

Connecting to Nature

A 7th Grade Creative Anthology



Mound School, Cleveland, Ohio, 2025

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work in this anthology was created during a Lake Erie Ink creative expression residency at Mound K-8 School in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Seventh graders in Mr. Kyle Pearce's class wrote poems and created collages about connecting to nature with Lake Erie Ink teaching artist Melodie Yates. Thank you, Mr. Pearce, for making time for creative expression!

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Aniyah W.

Nature Poem!

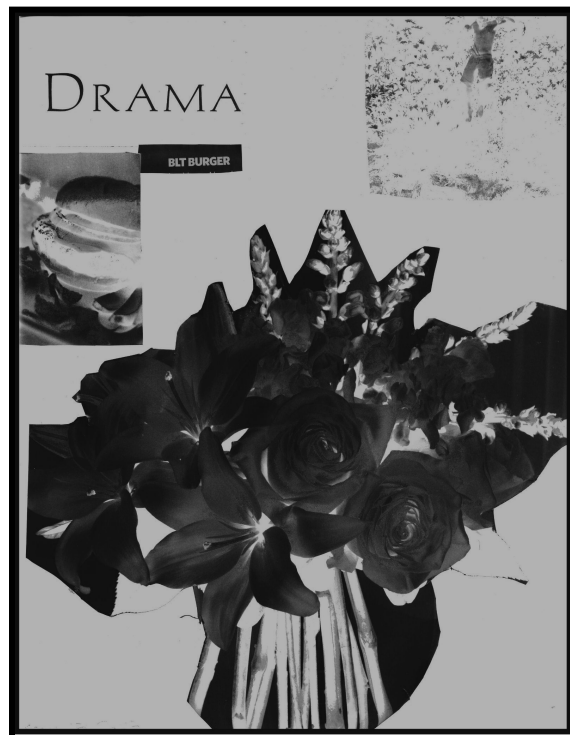
(inspired by Ohio Wildlife Fieldguides)

Northern water snakes
Show extreme variations in color
A light brown to very dark
Pattern runs throughout the body.

Water Snakes usually flee from people.
They are very
QUICK!

When picked up
They defend themselves.
They release a toxic
And obnoxious smell
From their musk glands.

These snakes aren't scary.
These snakes aren't ugly.
These snakes are mysterious.



Anthony W.

The Northern Snake

The northern water snake,

disturbed, permanent,

venomous moccasin,

cotton mouth,

Water snakes flee from people to defend themselves

obnoxious smelling

substance from their musk glands.

Northern water snakes are often upon logs, stumps, and rocks, or low branches

They are very wary, drop into water, and disappear quickly

Spring Weather

On spring break

how the weather

got really hot

then the next day

it felt like winter

one day

the grass was green.



Artaze T.

Birds flying up high in this beautiful sky -

I was walking down by the ocean one day
I heard hard waves hitting the rocks
as if a loud bang on the door
but it was peaceful.

Looking more into the sky
I saw the sun setting high,
orange in the sky,
while birds fly up high.
Some other pretty colors too,
waving to me in the sky.

I saw beautiful waves out far
It makes me happy seeing more life in that sky.
And when i was out by the ocean
I realized that the ocean can be a peaceful place
when i am having my bad days.
When I was looking at the ocean
I realized this is a place where I can have peace,
seeing birds fly up high in this beautiful sky.

Knowing

Time spent in nature
is time spent realizing
That you don't know it all
And that you never will.

Ashley J.

