

**From the Minds of 8<sup>th</sup> Graders**  
**Mary M. Bethune School**  
**Cleveland**  
**2025**



**A Creative Writing Anthology**

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# Recipe Poems

## Recipe for a Great Game - Mariyah B.

Take a basketball  
Throw up a shot  
Pick the rebound from the tree  
Cook your defender  
The recipe smells great so far  
Serve the scoreboard with points  
Feed the crowd with energy

## How to Make a Bed - Penina N.

Take 2 pinches of fluffy sheets  
Throw in a teaspoon of comforter sheets  
Let the pillows set for an 1 hour  
Dice the pillows into four  
Sprinkle a pinch of happiness  
Top it off with the blanket  
Get the four pillows  
Then set them on top of the sheets  
When done enjoy the sweet nap

### Recipe for Family - Aniyha M.

Take 1 large cup of mother,  
Add 2 pints of brothers, they're very salty and sweet,  
Mix in 2 tablespoons of sister, she's very sweet like strawberry,  
Pour in forgiveness, love, sadness, and kindness,  
Cook in a house until it reaches a nice happy texture,  
Like a poundcake

### Cooking up Irritation - Kay C.

Take 3 Tablespoons of mistakes  
Add a dash of unnecessary loud eating  
Pour in 2 cups of nosy people like neighborhood watch  
and mix well  
Put in a pan full of stress at 340 for 20 minutes  
When done,  
cool for 10 minutes  
and decorate it with little siblings  
that get in my hair like flour

### America - Da'Twain P.

First you add 5 cups of racism to a bowl  
Mix with 50 pinches of states  
Blend with guns to attack innocent citizens  
Whisk with culture to represent our people  
Chop 2 eagles for American symbolism  
Dice some sports to show our way of having fun  
Stir with obesity that consumes our health  
Pour into a pan and bake on 350  
Wait 10 minutes  
And you have America

## Recipe for Irritated - R'mani P.

Serves 4 People

### Ingredients:

2 cups of teachers talking  
3 cups of people saying "Shut up!"  
4 cups of homework to do every day  
1 cup of pets barking  
2 cups of Ms. Larsen talking

### Directions:

Chop up 2 cups of teachers talking,  
mix with 3 cups of people saying "Shut up!"  
Then you chop up four cups of homework to do every day,  
and add the cream of 1 cup of pets barking.  
Then wait till done.  
Then blend 2 cups of Ms. Larsen talking  
and mix it all together.  
Then wait one hour till burnt  
and your face melts off.

## The Recipe for America - Givonte G.

First I add a dash of freedom,  
a pinch of fast food,  
a mix of diabetes,  
a splash of questionable presidents,  
and a pile of assaults.  
Then add a cup of crazy white ladies  
holding up the dang drive thru,  
sprinkle in some bad officers.  
Then you pour all the ingredients in a baking pan.  
Set your oven to 350 in a McDonald's oven  
and then you have made the American cake.

## Recipe for Peace- Destiny B.

Serves All People

### Directions

4 teaspoons of quiet spaces  
Throw in a pinch of calm music  
3 cups of no fighting  
Grill the distraction from people until done  
Fry in some deep sleep  
Bake the calm breathing techniques on 350  
Boil spending time with your family  
Serve the peace onto a big table with your family

## Recipe for One Piece - Devilin S.

Serves  $\infty$  People

### Ingredients:

5 cups of drama  
2 cups of determination  
4 cups of marines  
6 cups of pirates  
8 cups of unique people  
3 cups of filler  
5 cups of fruit  
6 cups of foreshadowing

Start by boiling 5 cups of drama.  
Next you have to fry 4 cups of fruit.  
Then when those are finished,  
start cooking the 8 cups of unique people.  
Then add 3 Tablespoons of filler.  
Then blend the 5 cups of marines with 6 cups of pirates.  
Enjoy on your couch or bed, all day and all night long



## After "Hanging Fire" by Audre Lorde - Mariyah

I am a middle school girl  
My friends are with me  
Our grades need to stay up to date  
We wonder  
What will happen if we don't graduate middle school  
We are nervous  
We don't wanna fail  
We wanna move and achieve

I am smart  
I am bright  
I'm nervous for what my future brings  
I don't like the environment  
I get in trouble alot  
I need to think more positively  
There are better things in life than bad things

I am a freshman in highschool  
I am at one of the top schools in my city  
I've achieved my goal of graduating middle school  
Im looking forward to making my family proud  
Im looking for a better group of people to adapt to  
I look forward to being one of the top highest in my class  
I look forward to achieving my goals  
I am strong  
I am smart  
I am brilliant  
I am a freshman in high school

After "Hanging Fire" by Audre Lorde - Aniyha

I get in the shower  
To let some steam off  
Then I go lay down  
And go into deep thoughts

Some things I think about is home and school  
Wondering if I am good enough for someone  
I keep my grades up so I don't get in trouble  
If I don't get A's and B's then what was I made for

I hate being home cause  
All I do is cry  
I cry every night because I been through things that  
That no one should have to hide..

Some nights I think about running away  
I wanna run away from the pain that my  
Family has caused me to have.

Mom is never home to ask me how my day was  
So I go to practice and dance my pain away  
A better relationship with my mom would be  
Good but I don't know how to explain how I feel to her.

# Stories

## The Reason Why I Died - Aniyha Mason

I'm Nora and I'm going to tell you how my life ended. Sit back and grab some popcorn while I tell you my final hours on earth.

It all started October 31st 1999, I woke up, got dressed, then my sister and I went to school. When we got to the school I went to find my friends Janet, and Noah before heading to class. Later that evening, we went to a haunted house called 7 Floors of Hell. It was my sister, Noah, Janet, and I. I don't think this was a good idea because I'm scared of the dark and I'm scared of clowns. The moon was bright and it was a little cold. In the distance it was dark and scary. I could've sworn that I saw something. I brushed it off and went into the first stage of the haunted house. When I got in there I realized that I wasn't just seeing things; there were actually 2 clowns when we walked into the haunted house. Since they made me go in first I had to warn them because we were all scared of clowns. They didn't believe me until they actually saw the clowns and they all ended up leaving me and running out of the haunted house. The only person that stayed with me was Janet.

Once Janet and I got through the first stage of the haunted house we called Noah. when he answered, we asked him where he and my sister were. he said he was in the car with my mom waiting for us to get through all of the seven stages of the haunted house. I replied with "okay i'll call you when we're done." Then I hung up. Janet and I went through the second stage.

Once we got halfway through the stage there stood this creepy man with a jumpsuit and a metal bat. Janet and I were so scared we thought that the man was going to try and kidnap us or hit us with the bat if we refused to go with him. So Janet and I held on to each other very tightly.

Then there was this really dark room. we looked back to see if that creepy man was following us and when we looked back there he was. so Janet and I ran. It was so dark we couldn't see anything. So we called Noah to let him know that we were being followed by some random creepy guy with a metal bat. Once he hung up we were still trying to find our way out so we could lose sight of the creepy man but it just kept getting darker and darker every second we ran.

After about ten minutes of intense running we both smacked a wall but weren't too scared because we thought we had lost the creepy man.

when we smacked the wall we fell. turned around and looked up and there he stood.

Before I could call Noah or my mom he knocked Janet and I both out with his metal bat. We passed out and were rushed to the hospital, but the nurses pronounced us dead. When I woke up again I was floating up out of my body. I was scared and

confused. I looked over my dead body and started to cry. I didn't want my life to end like this. I looked over and saw Janet looking over her dead body. She was speechless.

