



scifest

RANDOLPH COLLEGE 2025

THE SYMPHONY OF SCIENCE

Finalists' Contributions from the
2025 Randolph College
Science Festival Poetry Competition

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Oh Tree

Tree, oh tree, how wonderful are your leaves.
Tree, oh tree, do you see what I can see?
Do you have a stump or a trunk?
Oh tree, oh tree, I love syrup.
Oh tree, oh tree, do you think you could make some?
Oh tree, oh tree, how the wind makes your branches
flow,
Oh tree, oh tree, how I can't resist your glow.
One day I will see how it is to be a tree.
But now I must wonder, to you, old tree!

First Place

Ben Schewel

Paul Munro Elementary

Grade 1

Teacher: Alison Cox

One Spring Night

One spring night
I went outside
I glimpsed a little fawn
How it pranced through
The glowing grass!
Mama standing right beside it
Mama licked her little one clean
The fawn twitched its tail,
Slowly falling asleep

Second Place

Zoe Hortiatis

Paul Munro Elementary
Grade 1
Teacher: Alison Cox

Poetry OF SCIENCE

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primary school

Science Haiku to Dr. Johnson

You are my bestie
Favorite science teacher
I love learning science!

Third Place

Azarria Strange

Dearington Elementary School for Innovation
Grade 2
Teacher: Tawanda Johnson

The Wind and the Beetle

Have you ever seen Goliath beetles
Flying quickly through the trees?
If they can show they can get along,
They will fly beside the bees.
The force that makes them move
Are their wings that move so fast.
They push the air behind them,
And they watch the trees go past.

Aegon Bryant

Bedford Hills Elementary

Grade 1

Teacher: Chantelle Deddens

Shooting Stars

Have you ever seen a shooting star
Zooming across the sky?
The white light is so bright,
As it quickly shoots by.
The force that makes it move
Is gravity pulling it toward me.
It looks just like a fast airplane
And it is so cool to see.

Sher Chaudhry

Bedford Hills Elementary

Grade 1

Teacher: Chantelle Deddens

The Hunting Lion

Have you ever seen a furry lion
Quickly chasing his prey?
If he catches up to the antelope,
It will never get away.
The force that makes it move
Is his strong back legs that push.
I think it would be exciting
To watch him hide inside a bush.

Jackson Justus

Bedford Hills Elementary
Grade 1
Teacher: Chantelle Deddens

From Slow to Fast

Have you ever seen a steel train
Just getting to a start?
The axle that starts the motion
Is my favorite part.
The force that makes it move
Is the engine powered by gas.
In just about ten seconds,
It gets going really fast!

Theodore Lehman

Bedford Hills Elementary

Grade 1

Teacher: Chantelle Deddens

Football Power

Have you ever seen a brown football
Being passed to a friend?
It's fun to see it spinning
As it goes toward the end.
The force that makes it move
Is the power of my arm.
If it hits someone in the face,
They would probably be harmed.

Brantley Neal

Bedford Hills Elementary

Grade 1

Teacher: Chantelle Deddens

Swim Fish Swim

Fish have gills for survival
Swim, fish, swim.
There are squids
Cuttlefish
Vampire squids
Swim, fish, swim!

JJ Nesbitt

Paul Munro Elementary

Grade 1

Teacher: Alison Cox

Watching the Moon

Have you ever seen the bumpy moon
Move slowly around the earth?
I see it all the time,
I've been watching it since birth.
The force that makes it move
Is gravity pulling it around.
I think that when the astronauts land,
It makes a whooshing sound.

Jaxton Packer

Bedford Hills Elementary

Grade 1

Teacher: Chantelle Deddens

The Best Mammal

Dogs are mammals
They have wet tongues
They are so cute
Wagging tails
And you know they are happy!
Fur can be rough
Fur can be soft
Running, leaping, helping, and
Barking.