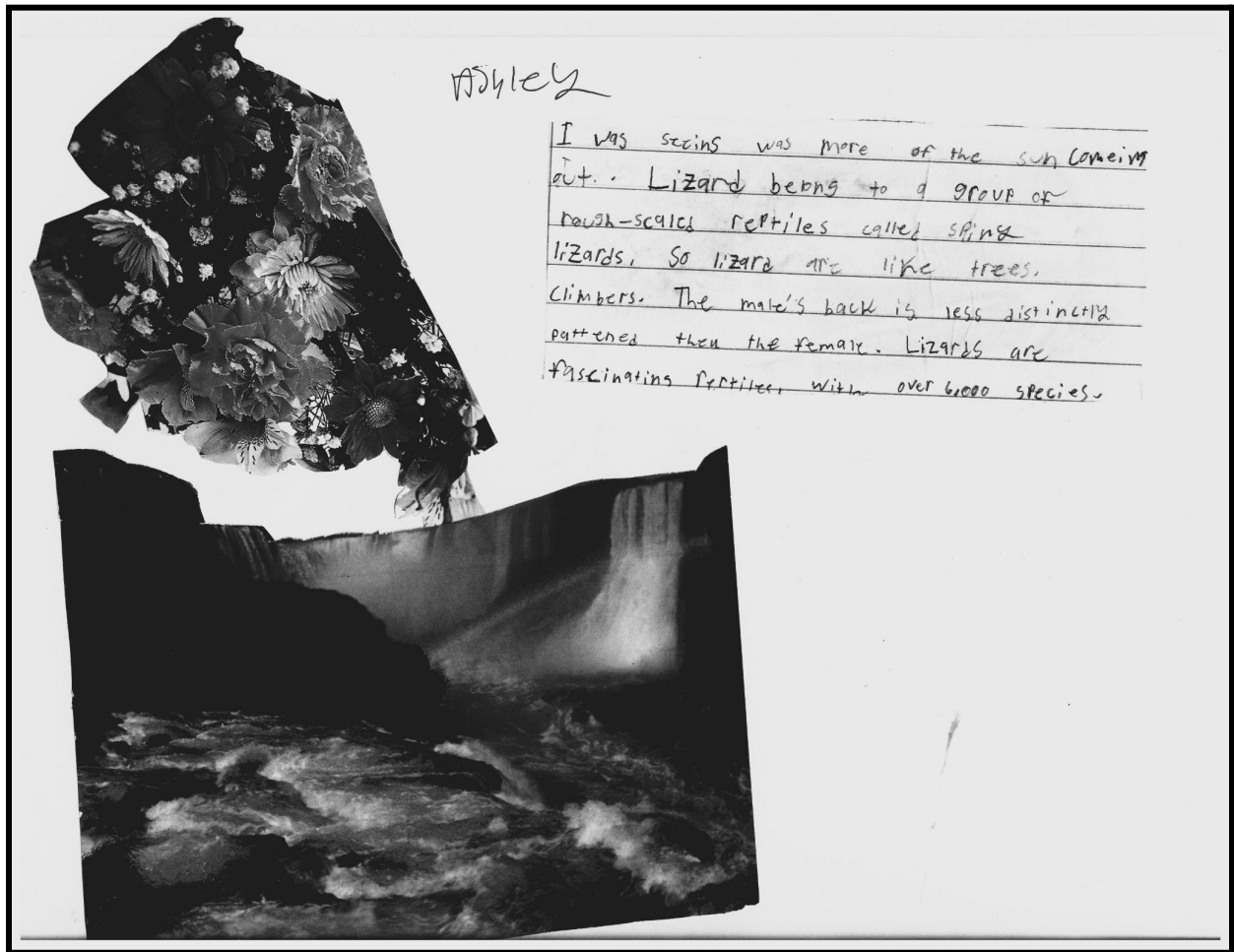
Rainforest

When I was in the rainforest, I felt so alive
When I was here last, the flowers were dead
And now they are growing
I can smell the water coming off the trees
The flowers make the first look so colorful
It's like I can't unsee this. I can hear the wind blowing

I can feel the water going into my head
My friends and I like to come here
When I was coming out, I could see more and more of the sun
Lizards began to grow up to rough-scaled reptiles called spiny lizards
So lizards are like tree climbers
The male's back is less distinctly patterned than the female's
Lizards are fascinating reptiles, with over 6,000 species

When I first went to the rainforest.
I smell sunflowers, all of the trees,
and water coming off trees
I see a lot of trees
frogs and bears on the trees.
I hear a man saying bears have to climb to the food animals
I felt so happy, nice, and mad at the same time
I was mad because there was so much water on me
I can hear a waterfall
All of the animals are happy about the water.
I can see a lot of animals and I want to take them home.

Ashley's Collages



Audrianna M.

Walking through the Path

Walking through the path
the rocks crunch under my feet
crunch, crunch.
As the wind blew through my hair
I felt a sudden breeze
through my body it went,
hearing the birds chirp and the sounds of the crickets.

Down the path... into a dark spot

As I'm walking through the rainforest, I suddenly stop
to hear the sound of the wind as it pushes me through the path
Down the path I go
into a dark spot
only a peek of sunlight
as the wind blew the trees
The dark spot suddenly had more light
I wasn't in the dark anymore.
It started to rain
as I twirled
It suddenly stopped
The water dropped off the top tree branches.

Azani R.

Life in Nature

I was going on a nature walk in the woods
Because it was not too hot, but not too cold.
It was a nice type of weather.
And on my nature walk, I saw a pond with a lot of baby tadpoles and a lot of baby fish.
And as I kept walking, I saw a bird nest with two baby birds,
but there was another bird that had fallen out of the bird's nest.
I picked up the baby bird and put it back into the bird nest.
And after that, I kept walking.

Towards the end of my nature walk
I took a few pictures.
And walked back home,
and on my way home, I heard a singing bird,
And the singing bird is a cute, nice, warm yellow bird.
After I got home, I saw a cute grey bunny.
I took a picture of the cute little grey bunny.

I sat outside of my house for some time just to take in the nice weather.
And all of the animals I saw. And after that, I went into the house after it got dark,
And that's the end of my nature walk story.

Something i enjoyed on my nature walk was the warmth of the Air,
and getting to see a lot of different animals. And some different types of flowers.
And my nature walk was calming and relaxing.
And yes, I would do my nature walk again if I had the chance to.
And I wonder if that bird that had fallen out of the sky is doing ok now,
because seeing the bird
in that type of state is sad.
And I wonder if people just walked past the baby bird without helping it, or at least
putting the baby bird in a safe nearby area.
But yeah, that was my story about my nature walk
And I hope you guys enjoyed it.

Bailey R.