I went to Janet and gave her a hug and told her to let it all out. Then she disappeared right in my arms. I don't know why I didn't see the light, maybe because I still had some unfinished business to do. I floated to my house and got out my diary, I was surprised that I could still hold it. I got a pen then sat on my bed and started to write about what happened on October 31st, 1999.

## Finding the Almanac's Grimoire - Bahati B.

One windy afternoon Bravada walked home from volleyball practice, her hair tossing in the wind. When down the pavement she noticed a creaky old burnt down house. It hadn't been there before so she walked over to it.

Everything in Bravada's gut told her to walk past, to just keep walking, but nothing could pull her away from a good adventure. She walked inside, the house creaking, and howling against the rumbling wind. She walked down the hall, towards a light coming from a hole in the ceiling. The hole going through the second floor. Making it seem as though something fell through it. As she walked into the room she took note of all the burnt furniture, the couch, rug, lamp, the bookcase full of books and trinkets. She walked across the room littered in ash and stopped at a desk.

The dark oak desk was littered in books, all stacked around a single book in the middle. She looked at the book, the pages were burnt at the corners, and the cover was crumbling. She picked it up and turned it in her hands, the cover engraved with the words "The Almanac Najm's Grimoire."

Then all of a sudden a snap and crack sounded in the near distance and without hesitation Bravada ran out of the house for fear of it falling on her.

As she ran away a figure lurked in the shadows, watching her run down the sidewalk. Following her, watching her...every move home.

Soon she returned to her daily life, forgetting about the book that sat dormant in her desk drawer. Then one night she decided to invite her friends over for a sleepover. Of course they accepted, they both came to her house, ready for the adventurous night Bravada promised.

Xion walked up the path, followed by Tori. Both of them had their sleeping bags in hand and bags strapped to their backs. Tori walked up the steps before she rang the doorbell.

"Where is she?" he cooed.

Tori rolled her eyes. "We just got here, be patient." she said.

Then the door swung open. Bravada stood there, smiling at them with a flush smile. Out of breath, suggesting she might have ran to the door. Bravada invited them inside and spent the night doing the most mundane things with them. Like watching shows, and movies, having snacks, and making cookies. They spent the whole night in their own little world before Bravada's mom ushered them upstairs to bed, looking for some peace and quiet.

In her room Bravada helped them set up. They all huddle around a glowing mushroom light, all tucked away in blankets and pillows. Bravada spoke up first. "Now it's time for scary stories...."

Tori chuckled and Xion leaned in. "There I was Bravada Querida-"

Tori butting in "Querida?" they chuckled as Bravada shushed them.

"Hush and listen," Bravada said in a hushed tone. She told the story of her going to an old creepy house. "As I walked up to the glowing room, there was ash everywhere." Then continued on with, "I picked up the book and it crumbled in my hand."

Just then the desk drawer shook, rattling and banging. They all whipped their heads toward the sound. A shiver ran down their spines.

Before they could move the cabinet stopped and the book flew out. Its pages opened up with a quick swift swish, the crisp pages glowing, its letters illuminating.

"What's going on?" Xion whispered.

"I have no idea," Tori replied, turning to Bravada.

Bravada stood there in shock as the book fell down in front of them, its pages bare to be seen. Bravada crouched down to see the book and as she looked down her eyes widened slightly, "It says...some sort of old English I think?" Bravada smiled in excitement.

"That's Arabic," Tori said....

Xion sighed "English or Spanish...doesn't matter, what does it mean?"

Tori raised a brow, "I don't know...Bravada?"

Bravada shrugged. As they all loomed over the book, the window banged, the glass creaking and the night seeping in. The room seemed to turn dark, being filled with black, pouring in through the window. The wind screeching like a banshee, the wall slowly turned black, soaking up the darkness like a sponge. The room soon turned pitch black, no light not even the mushroom they used before. The window seemed gone, the cold air nonexistent. The furniture, gone.

Bravada's friends were gone, in a blink of an eye. Bravada's breath grew shallow as she looked around the room, making her dizzy. It was just dark, nowhere to go, no space. She couldn't tell if it was the room or if it was her nerves. Her body so tense she couldn't move.

Then she heard a whisper behind her ear, the breath warm against her neck, the warmth tantalizing. She gasped softly, her throat drying up, clamping together. Her lips parted ever so slightly, as the voice was deep and smooth against her ear. A hand reached up to her shoulder. "Hello young lady."

She couldn't resist or turn away, as the voice spoke out. "I think you know why I'm here?" The voice whispered, seeming everywhere but nowhere at the same time. "I've come to ask for my book back...my grimoire?"

Bravada's heart stopped beating and out of nowhere with the little strength she could muster she asked. "Who are you..." her voice faltered.

The voice chuckled, it roared in the hollow black world. He stepped in front of her, his hair long and black, curling and turning. His skin light creamy brown, "My name's Najm, Bravada...nice to meet you but I'll be needing my book back now, is it alright if I take it?"

Without a thought Bravada thoughtlessly nodded slowly. As she blinked the world turned to normal. The window fixed, her friends beside her, just like she was before the desk started to shake. She stopped mid-way of her sentence.

"What happened to the book?" Tori asked. Bravada looked around and stood up opening the drawer, the book was gone. She pulled out some paper and art supplies. "Nothing...let's draw stories instead."

Tori smiled, "Okay, sounds fun." And with that the storytelling came to an end.

## A Boy Named Jimmy - Da'Twain

One Friday night a 16 year old boy named Jimmy went for a walk. Jimmy has been in foster care for his whole life. Since the age of 8 Jimmy has been looking for his father. On this walk a random man came up to Jimmy. "I know who your father is."

Jimmy looked surprised. "Who is he?" Jimmy said in a suspicious tone.

"To find him you must follow this map."

Jimmy snatched the map then went back home.

The next day Jimmy decided to follow the map out of curiosity. He left the house and started to follow. On the path the map showed a flame. He followed the map until he got to a big gym with a fire logo with the word "trainer" under it, on the top of the building. He put the two together and figured he had found someone who trains special people to be able to use fire. He wondered if this had something to do with his father. He walked into the gym and was amazed about how cool it looked.

The trainer welcomed him in. "To find your father you must learn how to use these powers." First he taught him how to shoot fireballs. He was told to hold his hand out and focus and try to flex a muscle humans don't have. "Where is this muscle at?" He asked.

The trainer walked up to him and pressed against the upper part of his left forearm. On his fourth try he did it. Next he taught him how to make lava flow out of his hands. This time it was like the same thing but with his right forearm. Then he taught him how to breathe in fire, which was easy because he just has to breathe normally. During this training, he realized he was fire resistant. He got done with the training and on the way out he heard, "Have a good journey, brother."

Jimmy walked back and said, "What do you mean by brother?" He sat with him.

"We are twins, I sent a map to you but I can't tell you where it leads. I might break down." They talked until sundown

It was dark out and the map had a cabin marked on it. He thought it was a place to rest.

When he arrived he realized that he was right; it was an old cabin. He walked in and rested for 6 hours. After he realized there was food in the fridge, he ate and got right back to his journey.

He noticed that the map had a water drop symbol. He got there and there was a 30 foot length pool. He never learned how to swim but he was smart enough to know lava plus water equals rock so he used the lava flow power he learned from his brother to cross the water, just to turn the corner to see more water.