Eliza Shifflett

Paul Munro Elementary
Grade 1
Teacher: Alison Cox

Spring Changes

Spring is flowing through
Wind is soft as a pillow
The flowers are blooming
Animals are born
Butterflies float on the wind
The world is spinning
And it makes me dizzy
The world is changing
I can't stop it
But all I will say
Is spring is my favorite

Jane Sigler

Paul Munro Elementary

Grade 1

Teacher: Alison Cox

Catfish

Fish, fish I wish
I had wished
I caught a catfish and a bass
And those 650 pounds
Lived for 20 years

Jahceer Thaxton
Paul Munro Elementary
Grade 1
Teacher: Alison Cox

The Blaze

Lightning breaks the sky,
Rending the world above in half.
A single spark lands on the parched grass,
And sets its sights on a nearby forest.
It consumes a tree,
Twisting. Turning.
Crackling. Burning.
Its fingers dance up the trunk,
Bounding higher and higher.
Cackling. Running.
Scorching. Coming.
The fire's rage burns, white and blue.
Until the forest is consumed with this terror,
And at last when the rain comes
And the creatures howl in relief,
The dragon-like-fire retreats.
Fire is a thing of destruction,
But amongst the ashes
Are fields of potential.

First Place

Haven Collier

Paul Munro Elementary

Grade 5

Teacher: Van Hoffman

Ocean

Ocean

As I looked at the big blue glistening ocean
both cold and warm,
It's endless waves, a dancing storm.
As the sun rose with colors
pink, orange, yellow, and blue,
I walked closer and closer to the stunning view.
I could feel the tide touching my feet.
The water and I finally meet
I drifted further and further from the sandy beach
Just to realize that I was out of reach
The sun was setting and soon it was dark
Suddenly I saw a light spark
I see a boat from afar
I yelled for help while drifting under a star
They saw me and came by
I breathed a relieved sigh
I hopped on the boat and finally got back to shore
My journey was no more
The sun was setting as I stared at the abyss
The sailor said goodbye, a tear forming in his eye.

Second Place

Aleena Syed

Paul Munro Elementary

Grade 4

Teacher: Martha Clark

Electricity is My Love

oh electricity my spark so true
you light me up in shades of blue
my heart beats fast like buzzing wire
you're the surge my soul's desire
your voltage sends me through the air
a love so strong beyond compare
you shock my world in perfect sync
each touch a charge i crave to drink
but when you're gone the nights feel cold
no buzzing warmth for me to hold
so stay with me my shining light
my endless charge my love so bright

Third Place

Marlena Horsely

WM Bass Elementary

Grade 5

Teacher: Jessica Davis

Pretty Pollinators

Dark and dull
Would be our lives
But for the colorful
Messengers from the hives
Sneezing all over
From pretty pollin, you see
Colorful flowers blooming
In every tree
The flowers all appearing
What a wonderful sight
You hear bees buzzing
Getting ready for their flight
A sharp barb as a tail
It won't hurt you, okay
So try to appreciate them
Every day
The bees make flowers
Beautiful colors all around
Some in secret places
Waiting to be found
We try to kill them
Every time, every day
But we mustn't do that at all
Especially with a nasty spray
When spring and summer end
The bees start to die
But we should still thank them
For what they do when they fly

Drew Carpenter

Paul Munro Elementary

Grade 5

Teacher: Van Hoffman

The Rat

As we walk, the unseen creatures creep beneath
They scuttle in and out with battered paws
And eat the disgraceful scraps with their maws
The rat dodges from both cat and trap,
Bestowing on himself the deadly task
To bring back the few crumbs to the nest
But if only we would look closer
Would we see the nasty things they are called?
Or would we see the small omnivores in need of
love?
From its whiskers and parts, to its tail and heart,
It all comes together to form
A beautiful animal
The rat!

True Geisland

Homeschool

Grade 5

Teacher: N/A

Delightful Division

A silent line and two dots
Consume all of my thoughts
And still there never seems to be
Enough for you, nor me
Remaining is one portion only
Without dividing things, I'm lonely
Odd numbers must feel left out
Everyone judges them without a doubt
Even numbers are satisfied
Because with them you can divide
Three feels envious of four
Because four can be divided into more
Three has no reason to be spiteful
Her remainder makes her delightful

Annalena Jansen

Paul Munro Elementary

Grade 5

Teacher: Van Hoffman

T-Rex

Of all the dinosaurs near or far,
Tyrannosaurus Rex is a star!
They like to eat meat that is true,
The T-Rex would likely eat you!
Their mouth had 60 teeth 8 inches long,
They could bite through a car... that's very strong!
Tyrannosaurus Rex stood strong and tall,
But one meteor made them fall.

