel angels hugging me  
I touch the wind while I fly  
I worry that life is too short  
I cry when angels hit my hair  
I am brave, confident  
I understand that people leave the world to be free  
I say life is really short  
I dream about being an author  
I try being an author  
I hope living a long life  
I am brave, confident

Nayaloni Magee  
Pechanga

Once the world was Happy again.  
My Native Culture is Luiseño.  
I am *Nokiiyam*, meaning family.  
The Bird Songs teach me how to dance.  
I don't come from the gourd rattle. It's music.  
We don't listen to coyotes; they are bad luck to us.  
The collage team showed me nothing.  
The medicine comes from a medicine man  
& medicine woman.

# Nayaloni Magee

Pechanga

I am Nayaloni Kuulei Magee  
and I am nice and helpful.  
I wonder how we made regalia back then.  
I hear birds sing and whistle.  
I see my *yawaywichup nokiiyam*.  
I want nothing  
I am Nayaloni Kuulei Magee  
and I am nice and helpful.  
I pretend to sleep.  
I feel mad, sad, happy.  
I touch the sky.  
I worry about losing my *nokiiyam*.  
I cry when my loved ones pass.  
I am Nayaloni Kuulei Magee  
and I am nice and helpful.  
I understand right from wrong.  
I say, enjoy every day.  
I dream about my future.  
I try to learn something new every day.  
I hope I stay healthy  
I am Nayaloni Kuulei Magee  
and I am nice and helpful.

## Mimi

La Jolla band of Luiseño Indians

I am playful and funny.  
I wonder when COVID-19 will end.  
I hear ringing.  
I see orange juice, my phone, and the Chromebook.  
I want to hurry up and be done with school.  
I am playful and funny.  
I pretend to pay attention.  
I feel coldness.  
I touch air.  
I worry about family members.  
I cry for my dog Sammy  
when he passed in February.  
I am playful and funny.  
I understand that COVID-19 is everywhere.  
I say, I do my work.  
I dream about random things.  
I try to work.  
I hope I will graduate soon and maybeeee  
umm I hope COVID-19 ends soon.  
I am playful and funny.

## **Freedom**

Dreams are in my heart,  
everyday and every night.  
Martin Luther King Jr's dreams helped  
us fight for freedom rights.  
When I look up into the sky,  
I think about Martin Luther King Jr.  
and how he helped our lives.  
He practiced equal rights with positive vibes.  
Martin Luther King Jr. was a great leader  
who lives in our hearts,  
when we think of freedom and equal rights.

Leroy Salgado  
Cahuilla

I am strong and brave.  
I wonder, how do we sleep?  
I hear whispers in my ear.  
I see spirits.  
I want a PC set up.  
I am strong and brave.  
I pretend to ride a lion.  
I feel happy.  
I touch the moon.  
I worry about failing.  
I cry when I think of my grandma.  
I am strong and brave.  
I understand tomorrow's another day.  
I say ghosts are real.  
I dream of having a bear as a pet.  
I try to do my best always.  
I hope I get into a good college.  
I am strong and brave.

Leroy Salgado  
Cahuilla

Once the world was good.  
My Native Culture is awesome.  
I am a *wasa*.  
The Bird Songs teach me culture.  
I am from the gourd rattle and salgado family.  
I hear coyotes crying in the night.  
The collage team showed me spirit.  
The medicine comes from shaman.

## **COVID-19**

COVID  
is red  
19  
is gray  
We need  
it gone  
before it's  
too late.

Face  
is white  
mask is  
blue  
we need  
to wear  
the facemask  
before  
the worst  
sickness  
gets me  
or you.

Hand  
is green  
sanitizer  
is red  
We need  
to use  
hand sanitizer  
to stop  
the spread  
of COVID.

Disposable  
is blue  
gloves  
are white  
we need  
to wear gloves  
before  
we touch  
anything  
in sight  
which might  
have on it  
that deadly  
virus bite.



## **Rainbow Feelings During COVID**

Bright

Colorful

Multi-colored stripes

that change with peoples' feeling.

Red: Anger

like when I don't want to wear a mask.

Orange: Afraid

like if a raging fire gets close to our house.

Yellow: The happiness I feel

when I get to go to the beach.

Green: The disgusting COVID virus

under a microscope.

Blue: The sadness I feel

when I don't get to visit classmates.

Purple: The peace I'll feel when I'm back in school

with my rainbow friends.

## **Snow**

Could be tough  
but not too tough  
Could be flying  
in slow motion  
Hurt if it was ice  
but it's snowing.