But this time the water was going uphill. He went up it a little but slid down many times. Then he realized that he should use the momentum from the other pool where he made the rocks. Finally he did it and found another cabin.

The last thing on the map was a church but it was the end of the map. He realized his dad could be there but when he got there he lost all hope.

His dad was in the casket. When he looked in the casket he saw Hephaestus. After seeing this he walked back home all night and cried. But he then got happy because his dad was a god, and he was a demigod.

## The Pumpkin - Givonte G.

My name is Ben Grover. One day I got a text for a new job to “find” a pumpkin that never grows old. The text said: “Hey kid I got a job for ya. Steal a pumpkin for me. Let's say 17k. Here's the address: get to it!” I thought, I'm getting paid 17k just for a pumpkin? What a steal!

I hopped in my car and drove to the address.

This is a museum. I went here as a kid. There's always a lot of artwork. I always liked the dino bones. This will be harder than I thought.

I used my ladder that I keep in the back of my car to climb on the roof. I went through the back where noone is allowed to go

I crawled through the vents using the map lay out to not get lost. I saw the pumpkin and thought, this will be easier than I expected, or so I thought. I jumped to the floor.

Right before I grabbed it, I saw three guards coming. I quickly hid next to a statue and hit a pose like the thinker. Only two guards passed me and I thought I was in the clear, but the last one stopped right in front of me and stared right in my eyes.

“Don't move, don't move, don't move!” was the only thing running through my head.

The other guards called him and he ran away.

That was close as hell— I mean heck— got to stay pg.

Then I saw it— the pumpkin. This was easier than I thought, but there were chains and a cage for the pumpkin. It had empty black eyes and a very sad frown. A weird thing is that I couldn't see inside like another pumpkin.

Oh well, I thought, I just gotta break it and I'm rich. I pulled out my bolt cutters and cut the chains, but I wasn't able to break the cage so I just took it with me.

Then I climbed back through the vent and I was gone before the alarm went off. I climbed back in my car and drove off like I was never there.



The pumpkin sat in the back seat giving off weird vibes. And I heard this weird sound “clip-clop” “clip-clop” over and over until a loud scratch as my car flipped over and slid across the road.

Ow, what hit me? I wondered. As I climbed out the car I looked around for what hit me. Nothing was there. I was strangely ok. Oh crap the pumpkin!

I turned around and the shock on my face as I saw the pumpkin was out of its cage and sitting on the top of my flipped over car. What shocked me to my core is the pumpkin’s frown was now a bright smile.

I grabbed the pumpkin and started to run before anyone saw me. The time ticked past. Before I knew it, it was 3:32 in the morning. I dipped through alleys.

I kept getting this feeling that I was being followed and heard the constant sound of horse feet. I spun around and saw a man in a black coat on a horse, but what messed me up was the man had no head.

I ran yelling in confusion. “What is that thing? Why is it chasing me? Where is its head?” The pumpkin in my arms grew hotter and hotter. It was burning my hands. I had to drop it. It was burning my hands.

The man stopped, hopped off his horse and picked up the pumpkin and placed it on his neck and the pumpkin’s eyes caught flames. Then it was gone.

That’s why I don’t steal anymore. I quit my job ending all the deals. A few months later I changed my life. I heard a knock at my door. “Who is it!”

No answer. I opened my door and there was no one there. I looked down and saw the pumpkin. The memories come flashing back. I picked up the pumpkin and I heard a laugh behind me...

## Unknown and Speedy - La’Chyna H.

Once upon a time Unknown and her brother Speedy woke up from a long day yesterday.

They was hungry so they decided to steal from the store. And so they got dressed and went to the store.

And as they were flying to the store they thought to themselves as if they was going to get caught by the cops or the FBI.

When they finally arrive at the store, Unknown grabs the shopping cart and her brother tries to distract the cops and the FBI while she’s stealing food, different types of food.

Then after she gets all the food, her brother protects her from the cops and the FBI. Unknown and her brother start to fly away from the store.

Then they finally arrived to the house. And they land on the ground. And Unknown and her brother walked in the house and Unknown starts putting up the food. Then her brother takes out the trash. And then they start to pick up trash and clean up around the house.

Unknown heard the police sirens and her eyes glowed red and her powers were red. She walks out the house and starts fighting the cops and the FBI. Sadly she found out that her brother was killed and she was in tears and started killing everyone because her brother passed away.

And also, sadly she had to make a funeral for him. She was wearing all black for her funeral. Then after the funeral she flies home and walks in the house and gets undressed and puts her pajamas on. She makes some hot cocoa and watches TV.

## The story of Leanna - Norihanna P.

My nickname is Lola but my real name is Leanna Johnson and this is my story.

It was a gloomy day—the day after my father and mothers passing. I was 14 when my parents passed and it took a big toll on me. It was February 23.

I went to visit my girlfriend Marie but she seemed a little different. I was sitting on my phone scrolling in silence when she snapped and broke the silence. she said, “why are you being so weird today? you haven't talked to me—you haven't even hugged me.”

“My parents died two days ago, it's just me and my little brother. I feel so alone and now my crazy aunt is moving in to take care of us so we don't lose our home so sorry if i been weird. I got some deep stuff going on,” I told her.

“I do too, leanna. you're not the only one that got stuff going on,” she said.

“Marie, I don't think this is gonna work anymore. I think we should break up.”

I grabbed my stuff and walked home. as I walked out the house I could hear her screaming out stuff and things getting torn and glass shattering.

I started to run to my house and I got home and my aunt was there looking at me with open arms. I hugged her tightly. “you're 20 and you gotta take care of us,” I said.

My aunt London said, “I'm glad to take care of you. I know this wasn't easy, we gon make it work because I know that's what my brother and sister in law would have wanted.

“I'm gonna go to sleep. I had a hard day today, ”Lola said.

The next day rolled in and I got a call from my ex-girlfriend telling me to come out.

I put my shoes on and went outside. “what?” my short curls blew into my face.

Marie said, “I wanted to apologize for the way I acted. I broke a lot of things of ours, and I'm so mad at myself because I did something really bad also.”

“What did you do then, Marie?”

“I stayed the night with another girl and I'm so sorry. I didn't want to hurt you. I was just so mad and I know that doesn't cover up what I did. But I felt like I needed to. I wanted you to be hurt like I was hurt.”

I looked at Marie with a blank expression. “I really don't know what to say because I'm genuinely numb and you'll never understand how I feel. That's why it was so easy for you to go lay up with another girl. I would've never done that to you never in a million years.”

Marie looked at me knowing she broke something inside me. I walked into the house, closing and locking the door behind me. I ran into my room and broke down crying when my aunt walked into my room. She came and hugged me, holding me tightly.

An hour later I stopped crying and lay down and fell asleep. I woke up in the morning, hair messy, and I started throwing all of Marie's stuff away. Then my aunt walked in and lightly smiled at me. She asked, “What are you doing, Leanna?”

“Just throwing away Marie's stuff. I just won't have peace till it's gone.”

## The Changed - Penina

After Kevin's parents died, he was kicked out of the house by his landlord. So he's with his bags when he walks down the street. He finds a homeless shelter. He walks in and they tell him that there are no more rooms.

not far from the shelter he finds a blue abandoned home. He decides he's going to live there; he's surprised when he walks in. It looks great.

When he gets cold he goes to put a jacket on when he is surprised there's a treasure chest on the floor in the closet. He goes to sit down and forgets about it but then later he keeps thinking about it and getting curious. what is inside the treasure chest. He decides to open it. When he opens it he sees the money, that's a lot of money?! He decides to go buy food and go on a shopping spree. He is living comfortably, two months pass by, and he realizes he got only 20 dollars.