Donovan Kitts

Dearington Elementary School for Innovation
Grade 4
Teacher: Tawanda Johnson

The Spin Sisters

The spin sisters
Hurricane and Tornado
Destructing Destroying Depressing
Discord
Hurricane spins
On water
And both spin in the rain
But
Tornado spins on the dry land
That he likes
Because
She has no sealegs
Both get along
Because
They are the Spin Sisters
Of course
When night falls
Hurricane goes to the
Mariana Trench
And
Tornado settles down into
Tornado Alley
And
All is well until
Tomorrow

Claire Knapp

Paul Munro Elementary

Grade 5

Teacher: Van Hoffman

Poetry OF SCIENCE

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elementary school

Nebular

Oh, oh how you are
Twinkling like you are a star!
With your particles so bright
We can see you all night.
Although you're 2,283 light years away,
It doesn't keep us all astray.
Your particles are so fine
That they light up the sky!
Even with your name being weird
There's still a chance you are still here.
With your rings that appear
You make them all so clear!
Why, oh why, Ring Nebula
That's all I'm gonna write tonight.
Why, oh why, Ring Nebula
Bye bye and good night!

Skylar Ragland

Concord Elementary
Grade 5
Teacher: N/A

Science in Action

In the lab, we mix and stir,
Chemicals fizz, creating a blur.
Acids and bases dance up in the air,
Watch for the color change—science is rare!
In the garden, seeds take flight,
Photosynthesis in the sunlight bright,
Roots drink water, leaves soak up rays,
Nature's own magic, in so many ways.
Look up at rockets, zooming through space,
Exploring planets in the vast wide embrace.
Gravity pull keeps us anchored right here,
While satellites circle, our world drawing near.
Dive into the ocean, where tides rise and fall,
Coral reefs shimmer putting on quite a show.
Currents and waves shape where they roam,
Marine biology is their underwater home!
At night galaxies light up the skies,
Astronomy shows us how vast the universe lies,
Stars forming in clusters, galaxies collide,
With science as your guide, let curiosity ride!

Cong Ren

Linkhorne Elementary

Grade 5

Teacher: Kara Byrne

The world of a line

lines, lines, where do they go?
Lines, lines, how I wish I could know.
Do they see what beyond the universe there could be?
Have a problem?
Ask a line, although its face would be a little hard to find!
Rays, rays, the line's cousin.
Rays, rays, they start all of a sudden.
Rays only go in one direction,
So, they only get half the action!
Sun gives ray its name.
But I wonder if they ever get paid!
Segments, segments a part of a line.
So small!
Want to talk?
They never have time!
Segments make up angles,
Angles, angles, make tri shapes!
Lines, lines, so many questions!
Have you seen Paris? Mexico? Peru?
Do you know where aliens live?
Well, that took a lot of time.
What goes on in the world of a line?

Ana Maria Schewel

Paul Munro Elementary

Grade 5

Teacher: Van Hoffman

What Clouds Do You See?

Cirrus clouds, thin in the air,
whispy and curly like hair.
Cumulus white and puffy,
they look so dreamy and fluffy.
Stratus clouds bring a drizzle on a stormy day,
after puddles to play.
Cumulonimbus dark and stormy,
towering clouds look so lonely,
no friends to keep him company.
Do you know what clouds you see?

Maggie Wheeler

Temperance Elementary

Grade 4

Teacher: N/A

Cancer

Cancer doesn't care.
It harms
It takes
It drains
It doesn't let go
It doesn't care
It doesn't need to.
Cancer doesn't care who you are.
It doesn't care how nice you are
It doesn't care how much you mean to others
It doesn't care if you deserve it
It will hurt you either way
It doesn't care.
Cancer doesn't care how much it takes.
It doesn't matter how much hair falls out
It doesn't matter how little sleep you get
It doesn't matter how much energy it takes from you
It will drain you to your core
It doesn't care.
Cancer doesn't care how many times people assure you
everything will be fine.
It doesn't matter how sure you are they're going to make it
It doesn't matter how hard you try to smile
It doesn't matter how long they try to hold on
It will hurt them either way
It doesn't care.
All it cares about is what cells it can take over.

First Place

Piper Pettyjohn

Linkhorne Middle

Grade 8

Teacher: Katie Cyphert

The Elements of Change

Through fire and ice, through wind and rain, Elements
shift, yet some remain. Molecules dance, they bond, they
part, Nature's rhythm, a work of art. From carbon strong
to hydrogen light, Each element plays its role just right.
The world is built on forms so grand, Shaped by time and
nature's hand.