Snow  
running in motion,  
with a little Compassion  
Snow  
soft but hard  
It makes tasks for itself  
when thrown, when grasped  
when kicked, while running.

Snow  
COVID-19 can't take that away,  
my love for it.  
I will always love snow.  
But COVID-19 with its Stay-at-Home policy  
can push me away from my dream.  
I may never have a chance  
to be with snow.

Osiris Valdez

## **The Smallest Blanket on Earth**

I am the one who protects  
human hands from COVID disaster.  
I am the one who hides  
your hand like a small blanket.  
I'm the one who should be trusted.  
I'm the force field people see.  
I cover. I protect.  
The smallest blanket on earth,  
I am your glove.

## **Xbox One X**

I'm a white  
rectangular  
special edition  
Cool Controller  
with purple, blue and silver dots.  
So enjoyable, I take the boredom away.  
Make friends and create them.  
Make parties talk.  
Learn about other players  
I can text, play different games  
need batteries.  
Heat up if played too much.

When Allan touches the button  
it all begins.  
Allan chooses the game to play  
so I can take his boredom away.  
Allan, using my controller, plays for hours.  
Fortnite, Need for Speed, Heat, and Minecraft.  
Allan builds and races in worlds  
where players connect.  
My magnificent colors make me unique.  
I bring together friends who help him  
pass levels and chat together.  
When Allan touches the button  
it all ends for the day.

## **Chocolate**

**Candy bars all day long!**

**Hot Cocoa! Delicious!**

**Off I go to taste another candy!**

**Chole, please buy me one of those Kit Kats!**

**Oreo Cookies!**

**Licorice! Yum!**

**All that chewing gum does not make me tired.**

**Trick or Treat Halloween! We get more candies!**

**Eat and eat and not get tired of it!**

## Reading

I feel like reading is like a tree.  
It starts off small where you might just be,  
then when you grow, it grows with you.  
I love to read when each adventure is new.  
And after years pass I read some more,  
it is like knocking on an unopened door,  
so when you read just know to read with ease,  
just like standing in a nice summer breeze.  
This life's an adventure just like a book,  
So go outside and take a look,  
just like you would in a lovable book.



Isabella Harvey

## **Mom**

Dear mom,  
I love you so much you see,  
but sometimes I don't treat you as you would to me.  
But you love me no matter what happened, you see.  
Your love is as big as all the seas.  
You will always be there when I fall down,  
you always think of us even when you have a frown.  
You still love me when I make a mistake,  
and help me figure it out  
when baking a yummy cake.  
I love you mom.

Taylor Lampman

## **My Love for Spider-Man**

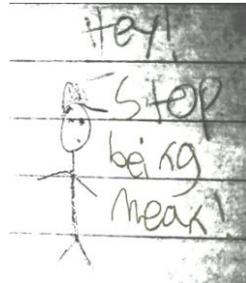
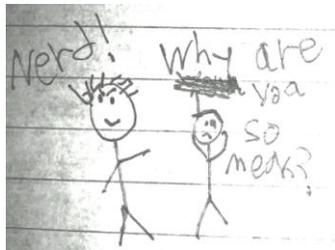
Spider-Man is great  
He is my favorite superhero and person  
Spider-Man is my everything  
I love Spider-Man

## Carter Lampman

The air is hot and steamy.  
A caterpillar makes its way down the table,  
around teapots and chairs.  
About to round a corner, it stops.  
The lights flicker on, and the passengers depart.  
The caterpillar does not move.

## Act

When you see somebody do something mean, act  
Don't act mean, act nice  
We act all the time  
just not in the right way  
Act nice  
not mean  
Act





## The Best Part of Me

The best part of me is my eyes  
They help me when I am doing turns in dance class  
I can enjoy a funny movie  
I can follow the soccer ball with my eyes  
when I'm goalie  
Look down at the numbers on the harmonica  
Tell I have the correct amount of lemon juice  
to make lemonade  
My eyes can guide me when I'm biking  
on busy streets  
Help me plant pretty tulips in the garden  
They can help guide me out of any cave  
when I'm hiking  
Help me read my books,  
such as *The Who Was* series  
I especially like Milton Hershey  
My eyes help me not burn myself while  
I'm taking cookies out of the oven  
Help me see their golden brown crispness  
I can look at colorful fun animals at the zoo,  
Hot pink flamingos elegantly standing on one leg  
I need my eyes to put finishing touches  
on some jewelry I make  
My eyes allow me to play *Trivial Pursuit*  
with my family reading the cards out loud  
I can tell when my homemade whipped cream  
is ready and delicious  
Seeing the mandala-like patterns the whisk makes  
when I lift it