He went to spend his last money at the gas station when he stopped by the gang and they asked him where's all the money. He realizes that he's been spending people's money the whole time. He feels sad and disappointed in himself for spending other people's money. He runs away and sees a random guy getting in their car so he kicks him and then starts driving really fast. That's when the gang chases up to him.

They keep on following him. They won't quit. So he decides to pull the gun out of the arm rest and shoot them. That's when the police are called by one of the people that was watching. The police came and put him in handcuffs. They put him in jail for 2 weeks and he made a lot of friends. But then one of the guards comes and tells him that he has to go to court today.

They walk him to the court with his handcuffs on. He explains that he didn't do anything. "I just tried to protect myself." But one of the people he shot survived and they explained their side of the story. The jury decided that he is guilty. When they put him on the electric chair, he was terrified but he still sat down. It was shocking for a moment and he was surprised that he could see.

Somehow he survives, and he decides to start helping people just like him. People start finding him because he helps kids with bad school history and home problems. He helps them be confident. That makes him feel like a better person and then he wants to keep on doing it.

## The Horrible Family - Sha'Kira T.

Tuesday morning Belle woke up to get ready for school. She went into her brother's room to wake him up too. She went to wake him up, but he wasn't in his bed. Belle called her brother's name "Adrain!" She went into her mom and dad's room to ask, "where is Adrain?"

Belle opened the door and turned the light on, but her mom and dad weren't there. Belle ran downstairs and she saw a note on the kitchen counter. She read the note and started crying.

The note said, "If you want your family back you must complete a couple of tasks first." Belle ran back upstairs and grabbed her phone. She called her mom and dad, but they didn't answer. Belle started crying because she was alone. Belle hated being alone.

She got up and decided to go look for her family. She went to read the note again. She found a hint on the note. The note said: "Hungry? Thirsty? Get something to eat and drink and go up front and pay."

When she followed what the note said, she ended up at a store, then the woods, then an abandoned house. She got lost for a second but she got back on track.

She ended up on the main street walking in the heat but she had to do it for her family. She got to the next place. It was an abandoned hospital.

Belle was scared to go to the hospital. She thought it was something there. She went into the hospital. She walked around the hospital to see if she could find anything. She started hearing noises. She walked towards the noise. She thought it was her family.

She got to this room. Belle started looking around the room. Belle walked towards the closet. The noise was coming from the closet. She opened the closet. A dark green, long face, teeth bigger than someone's face, jumped out of the closet and attacked her with its teeth, eating her.

She started screaming and crying. Belle was screaming for help. "Help me please!" Belle screamed. She called for her family, her eyes slowly closing. The thing that jumped out on her was still killing her.

Belle died looking for her family.

\*Back at home\*

Belle's family was laughing and eating, untouched. Her family was behind it all along.... they didn't like her, they never did. Belle was getting put on drugs when she was 4 years old. Belle's family just got tired of taking care of her so they just killed her. Belle's family killed her.

# Hand Poems

Alianna

## MY HANDS, a poem by Alianna Smith-vales

My hands let go of... anxiety unease, worry or fear. Movements of messing up.. Making mistakes. My embarrassing moment of tripping or falling. They also let go of my angry feelings of fear and frustration. Going to my track meets and always losing my races or losing someone I desperately love

My hands hold... to all of my friends and family members closely. They hold on to my dreams and goals to make me a better person. They hold on to band- learning new instruments and keep on growing. They hold on to my favorite moment I had and made with the people I love

My hands reach for... Goals I want to achieve. They reach for a good education... Good schools & a job. They also reach me playing all my instruments and doing all the sports I love They also reach my dreams of being a pilot flying through. And praying with God by my side.

A'niyha

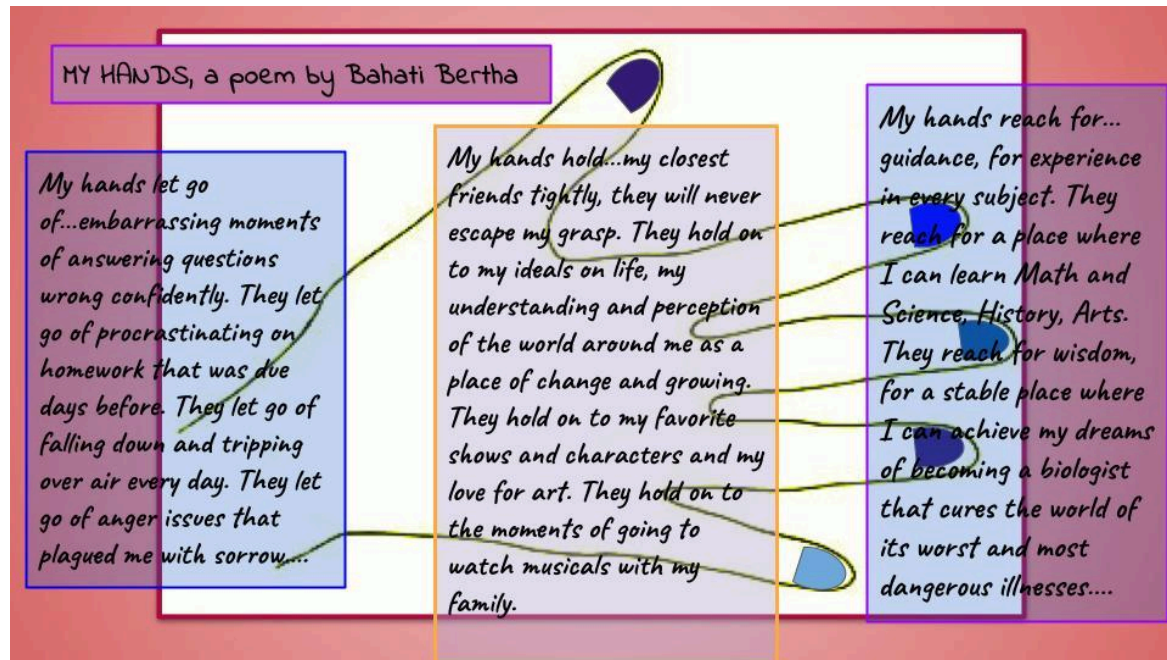
## MY HANDS, a poem by Aniyha Mason

My hands let go of my orange, white, and blue cheer uniform, and a competition every month, They let go of the math teacher that always made me laugh even when I was feeling down, They let go of the classmates that got on my nerves everyday.