A Walk in the Forest

As I walk through the woods,
I can hear my shoes scraping
against the concrete pathway.
Walking through the woods,
I smell summer grass and old wood,
hearing grasshoppers chirping away.
While walking through the woods
I'm hearing my own footsteps crunching
away from the tiny twigs and
dead leaves on the ground.
My ears start to ease with the quietness of nature...
the sounds of the insects and
other things in nature while exploring.
I observe the fresh air,
flowing free, through my hair.



Bril'lynn S.

THE SIGHT OF NATURE

*I see the shining of the sunlight in the water,
I see lots of stones of many different colors,*

*I saw many fish with a light burnt orange, as it looks almost red,
I saw decaying land, I saw many ponds with a light green color due to the algae,
I saw a big brown hawk with specks of a light beige color,
I saw the dust float into the air as we walked on the walkway,
I hear the rocks smack against each other and crackle as we walk on top of them,
I smelled a funky water smell linger around the ponds,
I saw many plants with specks of many colors,
I heard the sound of cicadas in this hot afternoon,
And I saw this all while walking in my school's nature reserve.*

HEADING DOWN NATURE ROAD

*I see dim yellow, almost red sunlight
I see light, dark, and yellow-green leaves and trees
I smell the dust of the solid dirt
I hear the chirping of small birds as they land on tree branches, as they pop and crackle
I hear my shoes screech and scrape against the pebbles as I walk on the concrete walkway
I see flies fly around everywhere, as I hear them buzzing around
I see my dim to black shadow move around as I walk the walkway
I shine as the sun lights up my clothes like a star, as it brightens up the night sky 🌟*



Brillynn's Poem Collage

Charlese S.

Pretty little things

*As I step through the branches,
breaking and cracking noises
I realise walking through this nice Amazon rainforest
nice peace and a comfortable feeling
the more I kept walking
closer and closer to nature
became more peaceful.*

*pretty little birds flying around singing loudly
the rain is pouring into the green grass
While looking up into the sky with my yellow rain jacket
cold little hard drops of rain falling on my skin
this gloomy life has just begun
10-20 minutes later, I saw a light beaming down*

*pretty little things,
cute baby bears climbing the trees looking for something to eat
frogs jumping around enjoying the ground,
seeing lots of animals from different ecosystems,
walking to my car, I look more into nature
wet little leaves
wow*

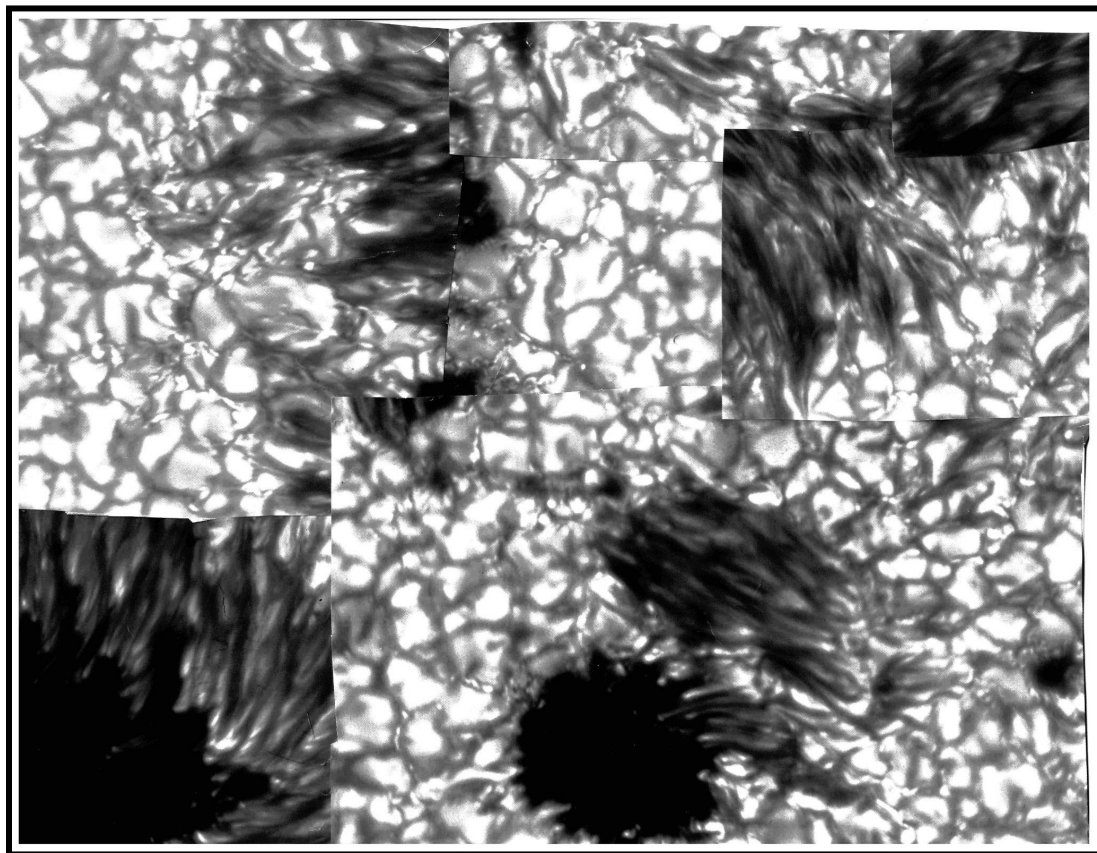
*pretty little things,
this nice nature walk thru puddles
mud on my yellow rain boots
today I admire the things I've seen,*

*pretty little things
even pretty little trees, animals, happy
this is their safe place
that's why they sing,
nothing compared to their home
overflowing with pretty little things.*

Sound of Peace - Charlese S.