## Benjamin Scheckner

Once there was a blueberry  
who wanted to be eaten  
He tried his best  
more than the rest  
but still  
wouldn't get eaten

## **I Love**

I love planets,  
plants,  
home.  
I love the earth.  
If it was not a thing,  
I would never see or have food,  
the ocean,  
my friends.  
I could never have read comics  
or books.  
I would never get warmth from the sun,  
cold from ice cream.  
I would never enjoy drawing,  
chocolate,  
or the galaxy.  
Never would I like sharks,  
music,  
or pink.  
I would never eat salmon  
or tuna.  
I would never have liked to watch birds  
or play at water parks.  
I would never have a family.  
I would never like puppies.  
I would never enjoy my mom,  
my brother,  
and my dad.  
I would never think about cutting folded paper  
or playing video games.  
But I love the earth and every thing.

## **Motor**

Mower is broke  
Oil that glugs  
Tools to fix  
On the ground  
Ready . . . Ignition!

## **Ideas**

When you have an idea,  
play with it,  
think about it,  
make inventions with it, and  
be happy with it.

## **My Yard**

Flowers, pink and leafy  
Grass, green and shady  
Skies, light blue  
Clouds, white and fluffy  
Trees, tall and strong  
Birds, flying high  
Bees pollinate the flowers  
Butterflies decorate the yard  
The day, sunny and bright

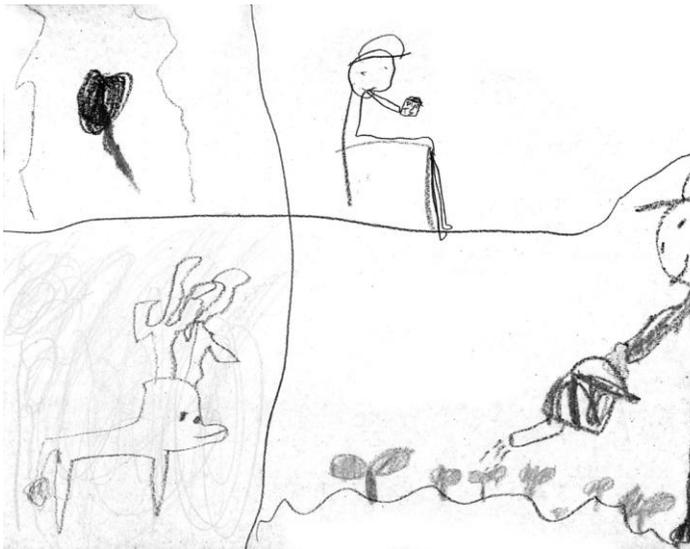
## Nature

I care about rocks  
because they will hide animals

I care about animals  
because animals live in the nature

I care about nature  
because someone needs to take care  
of plants and flowers

I care about reading  
because you will learn how to care about nature



## **The Universe Tree**

I love the universe  
and that's it  
because everything comes from  
the universe  
Think about it

Earth  
made by the universe  
giving us a place  
to take a stand

In turn  
people  
made by the earth  
giving us others  
to love and hate

In turn  
food  
planted and eaten by people  
giving us something  
to do and enjoy

I love the universe  
and that's it  
because everything comes from  
the universe  
Think about it

Carlo Giovingo Hart

## **Cookie, My Dog**

Cookies are brown, cookies are yummy,  
but my Cookie is my little honey.

She is a Golden Doodle –  
a mix of a golden retriever, like Turbo,  
and a poodle.

She has to wear a vest every day.

And people can still pet her  
because she loves to play.

My Cookie is my special dog  
who helps me stay calm and out of danger.

Mariposa Williamson

## **My Family**

I go to Mexico every month to see my family.  
In Mexico we ride horses and go to the La Milpa.  
It is a field where we grow garlic  
and other vegetables.  
Sometimes we go to the ocean and I have a lot of fun  
because I'm with my whole family.

## When School Starts

When school starts,  
it sounds like music with no sound.

When school starts,  
it feels like falling into an endless world of math.

When school starts,  
it looks like a blank page.

When school starts,  
it smells like a caramel nut bar you cannot eat.

When school starts,  
it tastes like a sour apple.

But I still have to go.



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Jim Moreno

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# Credits

## Cover:

### Front and Frontispiece:

*COVID-19*

by Cody Chiem

### Front Inset:

*Flower*

by Karen Ueno

### Back:

*Books*

by Isabella Harvey

*Let's Go*

by Samara Klein

*Four Windows*

by Karen Ueno

**Interior:** all art by the poets