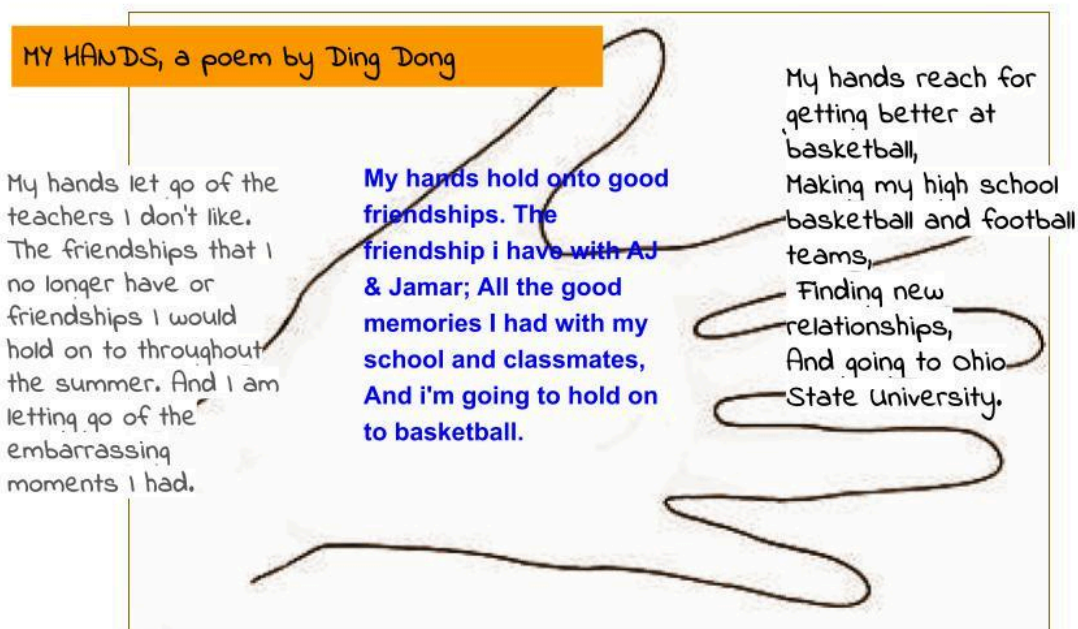
My hands hold on to going to practice from 3-6 everyday, and performing every month in front of a lot of people. My hands hold on to shakira, destiny, penina, lailah, and r'mani for always. they're always here for me when I need them. My hands hold on to my bsf thats always there for me when I need someone to talk to i am very grateful to have her in my life

My hands reach for dancing better than I ever had before being the dancer no one knew that I could be. They reach for waiting for ladies to come in my office to see how their baby is doing. They reach for designing houses and selling them, I want to see a smile on the new owners' faces.

## Bahati



## “Ding Dong”







## Destiny

### MY HANDS, a poem by Destiny B.

My hands let go  
of all the  
embarrassmen  
t and all the  
sad times i've  
had throughout  
my life, also  
the problems  
i've had with  
my mom.

My hands hold any  
and everything that is  
going good for me  
in life right now

My hands reach for  
some new beats  
and new everything  
and more parades  
and performances

### MY HANDS, a poem by Devilin

My hands let go of  
Mary Bethune  
School, but I will  
come back once a  
year to visit and  
talk to Mr. Hrabak  
and all the other  
teachers.

My hands hold onto  
The help that Ms.  
Bruce and Ms. V did  
over my whole years  
being here.  
My hands hold onto  
my friends who will  
be my friends  
always:  
Shout out to Givonte  
and La'Chyna, Marcus  
and Autumn.

My hands reach for..  
working a job  
and being in high  
school.

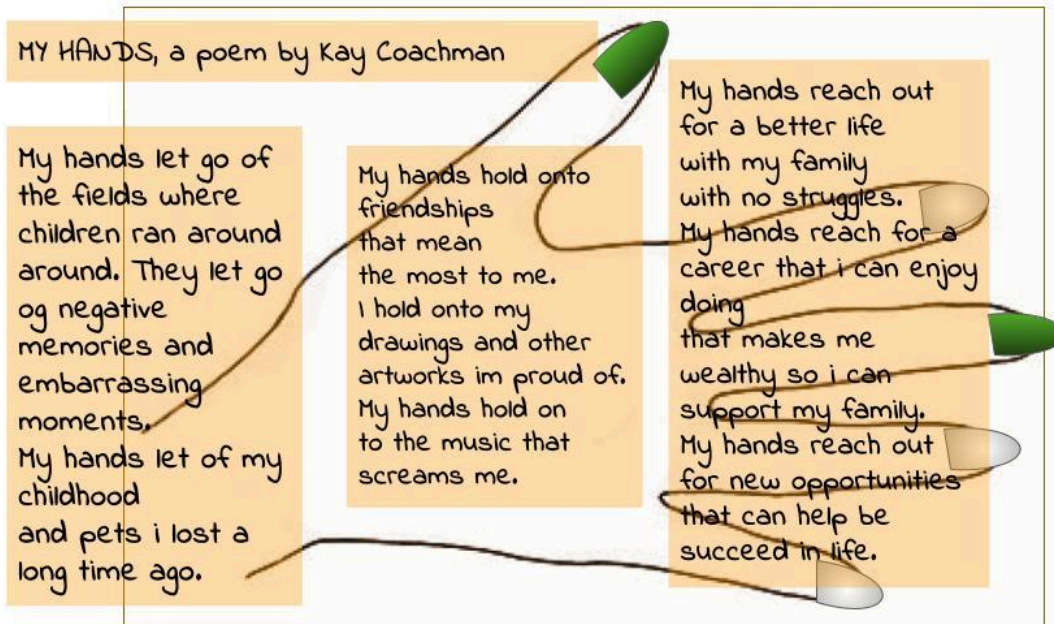
My hands reach for  
earning money.

My hands reach  
for moving to  
Dallas, Texas.

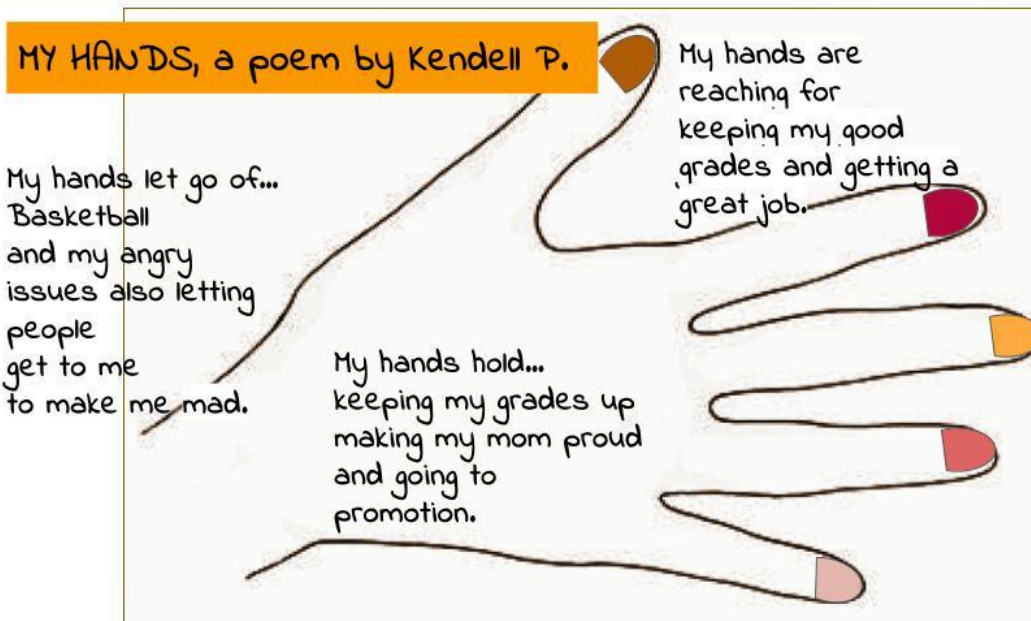
My hands reach  
for playing  
my game - Xbox.

## Devilin

Kay



Kendell



## La'Chyna

### MY HANDS, a poem by La'Chyna

My hands let go  
of...  
of my past life  
because i went  
through some  
bad stuff in my  
past life that i  
wished i didn't  
go through like  
losing my bsf  
from a car crash

My hands hold  
onto the  
memories from  
when me and  
kendall and  
devilin was kids.  
it was so fun and  
we use to go to  
the park.