***Walking out of my house constantly
hearing beautiful sounds from the ground
hearing leaves scratch the ground
and little butterflies flapping around
pink blue & white
don't i love the sound of peace
as my day starts, i look into the cloudy white and blue sky
seeing red and yellow birds flying around
"oh my, they so high."
brown and green leaves falling
from the drop of the sky
waving on the ground
while my pretty brown hair waves around now
the cold little breeze
makes my hair swing.***

Cianna's Nature Collage



Christopher C.

Crows Revolution

Crows are as fast as bolts
Although we ravage their lands

But what if they rose up to revolt?

Took them back in their own hands?

If they make larger winter roosts

That is sure to give them a boost!

True Freedom - a haiku

The bliss of nature/
The animals have freedom/
While humans have none

The Hunt

I see..snow
I see..the fur of a hunting feline
I see..green life becoming anew

Ciana D.

A Visit to Nature

One day, I decided to visit nature
As I walked into nature, I saw big green trees.
I saw a pretty waterfall and rocks inside the waterfall.
I also saw lots of tree branches, I also heard birds chipping
and several green leaves on the floor, and lots of grass.
I also saw lots of pretty red flowers.

After it was raining into nature the leaves and trees was wet
the sun was lighting down on nature into the big green trees
Nature was so beautiful as I was walking into the forest.
I saw lots of animals, lots of flowers,
lots of pretty green leaves falling out of the tree onto the floor.
You can hear the bears groaning and the lizards by the water.
Lots of broken tree branches were on the ground.

Inside the waterfall
There is dirty water and also fish inside the waterfall.
Lots of big cut trees are inside the water
green trees with green leaves on the trees next to the waterfalls.
The waterfalls are going down on rocks inside the water.
I also saw lots of deer in nature drinking the waterfall water.
I also saw lots of giraffes eating the leaves off the trees.

I also saw butterflies flying around
and small red and black ladybugs are all around nature.

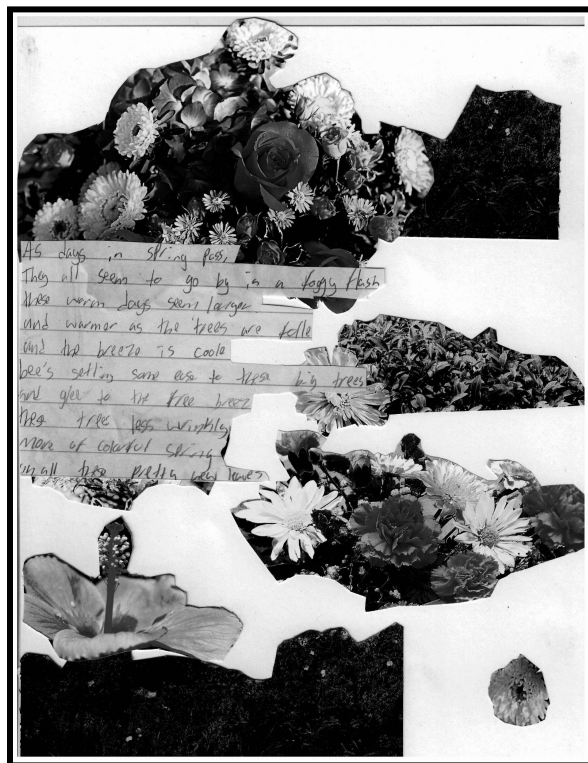
Cordillia J.

Lingering thoughts

Sometimes memories don't leave, they instead linger,
linger within grief,
linger within your fingers,
and linger in your smell or face.
tho you might forget,
they never disappear,
and will always be there
even when you want to erase,
They will forever linger in that moment and that year,
So every time I pass by smell
or hear you, my heart will race.
Cause tho I push those memories away
they're still there.
and can never go away
forever be within your face
And my heart always a faster pace
even if you're nowhere,
I'm still in those memories where I had to
have a bold face.
So from now on smell are with you,
And memories of spoken words within you,
if only you knew.