Second Place

Emirah Smith

Sandusky Middle

Grade 7

Teacher: Breahna Harris

The Symphony of Science

Atoms dance in cosmic play, Forces pull and bend the way. Light and sound, electric streams, Fueling minds, igniting dreams. Elements bond in nature's art, Mixing, changing, worlds impart. Oceans swirl in heated breath, Stars ignite and conquer death. From ancient lands where metals gleam, To labs where beakers bubble steam. From towering trees that drink the sky, To flaring comets racing by. Science hums in whispered tales, In waterfalls and comet trails. In circuits bright and engines strong, In Earth's great pulse, a beating song. We question, seek, explore the vast, Unlocking secrets from the past. With every test and grand design, The universe speaks in notes divine. For science is a symphony, A melody of mystery.

Third Place

Lillian Stevens

Sandusky Middle

Grade 7

Teacher: Breahna Harris

Oh, How I Love the Moon

Look to the sky, so peaceful and quiet,
You see the stars and the moon, so beautiful and wondrous,
It's a full moon, lulling you with it's calmness,
You stare and admire, lost in your head,
Oh, how I love the moon
The moon was always there, rotating around the earth
I wonder how it got there,
There are many theories of how it was birthed,
It's so special; just floating in the air
Without the moon, the sky would be bare
Oh, how I love the moon
It's gravitational pull makes ocean tides,
It pulls the oceans to its sides,
I guess we never really think of the moon,
It's mysterious and wishful; like a peaceful tune
Oh, how I love the moon

It has eight phases, all beautiful in their own way,
As a child, the moon kept my monsters away,
The moon symbolized adventure; a dream,
It was like a beam at night, keeping my nightmares at bay
Oh, how I love the moon
It's funny, how the moon is always there,
Sometimes even in the late afternoon,
Oh how I love the moon,
I hope you realized how important it is too

Jennifer Asanache

Linkhorne Middle

Grade 7

Teacher: Gigi Sweeney

Ocean melody

middle school

I close my eyes listen to the crashing waves,
The ocean's melody soothes my mind.
I think about everything underneath, a world we don't
know.
The waves of water, so gentle and kind.
A crisp breeze blows and chills my face.
I sink under the water, a sea creature chase.
As I enter the blue world, I see so much more.
I'll swim and swim until I'm sore.
I swim further down to admire it all,
I knew to come. It was the ocean's call.
Coral, sea sponge, fish and shark.
I see all the sea creatures hiding in the dark.
An endless smile across my face.
The oceans melody, the most calming place.

Eleanor Fontaine

Linkhorne Middle

Grade 6

Teacher: Laura Beck

middle school

The Seed

Kissed by sunshine
Drenched with rain
Covered by the snow
Waiting for the perfect time
The warming springtime glow
A tiny miracle tucked into the Earth

Adele Geisland

Homeschool

Grade 7

Teacher: N/A

Earth

Earth

There is a lot

Wrong with our home

We need to fight and stop

We have to find a way to be on top

This is our choice to solve these problems

Pollution has to go, we have to live forever Earth

Help the animals not go extinct and let them live
together

We have to fight for our planet and keep it strong
together

Our ice caps are melting, and we need to cool ourselves

Find a part of your body that's caring and helps the
earth

Find a way we can bring peace, not fighting

Find a way we can bring food, not starvation

Help our world be our world again

Live once more, In peace

Earth

Luke Hartman

Linkhorne Middle

Grade 7

Teacher: Gigi Sweeney

When I Was Young (Now That I'm Older.)

When I was small,
I made wishes on stars.
And now that I'm older,
I study them
When I was small,
I'd pick flowers outside.
So now that I'm older,
I classify them.
When I was small,
I'd swim in the sea.
But now that I'm older,
I learn about reefs.
When I was small,
I learned to love science.
And now that I'm old,
I still do.