My hands reach  
for the best  
future cause i  
want to be a  
nail stylist or a  
hair stylist

### MY HANDS, a poem by Lailah Coachman

My hands let go of...

a terrible  
manipulator  
cheating liar... my  
ex, the feeling of  
grief and a  
constant ache,  
trying to cope  
with the lost of  
my hamster pip..  
his tiny cage  
empty, In a city of  
gotham and  
muggy weather..

My hands hold...

a bunch of good  
memories, like  
spending quality  
time with my  
bestie, the good  
laughing  
moments, a  
shadow stretches  
long across my  
heart. To cope  
with the pain..as  
the feeling of grief  
relief from my  
body

My hands reach for...

the good feeling of  
being healed  
mentally...  
walking and feeling  
the beam of  
sunshine, warm on  
my skin, a gentle  
breeze, Lifting my  
spirit, setting me  
free.

## Lailah



## "Mississippi"

### MY HANDS, a poem by "Mississippi"

My hands let go of negative thoughts because negative things in your life can lead to a negative future. My hands let go of negative people and surroundings because those kind of things can impact my future and what i have planned to do.

My hands hold onto all the sports that i play and soon to play because sports is a big thing in my life. My hands hold onto my good grades because if you have good grades then you are prepared for success. My hands hold onto all the expensive things that i own because one day itll be worth something big.

My hands reach for a good future/life so i don't have to worry about things that happened in my childhood/past life.

My hands reach for a high school diploma and a college degree because if i have both of those i think i can have anything i want and do anything i want. My hands reach, for better surroundings because the better my surroundings the better my attitude and other things will be.

### MY HANDS, by Norihanna

My hands let go of... the anger that builds up inside of me until i can't control it, the bad attitude that hits me at the wrong time, my stubbornness that makes me wanna keep my guard up from everybody.

My hands hold... the times spent with my family the laughs and jokes said with friends my smile that lights up every room that i walk in and the good time i spend with my siblings.

My hands reach for... graduating high school making it into college and going to nursing school making a great life for myself not letting the drama consume me making a peaceful life of my own.

Norihanna

## Penina

### MY HANDS, a poem by Penina Nyiramugisha

My hands let go of  
the embarrassment  
i have gone through  
like the fact that i  
was literally bald for  
like two year's and  
the fact that i had  
fell on my tooth and  
chipped it in front of  
my friends.

My hands hold to the  
fun moments in my  
life shooting the ball in  
the hoop and missing  
and then hearing  
laughs. And also hold  
on my braiding  
passion and wanna  
hold on to my love for  
math.

My hands reach for  
more cool braiding  
styles and improving  
my braiding skills  
and making real new  
friends and building  
a good relationship  
with my teachers  
and also reaching  
for a kent state  
scholarship

### MY HANDS, a poem by R'mani P

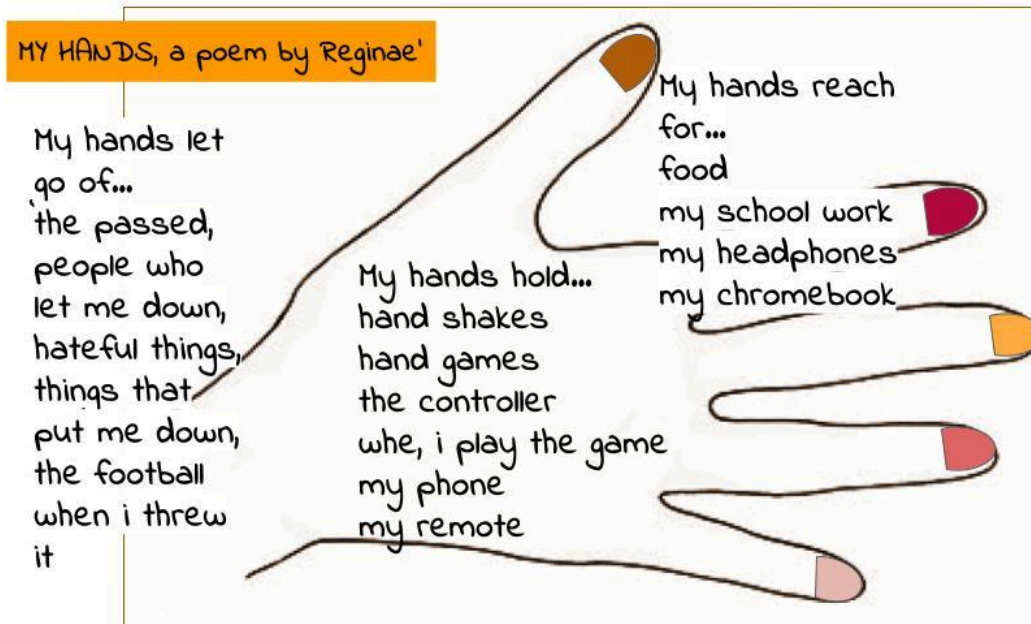
My hands let  
go of...  
My ex,  
My  
embarrassing  
moments

My hands hold...  
onto money,  
money, money,  
money, money,  
money, money

My hands reach  
for...  
Money, money,  
money,  
Money, money,  
money

## R'mani

Reginae'



## Six-Word Memoirs

Alianna S.

Young adventurer exploring the joyous world  
Found interest in things, set goals  
Pilot flying around the world exploring

Da'Twain P.

I was outside everyday, playing ball  
I play sports and very loud  
In college on a sports scholarship

Bahati B.

Curious, math-loving dancer with talent.  
Hard-working, artistic biologist who loves learning.  
Studious sporty Biologist, gardens and travels.

Penina N.

I was new and the target  
Im fresh, soon will be ancient  
I will exceed and move on

# 8th Grade Plays

## The Little Revenge

By Alianna S., Kay C., Autumn S., Bahati B., Norihanna P., Gianni H.

### Characters

Estrella  
Tanaki  
Taraji

Sunho  
Kalianna  
Penelope

Giavanni

### Scene 1: School Hallway

(Estrella, Penelope, and Kalia walk down the hallway and collide with Tanaki Fernando, Taraji, and Sunho)

Penelope: Watch it, freaks.

Kalianna: Yeah, watch it.

Taraji: You watch it.

(With a smug look on her face Taraji pushes Penelope lightly.)

(Penelope makes a scene and falls on the floor.)

(Penelope gets up.)

Penelope: You're dead.

(Penelope tries to punch Taraji, but Tanaki Fernando blocks it.)

Taraji: Did you just try to hit me?.. You're the one who bumped into me.

Penelope: You better watch your back.

Sunho: You better watch yours!

Tanaki Fernando: You ladies better stop it.

Penelope: Come on guys, let's get out of here!



(Penelope, Estrella, and Kalianna storm away.)

## **Scene 2: School Dorm Room**

(Tanaki Fernando, Sunho, and Taraji enter their dorm room)

(Sunho slams the door)

Taraji: We need to do something, what are we gonna do.

Sunho: Those girls get on my nerves, what should we do?

Tanaki Fernando: Do we have any ideas or anybody that can help us?

Sunho: I think I know a few people.

(Sunho calls her friend Giavanni)

Giavanni: Wassup?

Sunho: We need help to get revenge on some girls, are you in?

Giavanni: I got just the thing, I am on my way.

(Giavanni enters the dorm with a carton of eggs and a whole bag of black clothes.)

Giavanni: Yall gotta put these on.