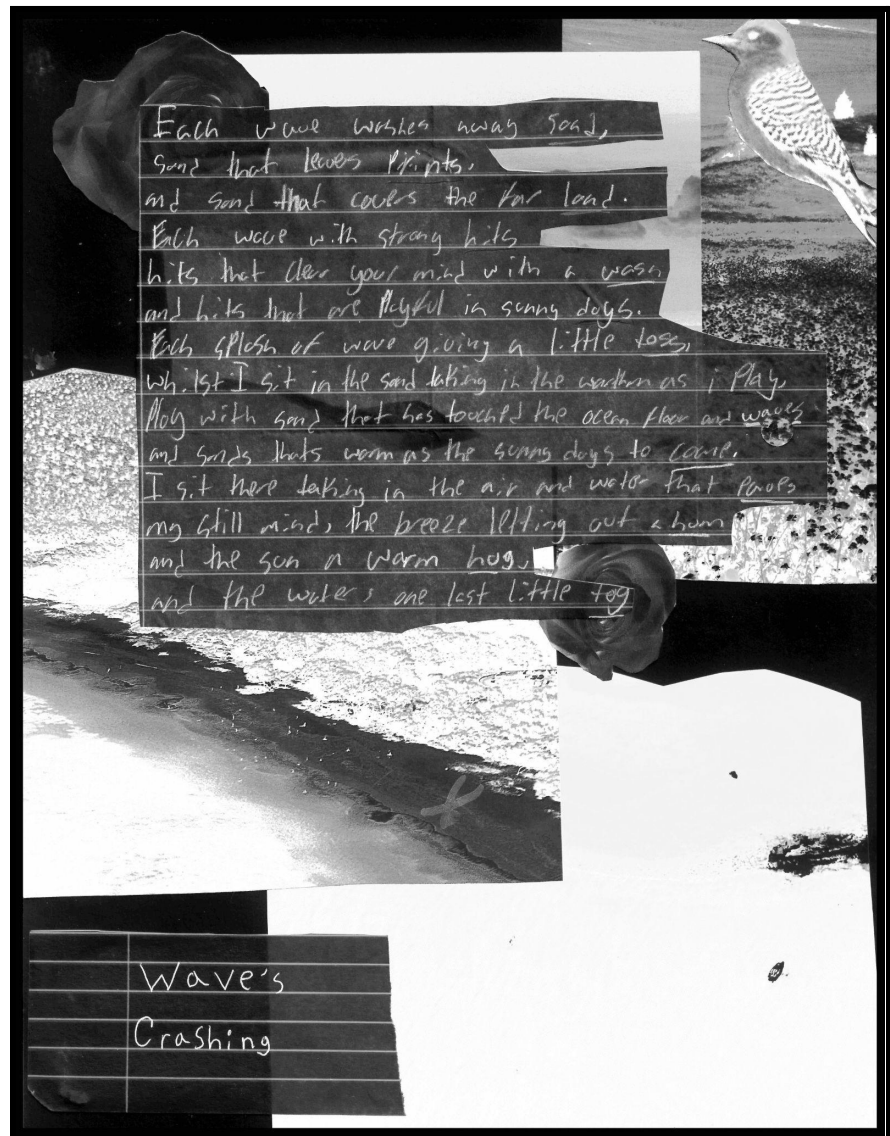
Foggy warm spring days

As days in spring pass,
They all seem to go by in a foggy flash,
These warm days seem longer,
And warmer as the trees are fuller,
And the breeze is cooler.
bees setting some ease to these big trees,
And glee to the free breeze,
These trees less wrinkly,
More of a colorful spring
On all these pretty new trees.



Waves Crashing - Cordillia S.

Each wave washes away sand,
Sand that leaves prints,
sand that covers the far lands.
Each wave with strong hits,
Hits that crash into you're clear mind with a wash,
hits that are playful in sunny rays of days.
Each splash of wave giving a little toss,
Whilst I sit in the sand taking in the warmth as I play,
Play with sand that has touched the ocean floor
and far waves,
And sands that's warm as the sunny days to come,
I sit there taking in the
air
and waves that pave my
still mind,
the breeze letting out a
hum
the sun a little warm
hug,
And the strong waters
one last single tug.



Damari L

Nature poem

I was walking down a nature path.
As I was walking, I heard this strange sound.
It kinda sounds like a high pitch sound as it seeps into my ear
I didn't pay any attention to it at first. But as I continue down the hill. I heard it again.
I stopped, tried to find the strange noise.
I looked in the grass, the trees, and even in the water.
But I still couldn't find the noise.
So I kept looking and came to look in one more tree that I hadn't looked at.
As I looked through the tree, I saw a little species or a type of insect
Come to find out
That it was just a Cicada.

When I was walking down the hill
I smelled all kinds of dead plants.
And also flowers, and nasty-smelling water.
I also saw trees without leaves.
And some of them didn't even branch.
And some of them were torn down.
But I was still able to find out what the sound was.



Dontae A.

A Beautiful Saturday Afternoon

On one warm Saturday afternoon
I walked on a trail of flowers
that I could smell as I picked the flowers up.
As I kept walking, I smelled fresh-cut grass.
While the birds sang and the flowers bloomed
and the grass grew.
The sun was glowing through the trees
as I stepped on dry leaves,
they were breaking
to the point they were yelling for help.
As I was walking at a fast pace through a park.
Kids yelling, parents on the phone,
watching their kids
as they played with toys.
Walking into a library,
keys moving and making sounds
people saying out there words as they typed
to print something out
for their loved one as a gift.

I walked out,
and looked at the sky
that was a beautiful light blue on
a beautiful Saturday afternoon.



Emonie A.

When You Go to a Rainforest

- 🌸 You will see new plants and little frogs and little monkeys.
- 🌺 You can feel how peaceful it is.
- 🌸 It can be how it make you forget your problems
- 🌻 It puts your mind at peace

- 🌻 The smell of sweet flowers,
- 🌺 Walking on wet grass mixed with mud
- 🌿 Seeing all new life forming, and
- 🌺 Feeling the trees around you ...making you see light then doubtful.