Ariadne Mayberry

Linkhorne Middle

Grade 8

Teacher: Katie Cyphert

The Life on this Earth

The Earth is full of life, great and small
There are bundles of plants that grow tall
Some animals of our earth prance around
While others try not to make a sound
A few live in negative degrees
While the lucky ones feel the warm breeze
A bunch live on the highest of mountains
While others get their drinks from soda fountains
But in the end we are all the same
Because we all have this earth that we claim

Mary McCloskey

Linkhorne Middle

Grade 8

Teacher: Katie Cyphert

the life of a satellite

The universe is a pretty big place
So if it is just us
it feels like a waste of space

Cedric Mitchell

Linkhorne Middle

Grade 7

Teacher: Gigi Sweeney

Inertia

IN MOTION FOREVER
NO WAY TO STOP
EVER GOING ALL DAY LONG
REDUNDANT AS ALWAYS YES IT'S TRUE
TO HERE AND THERE AND BACK TO YOU
INERTIA GOES FOREVER
AROUND AND AROUND NO WAY TO STOP IT
UNTIL YOU HIT THE GROUND

Kaitlyn Nordquist

Altavista Combined

Grade 6

Teacher: Andrea Rice

Cheeraction

When cheerleaders are in action
There is always a gravity reaction
They all jump around and they push down on the
ground
The ground pushes back up propelling them into the
sky
They reach the apex that's when they fly
They accelerate in the air without any care
Gravity takes hold bringing them back down
They absorb the catch and all is profound

Lily Sackett

Linkhorne Middle

Grade 8

Teacher: Katie Cyphert

what do you see?

middle school

On the earth, What do you see? Grass and trees And the deep blue
sea, Mountains tall and valleys wide,
Rivers that twist and oceans that glide.
Golden fields in the morning light,
Stars that shine when day turns night.
Creatures roaming, wild and free,
A world alive in harmony.
From sky to soil, from land to air,
Nature's beauty everywhere.
Beyond the earth, What do you see?
Past the clouds where dreamers fly?
A realm of stars in endless dance,
A cosmic sea, a moonbeam's trance.
Golden rings round planets spin,
Whispers hum where voids begin.
Nebulas bloom in colors bright,
Painting space with ghostly light.
Do you hear the comets sing,
Racing fast on frozen wings?
Do you touch the silent glow
Of worlds untouched by those below?
Beyond the Earth, so vast, so wide,
A universe where wonders hide.
A tale untold, a distant shore,
A mystery forevermore.
In earth what do you see? Metal and rock as hot as can be, Molten rivers
that twist and flow,
Deep beneath where no light can glow. A heart of fire, a core so bright,
Burning steady, out of sight.
Pressure rising, forces grand,
Shaping mountains, sea, and land.
From its depths, the earth is spun,
A dance of stone since time begun. The earth is beautiful, vast and wide,
A gentle embrace, where dreams reside.
Golden sunrises, rivers that gleam,
Mountains that whisper, skies that dream.
But fragile it stands in our careless hands,
Scarred by the greed of shifting sands.
Let's cherish its wonders, nurture its grace,
Protect its beauty—don't let it erase.

Jack Sorensen

Linkhorne Middle

Grade 6

Teacher: Laura Beck

Los Angeles Wildfires

There is smoke in California
There is debris in the way
The whipping wind leaves its mark,
Snapping limbs and
Stirring leaves
The trees have ignited
Seconds later, ablaze
The fire triangle
Is the cause.
As it ruins childhoods and memories,
It keeps one element at its core
Heat scorching waves bring out
A sweat
And a fear,
While the fallen trees
Entrap a small town
People are crying out in need of oxygen,
But oxygen will not help.
Oxygen only feeds the never ending
And continuous flame
The crackle
And burn
Destroy over 200,000 lives in the process
The very atom that gave life
Is now taking away.

First Place

Leighton Nelson

EC Glass High

Grade 12

Teacher: N/A

The Fossils of Childhood

A bucket of old memories gets placed outside my
bedroom door
I started to rummage through as I picked up a T-shirt
I got years ago
The archeologist picks up a brush and uses it to
explore
Pieces of red rocks get pushed aside as a shell
starts to show
My mind transports me back to piles of stuffed
animals and pink walls
I remember everything while going through the box
of things I cast aside
Once it is cleared off, the varieties of shells are what
her mind recalls
Because it only has one part It's a gastropod, she
decides
Summer camp t-shirts, bead bracelets, and old
backpacks remind me of days past
I find birthday cards, old journals, and notebooks,
that hold my history
The Archeologist hands the shell fossil to a colleague
so they can make it last
She continues to dig for more fossils to uncover
more of Earth's mystery