Giavanni: Let's get cracking.

(They put on the black clothes.)

## **Scene 3: Another dorm room**

(Estrella, Penelope, and Kaliaana walk into their dorm room.)

(Kaliaana slamming the door behind her.)

Kaliaana: I hate those girls! We should get revenge.

Estrella: Yeah—are we gonna get revenge?

Peneople: Of course we're going to get revenge on them.

(Penelope opens a binder full of evil revenge plans.)

Penelope: (She's flipping pages) No, that's not a good one.. Hmmh....

(Estrella points at one page of the book.)

Estrella: This one.

(Estrella, Penelope, and Kaliana all look at each other. Then start laughing maniacally.)

#### **Scene 4: Outside between the two dorms, later that night**

(Kaliana, Penelope, and Estrella sneak towards Tanaki Fernando, Sunho, and Taraji dorm. At the same time Tanaki Fernando, Sunho, and Taraji sneak towards Kaliana, Penelope, and Estrella dorm.)

#### **Scene 5: The other girls' dorm room**

(Penelope walks up to the bunk beds and lifts the pillows. Kaliana pulls out the box of mice. Estrella takes them out of the box and places them under the pillow.)

Estrella: This is going to be so gross.

Kaliana: Wait...shouldn't they be in here ? Sleeping? It's past lights out. Also why'd they leave the door unlocked?

Penelope: It doesn't matter what they're doing. Now let's get out of here.

#### **Scene 6: The other other dorm room**

(Tanaki Fernando, Sunho, Taraji, and Giavanni walk into the dorm room of Kaliana, Penelope, and Estrella)

Tanki Fernando: This is going to be so disgusting.

Sunho: Yeah.

Taraji: Wait...shouldn't they be in here? Sleeping? It's past lights out. Also why'd they leave the door unlocked?

Giavanni: It doesn't matter, let's hurry up and start egging.

(Tanaki Fernando, Sunho, Taraji, and Giavanni start throwing eggs all over the dorm room. They hear the sound of footsteps.)

Giavanni (whispers): Okay that's the last egg, let's go.

(They Leave the dorm room.)

#### **Scene 7: Hallway**

(Tanaki Fernando, Sunho, Taraji, and Giavanni run past Kaliana, Penelope, and Estrella in the hallway.)

Estrella: Who was that ?

Kailanna: That was weird?

Penelope: Does it matter?

Estrella: I guess not.

Penelope: It's getting late, we need our beauty sleep ladies.

(Tanaki Fernando, Sunho, Taraji, and Giavanni hide behind a corner. Waiting.)

(Kaliana, Penelope, and Estrella walk into their dorm. After a second Penelope screams.)

### **Scene 8: Hallway**

(Tanaki Fernando, Sunho, Taraji, and Giavanni walk down the hall towards their own dorm room.)

Sunho: Hahahaha that was great.

Taraji: They never saw it coming.

Tanaki Fernando: That was great, let's get to bed.

Giavanni: See you guys.

Sunho: See yah.

(Giavanni walks out as the others walk towards the door.)

(Taraji opens the door and they all walk into the bedroom.)

### **Scene 9: Dorm Room**

(Sunho sits on one of the beds.)

(Taraji brushes her hair.)

(Tanaki picks up her pillow and fluffs her pillow. Then drops it in shock.)

Tanaki: M-M-M-Mouse!

(Taraji and Sunho pick up their pillows. The girls burst out into screams. They run around the room hoollaring. )

**Scene 10:** Early in the morning the next day back in the first hallway

( Estrella, Penelope, and Kaliana walk down the hallway and stop right in front with Tanaki Fernando, Taraji, and Sunho)

Penelope: We know you egged our dorm!

Taraji: We Know you hid mice in our room! How childish.

Penelope: And egging our room isn't!

Taraji: hiding mice in our room is way more disgusting!

Penelope: Like egging our room isn't just as disgusting!

Taraji: It isn't!

(The groups glared at each other.)

Tanaki Fernando: Guys! Guys! Guys! Can't you guys see we're the same?

Can't we just stop fighting?

(The groups look at each other.)

Taraji:...Maybe we can be friends..

Estrella: Yeah, we should be friends!

(Kaliana nods and smiles.)

Penelope: ( whispers) Hahahahaha No....

(Everyone walks down the hall, except for Penelope and Estrella.)

Estrella: Are you coming, Penelope?

(Penelope runs full force at Estrella pushing her out the window. Estrella screams.)

Penelope: Friends this!!.

The End.

## Cops and Robbers

Mariyah B., Sha'Kira T., A'niyha M., Destiny B., Penina N.

### Characters:

Roby

Adriana

Jay

Lanae

Hyperpigmentation

Harry

### Scene One—Street scene

(Harry, and Lanae are cops “opps” standing outside a donut shop near their car)

(Hyperpigmentation, Roby, and Jay are robbers at the subway station.)

(Adriana is waiting in the car as the getaway driver.)

Lanae: Mmmm this strawberry donut with sprinkles is really good. You should try this coffee. It's got a rich flavor!

Harry: What's in it?

Lanae: It's a cappuccino! Yummy yummy. I think y'all should try it.

(Lanae gets a call over the radio.)

Radio: 3 subjects subway-surfing at the subway downtown, in all black with ski masks, skinny jeans, and sneakers.

(Roby, Jay, and Hyperpigmentation are the 3 subjects identified leaving through the subway entrance.)

(Roby sees a woman on the phone and pointing at them.)

Roby: Let's leave. I think they're coming to get us.

Hyperpigmentation: Who's coming?

Roby: The opps!!!!

Hyperpigmentation & Roby: Jay run!!!

Jay: AHHHHHH!

( The 3 cops start chasing them.)

Lanae: Get back here before I start shooting!

Roby: You can't catch us

(Roby, Hyperpigmentation, and Jay run and get in the car.)

Hyperpigmentation: ADRIANA DRIVE! THE COPS ARE AFTER US!!!!

Adriana: OKAY !!!

(Adriana pulls off fast.)

Hyperpigmentation: These cops on our tails man.

Jay: This is scary.

Roby: No literally.

(The cops catch up to the robbers.)

Jay: Adriana, drive faster, I have a warrant out for my arrest and I don't want to go to jail!

Adriana: I'm driving as fast as I can, I'm really tryna swerve and bend that corner but its not working, I need to get my car fixed.

Roby: It's not fast enough, DRIVE FASTER!!!!

Hyperpigmentation: Drive into this alleyway

(Adriana drives into the alleyway.)

Roby: I think we lost them.

Jay: Did we??

Hyperpigmentation: yeah we did, we have to find a different car to get into to

Harry: Shoot, we lost them.

(Nearby but out of sight of the robbers, the cops are talking.)

Lanae: Let's go back to the station and get some more donuts.

Harry: Yeah, let's go get some more donuts because it's Lunch Time.

Lanae: Come on, let's go.

(Lanae and Harry go to the donut shop and they get 3 dozen donuts)

(Back in the alleyway

(Hyperpigmentation, Robby, and Jay start looking for a car to steal and Adrianna is sitting in the car because she is upset that her car is tore up.)

Adrianna: Wait, wait, my precious black car! Nooooooooo!!!!

Hyperpigmentation: Come on, we gotta go!!!

(Some man sees Jay, Robby, and Hyperpigmentation trying to steal his car and he yells at them and immediately calls the police.)

Roby: I think we should give up on this (crying).

Hyperpigmentation & Jay: NO! We need to get Emily back.