- 🌱 Seeing all the green around me makes me wonder
- 🌿 Why are some people so shameful?
- 🌿 Understanding their reasons why
But why do they have to make the trees cry?
- 🌈 There are people that don't want them to be dry.

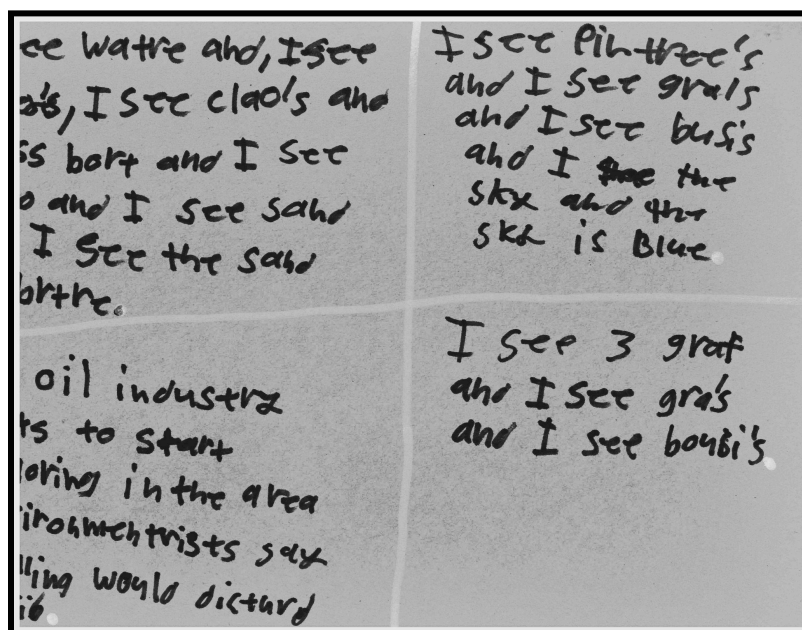
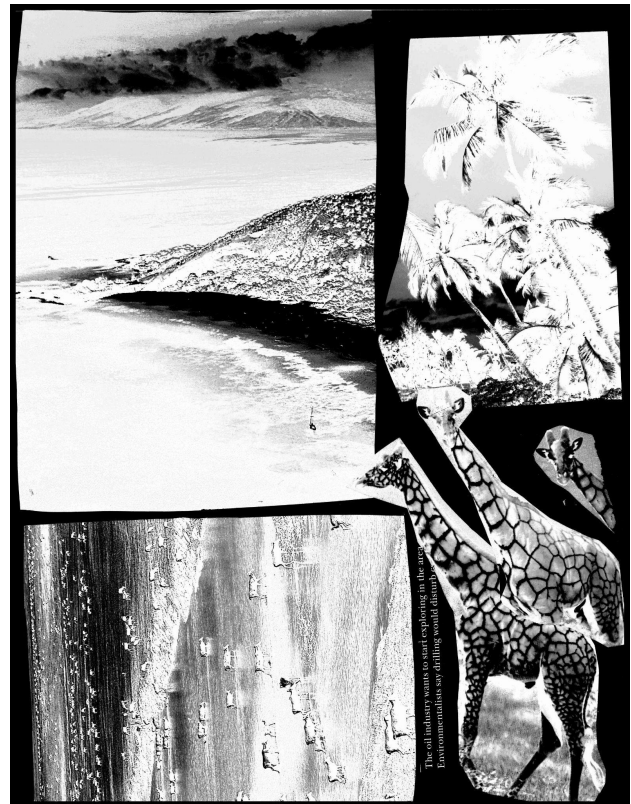
- 🌴 Seeing the pain of people cutting down trees
- 🌿 But they also need the green,
- 🌲 Seeing the trees around you
- 🌸 The stories will find you
- 🌿 The trees and the animals' kingdom will show you



Gabrielle B.

Nature

I see a cat in the picture,
and the cat is black and orange,
and the cat is lying down in his bed,
and his bed is blue,
and his bed is on the floor,
and i see orange fur on his bed,
and his eyes are orange and black
and it look like the cat is comfortable in
his bed.



Nature Notes by Gabrielle

Iyanna D.

Ocean Potion

The ocean is blue like the sky,
The sea is clear like glass.
The fish swim so close but so near.
The sun shone like it was the first time,
oh so bright like the light in the sky.
The ocean is so blue it makes me feel brand new.

The Turtle

One day, I was scuba diving with some friends, but I had wandered away. I looked and looked, but they were too far away. I tried swimming to them, but it was too late, so I started looking around until I saw something big, humongous. I swam closer and saw a sea turtle. It had plastics around its body, it looked like it wanted to cry, and it had tears in its eyes. I came up to it, I tried to pull the plastics off, but it looked like it was hurting it even more, so I stopped. I swam up to see if there were any boats.



James B.