Second Place

Lucy Guzowski

EC Glass High

Grade 10

Teacher: Tressie Norton

The Endless Ballet of a Water Lilly

The Endless Ballet of a Water Lily
My slumber ends. I begin to wake, my roots taking place.
In the ground, I burrow deep while dancing towards the light.
From below, I seek the sun to give me a new face.
My greenery unfurls. I reach the height; I shall not be disgraced.
Emerald discs formed with petioles at last begin anew.
The air below holds me high to witness a fresh day.
I dance along the ripples while the energy imbues.
A stem begin to arise holding a blossom on display.
Blushing Corolla twirl about, basking in the dawn.
Bees, attracted drawn to sweet, in flowers they indulge.
Pollination is the spark as fruit begins to form whereon.
Sinking down, it hides again the gift not yet divulged.
Seeds scatter far and wide anxious to unfold,
A new tale begins to sprout, its story still untold.

Third Place

Colleen Crosby

Amherst County High

Grade 10

Teacher: N/A

Perseverance in Time

Nebulas are born as old countries fall,
New dynasties form as more boundaries call.
For every life on the Earth that each soul treads
Another that roams sees others best dead
And they take life like it doesn't matter.
As the black hole absorbs we fight each other at war
And the rich lay at home eating more after more.
Seen fit as we call it as the goldilocks prophet,
Perseverance is a promise,
We humans take pride in our power.
Were in not for our advancements
Wrote on thousands of our pamphlets
For each goal that we meet
Another virus yet to treat
Death's scythe would not spare those who "matter".
We are not each the same
No matter country, color, or name.
To the Universe's Power
It'd seem that none begin to matter
Lest we see to prevent it with our tiny little power.

Albert-Quinzy Bateman

EC Glass High

Grade 12

Teacher: Tressie Norton

The disease (Alzheimers) that slowly kills

The mind that was once shap
It fades away
The memories become blurry
They all blend together
Memories become fake
Delusions become real
The man you once knew is now gone
Slowly he slips into a dark vision
Anger rises
Kindness falls
Deep down his normal self begs to be free
But the disease takes over
You wish you could stop it
He does too
But its not possible
Now you both must live with this disease
This disease that slowly kills
Both of you

Addison Elbrecht

EC Glass High

Grade 11

Teacher: Tressie Norton

Solar Ways

In the vastness of the night, they dance and spin,
Planets in a cosmic waltz, where wonders begin.
Mercury, swift as thought, racing close to the sun,
Venus grows with beauty, where the day is never
done.

Earth, our home, a cradle of life,
With oceans and mountains, joy and strife.
Mars, the red warrior, dreams of days gone by,
While Jupiter, the giant, rules the starry sky.
Saturn wears a ring of ice and dust,
Uranus spins sideways, in its cold,
we trust.

Neptune whispers secrets from its deep blue sea,
In this celestial ballet, it is forever wild and free.`

Mia Galbraith

EC Glass High

Grade 9

Teacher: N/A

Cycles Within The Natural World

A mother lies to rest in a cave when the pines breathe slowly,
verdant;

Ancient echoes swell out to meet the ridge of the sea
Two have died and three seeds replace them, taking root,
Their beauty, as the waves have interpreted it latently,
returns.

How tough is the nut and the tooth and the spine-
Eternally thumping-

So that an infant lies at each waxing morning unharmed?

No mortal mind can comprehend a procession as slow

As this;

No one, singularly one and innately unnatural, human,
Is able to breathe a true existence into this sliver of life or
time,

Which converged circularly once long ago,

That we had promptly taken.

And so even as the ground turns to dust, and the sky

To an inferno, a grey fire bellowed by perpetuity,

A phoenix crows;

A mother rises and finds the world rejuvenated, verdant;

For even rule and reign cannot overpower a cycle within a
sphere

She- after hibernation- returning to this ancient ellipse.