Roby: I don't care about Jay's little sister.

Roby: I just want this to end already.

Jay: What do you mean you don't care about my little sister? Do you want to fight?

Roby: Yes, cause I'm getting tired of you.

Hyperpigmentation: y'all stop, we don't have time for this right now

Jay: Does it look like I care? He is talking about my little sister!

Adrianna : SHUT UP if y'all wouldn't have got us into this, we wouldn't have to do none of this.!

(They find a car and get in it.)

(Adrianna pulls off and starts driving to the bank)

Hyperpigmentation: ADRIANNA, DRIVE FASTER, WHY YOU GOING SO SLOW?

Adrianna : I'm driving dude!

Roby: Is this a gun in the arm rest.?

Jay: we're gonna go to jail, we don't have a gun license.

Hyperpigmentation: We can use it.

Roby: No, no, no. We can't keep it. They'll press more charges on us.

Jay: Yes we can. We need it. Just hide it, Hyperpigmentation.

(Arriving at the bank. They park around the corner.)

(Adrianna stays with the car. Roby, Jay, Hyperpigmentation get out of the car.)

## **Scene Two: Inside the Bank**

(They enter through the side door of the bank.)

(Roby goes up to the counter to speak to a bank teller.)

(She holds up a note.)

The note says: We want all the money you have. We have a bomb. And it will explode in five minutes and you know you don't wanna die.

(Roby goes behind the counter to watch the bank tellers and make sure they don't push the button.)

(Jay and Hyperpigmentation are heading up the stairs to the vault.)

(a few minutes later they come running downstairs with a bag of money.)

Jay: Let's go, let's go.

(All three run out the door and they hop in the car with Adrianna and they drive off.

Adrianna: Do y'all have all the money?

Hyperpigmentation: Yes, let's hurry up and go give them the money to get Jay's sister back.

## **Scene Three—Underground parking lot**

(They arrive at the underground parking lot where the mafia told Jay they would have his sister when he had the money)

(Jay gets out the car with the money and Hyperpigmentation, Adrianna, and Roby come along)

Jay: I got your money.

Mafia Leader: Okay it's 1 million dollars right?



Jay: Yes, I got it, here you go.

Mafia Leader: Give me one second for me to make sure it's all real.

Jay: Okay, but I know it's real.

Mafia Leader: Okay you're clear. Let me go get your sister.

Jay: Okay

Mafia Leader: Here go your sister. You do anything like this again you aint gonna get her back.

Jay: Okay, I won't do anything else.

Emily: Hi, Jay, i've missed you

Jay: Hey Emily, I'm glad I got you back– thanks to my good friends Hyperpigmentation and Roby for helping me and oh yeah I can't forget Adrianna for driving us.

Emily: Thanks for helping my big brother get me back.

Hyperpigmentation & Roby: YOU'RE WELCOME!

(They all have a group hug)

Roby: Ugh Emily, you still look the same, still bald.

Emily: Roby I am not bald.

Roby: Whatever– just glad you're back.

Emily: I'm glad I'm back too.

(Jay hugs Emily)

Mafia leader: Let's hope I don't have to see you again .

Adrianna: I hope we don't have to do this again.

The End

## Two Little Girls in the Woods

By La'Chyna H. and Nevaeh W.

### **Characters:**

Heaven

Frost

**Scene one— in front of Frost's old house in the woods. We can see Heaven's treehouse next door.**

(Frost and Heaven are outside.)

Heaven: Hey Frost! I have a problem.

Frost: What is the problem?

Heaven There's these weird looking bugs that are invading my treehouse.

Frost: Heaven, I will help you get rid of the bugs. But first we have to go to the store and get bug spray.

Heaven: I don't want to use bug spray. I'm allergic to it. Can't you just smash them for me?

Frost: Yeah, of course, I can smash them for you.

(Frost climbs up the ladder into the treehouse and stomps around.)

(Heaven covers her ears and closes her eyes.)

(Frost comes back down the ladder.)

Heaven: Did you get them all?

Frost: Yes, I got them all. So you don't have nothing to worry about.

Heaven: Thank you, Frost.

Frost: You're welcome, Heaven.

**Scene Two: Later that summer**

Heaven: why aren't my fruit trees making any fruit?

Frost: I don't know, Heaven, I been trying to figure the same thing

Heaven: Well we both got a big problem right now and also we still gotta figure out what happened to my fruit tree. Now I'm not gonna have any fruit for breakfast. I'm so angry now, Frost! What are we going to do?

Frost: We can cut up some fruit. It's not such a big deal right, Heaven

Heaven: I guess it's not such a big deal, but what are we gonna eat for lunch and dinner?

Frost: We can find food in the forest or we can just go to the store and buy groceries.

Heaven: We gotta find the owner of the bugs that we killed back in the tree house.

Frost: How we gonna find the owner of the bugs if we don't know where the owner lives?

Heaven: I wish we had a map so we can track the owner down, but it's gonna be difficult because we have to search almost everywhere.

Frost: Alright so we're gonna start traveling, but we need some stuff to keep us alive—we gonna need water and some other resources.

Heaven: we're gonna start traveling now but we need to pack clothes and some water but the sink doesn't work and that's messed up— like for real we gonna need water for the trip.

Frost: Well at least we got clothes, right, Heaven?

Heaven: Well sure I guess, but we need water and food and we can't get to the fridge because the handle got stuck.

Frost: Well what are we gonna do we can't live without any resources or any devices?

Heaven: Well I don't know what to do. OMG, I'm lost and I'm confused about everything.

Frost: confused about what we almost got, everything but water and fruit. we really need to find the owner of the bugs— not gonna lie .

Heaven : alright let's begin the adventure I guess. So where we going first?

Frost : We gonna go to the forest to find food and hunt animals down.

Heaven: okay we can go hunt for food but I thought you didn't like hurting animals, Frost, how we gonna go hunt for food and all u gonna do is get emotional?

Frost: Well I'm not gonna get emotional probably... probably not... idk.

**The End**

# Superheroes in Paris

By Lailah and Reginae'

## Character List:

Judy—the superhero behind the mask (invisibility, flying, morphing)

Nicole- superhero (flying, teleportation)

Eugene - villain, wants to steal jewelry from the sisters so he can resurrect his wife (he has super strength and can shoot lasers)

## Scene One

(Judy and Nicole are sisters and they are in Paris on vacation)

(They are sitting at McDonald's talking)

(Eugene walks in and stares at the sisters, staring at their jewelry)

Judy: Why is this guy looking at us?

Nicole: Creep. Maybe we should go.

(The sisters walk out of the McDonald's and head down the street)

Judy: Glad we got out of there, he was very creepy.

(Nicole looks behind them)

Nicole: What the heck! Is he following us??

(The sisters start to run. They turn down an alley and stop behind a dumpster to catch their breath.)

Judy: What does he want from us?

Nicole: I don't know, but I saw him looking at our necklaces.

(The sisters hear footsteps at the end of the alley)

Eugene: Hand over the jewelry.

Judy & Nicole: Boy, heck no!

(Judy morphs into a Lion and charges at Eugene)

(Eugene shoots lasers at Judy and sends her flying through the alley)

(Nicole flies at Eugene and knocks him unconscious, she morphs into an eagle and picks up Judy and flies away)

## **Scene 2**

(Judy and Nicole are sitting on the couch at their AirBnB)

Judy: What the heck just happened, who is this guy?

Nicole: I don't know but we need to start doing research. He can't take both of us.

(To be continued)