Wonders of a Forest

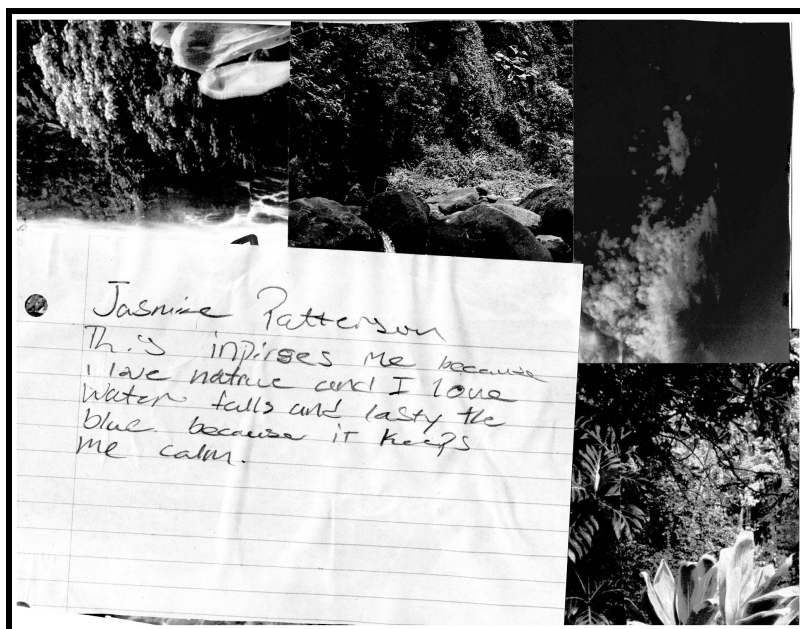
Beneath a canopy of green, I walk,
The forest whispers, secrets I can talk,
Sunlight leaks down, A sharp bright light,
On the green-carpeted rock,
On a log here comes a green frog,
I look further down & see a thick fog.



Jasmine P.

An Amazon Rainforest Survival Story

One day, I was walking in the Amazon rainforest.
As I was moving tree branches out of my way, I saw a beautiful waterfall.
It was so nice that I had to take a swim because what if I never see this again?
An hour later, as I was making my way back home, a snake bit me in my leg.
I was screaming and yelling for help, but no one could hear me.
But that didn't stop me from having fun,
so I reached in my backpack for my first aid kit
and I wrapped my leg and started walking again.
As I was walking, I heard a HUGE thunder.
I started getting a little scared as I started walking again.
Rain started pouring.
I started getting wet and I didn't have any coat to put over my head.
Luckily, I brought a tent with food and water.
After I put my tent up, I put on some dry clothes,
and I also had a cover,
it was too small, but it's better than nothing.
So I went to sleep, and finally someone found me after 2 days.
And I got rescued the next day.
But sadly, I was sent to the hospital for my leg.
I was ok though, so they let me go home and I lived happily ever after.
The End