Sadie Hageman

EC Glass High

Grade 9

Teacher: Tressie Norton

The Depths

A vast ocean
Waves crashing upon shores
Marine life swimming in every depth
So much unknown
Unknown depths
Of the vast ocean
Just like the depths of the mind
Never knowing until exploration beyond
Beyond the waters
Deeper into the trenches
A vast ocean
Waves crashing upon shores
Tsunamis causing corruption
Hurricanes damaging the already wounded
Practically beyond repair
Caught in the calm
It's only the eye of the storm
Temporary relief
Content with the unknown
The next wave
Crashes far past the shore
A vast ocean
Waves crashing upon the shores
The unknown lurking in the shadows
In the depths of the deep blue sea
Wishing for the eye of the storm to last forever

Brylee Holland

Jefferson Forest High

Grade 9

Teacher: N/A

Ever Upward

Soaring higher, ever reaching
Leafy boughs that touch the bright blue skies
Squirrels make shelter in it, screeching
Flowers attract the butterflies
The wind blows hard against the bark
Standing strong it never bends or breaks
It protects the little lark
A safe haven for life it makes
Absorbing water, sun, and air
It gives the oxygen we need to live
Each was crafted with great care
By a Maker who did choose to give
All birches, oaks, and maple trees
The ability to photosynthesize
And, though this process we can't see,
It is from it we gain the breath to rise
And in the fall it's leaves transform
And make a crown of red and orange and gold
A beauty shaken not by storms
The landscape wears a cape, both bright and bold
Vivid color burned into the mind
It falls away once winter comes to mold
It's icy image into all that shines
But the spring will soon proceed the cold

Samantha Irby

Onward Christian Academy

Grade 10

Teacher: Adria Day

There's So Much More

Humans, little tiny figures on planet Earth
We think these tiny little things make up the Earth
Grass, sky, air, clouds, trees
However there's so much more
Once we go out of this tiny little planet
We see that there is so much more
There's the sun, the small bright circle we see in our sky
Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune
The other planets in our Solar System
Then we go out even farther, past where our little eye can
see, and we have
billions of stars
And all of this and so much more makes up the Milky Way!
The galaxy of which us tiny humans belong to
There's so much more
Then we go farther and there's so many galaxies
unexplored
And we think we make up one itty bitty planet?
The Universe, our Milky Way, our eight planet solar
system, our huge sun
that brightens our sky, and then our tiny little Earth.
Oh how there is so much more.
Even to this day the Universe still is growing
Will there ever be anything more magnificent than the
place that holds little
us?

Sophia Maulbeck

Altavista Combined

Grade 9

Teacher: Andrea Rice

Bond of friendships

If you've got an ionic bond,
You've really got no friendship at all.
One takes everything from another.
Just a copy is all.
If you've got a hydrogen bond,
You've really only got half a friendship.
The great attraction: looks, charm, an ally
Doesn't make up for all the negatives.
If you've got a covalent bond,
You've really got it all.
The nonpolar parts makes both of y'all strong
Better together all day long.

A'imillah Miller

EC Glass High

Grade 9

Teacher: Tressie Norton

On Artificial Intelligence

A.I.? That rings a bell,
Where will it take us? I can't tell.
Seems that today the only intelligence comes artificially,
So far from the human minds we used initially.
Are the warnings just to monger fear,
Or should someone actually interfere?
Maybe our society needs to revert,
We could go back to the days with real dirt.
When stars were alone in the sky at night,
Is that The Little Dipper or a satellite?
ChatGPT uses more water than parents can give their
daughter,
Her dreams, once so bright,
replaced by a machine that does it just right.
If we reside in the land of the free,
How bad could these robots really be?
How far this could go,
You wouldn't believe,
Soon, authenticity will be something we grieve.
The use of A.I. will do more than maintain,
One day our human curiosity will not remain.

Georgia Miller

Amherst County High

Grade 10

Teacher: Jonathan Olmstead

New Light

Click
Flipped
Dark to light
A white switch, a purpose
The moment it finally emerges
A simple moment, an easy action
Light appears, filling an empty, dark void
The gate is no longer open but closed and ready
A circuit is completed, energy flowing through a space, a
body
Electrons race through a copper wire, awaiting a purpose
A girl sits alone, her thoughts an empty abyss
The gate in her mind is open, energy blocked
Her future is sealed behind a grate
Her potential light is on the edge of greatness
She awaits her purpose
The shadows retreat from the light
Her brain finally illuminates
Thoughts flow, feelings grow
Circuits close, creating an open path
She's free, she glows, her light remains

Avery Wiebe

EC Glass High

Grade 9

Teacher: Tressie Norton



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