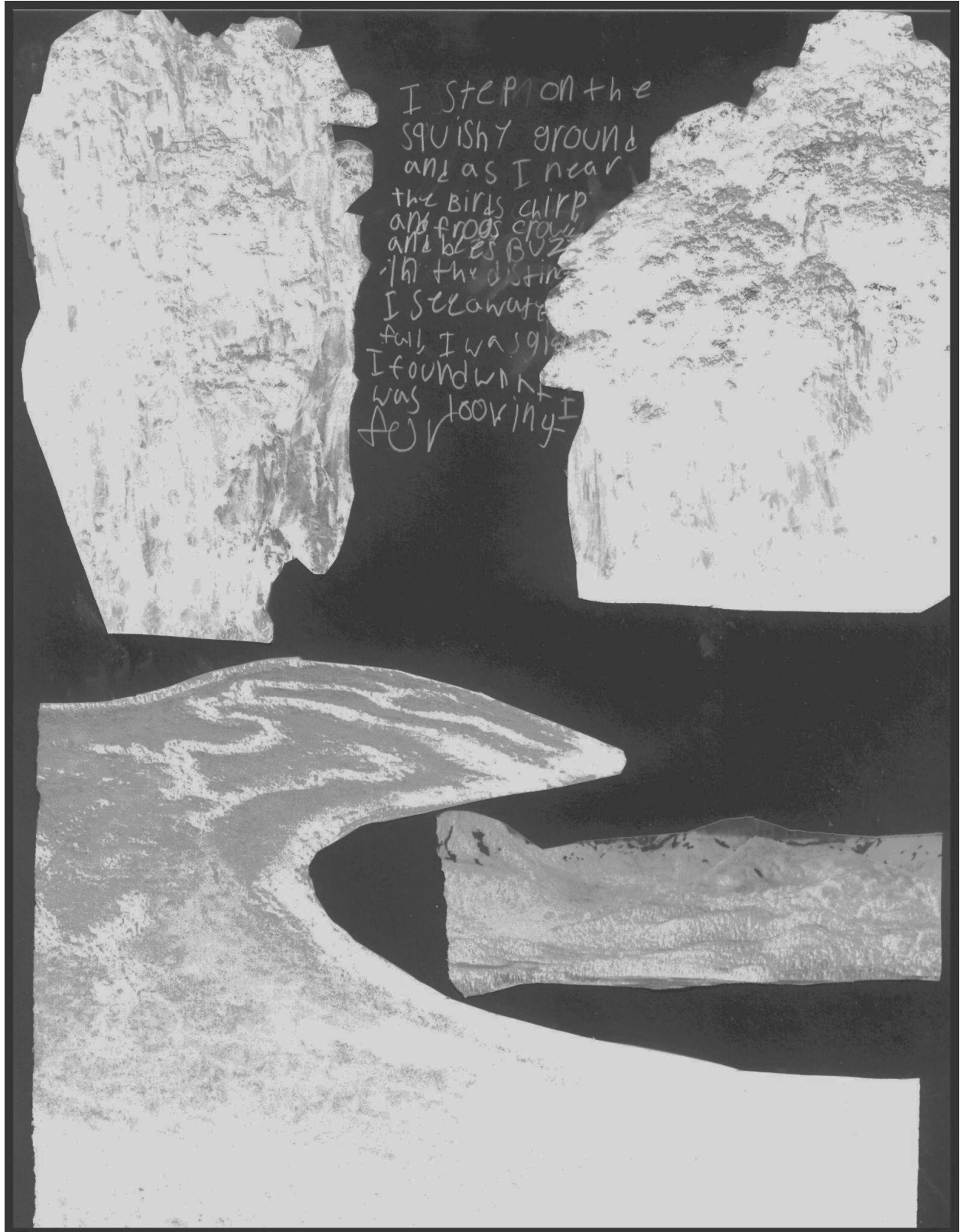


Levi C.

Redbud Trees

While walking on the sidewalk
I saw yellow flowers.
Bees were on them, collecting pollen.
Walking along,
I saw some redbud trees starting to bloom
I looked up and I saw dark clouds starting to form
It started to rain
So I went back to my house.

Lexi's Collage Poem



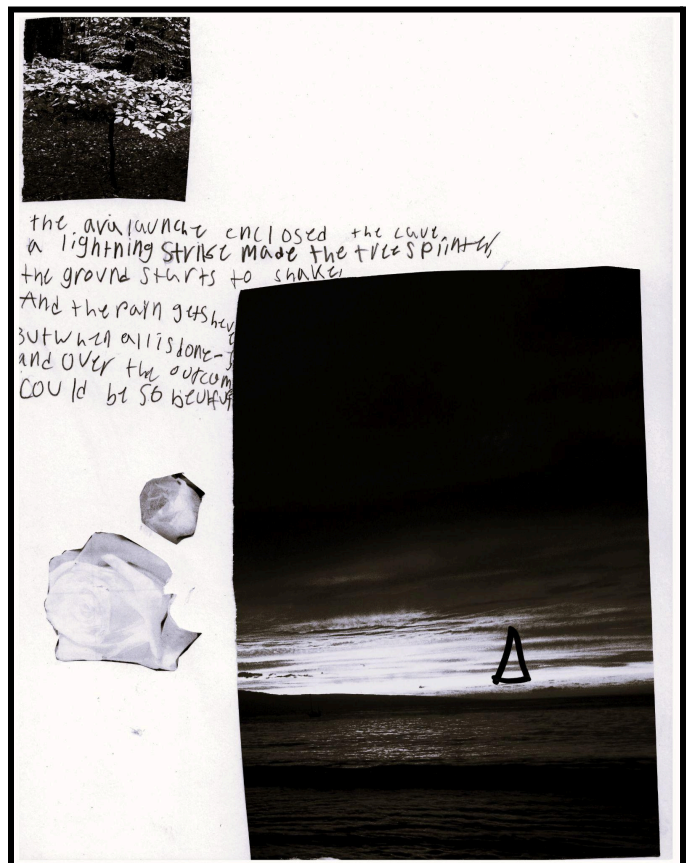
Lexi S.

Searching

I step on the squishy ground
And as I near
The birds chirp and frogs croak
and the bees buzz.
My vision was blurred by the fog
In the distance, I see a waterfall.
I was glad
I found what I was looking for.

The disasters of life

The avalanche enclosed the cave
A lightning strike made the tree splinter
The ground starts to shake
And the rain gets heavy.
But when all is over and done
The outcome could be so beautiful.



Ma'Kiya W.

Tropical Fears

I was lying on the beach, I thought something
Was gonna attack me.
The warm warm beach also brings me peace,
The sand on my feet, the warm air comforting me,
The tropical fears would never bring me to tears
The tropical beach brings me joy,
I would visit this every day.

Nature Wonders

Walking throughout the walking trail, I seen a 5-lined skink,
It had very small teeth,
as it started raining, the skink was gaining speed
Into the bushes.
The blue skink's tail got pulled off, but that's okay
Because it grows back
The rain was getting heavy on my back
And I noticed I lack sleep, so I found peace in the forest
And to be honest, that's my life as a tourist.



Ma'Kiya's Nature Collage Poem

Malachia S.

In the morning

In the morning, you can hear the birds sing if you have your window open,
They whistle all morning.
When I go downtown, I can see hundreds of pigeons.
I can feed them bread
and feel the flutter from the wind of their wings when I throw bread on the floor.



Malaysia D.

Spring

I seen that the weather is getting warmer
and the sun is starting to come out more.
I seen some birds outside playing and flying around,
i seen kids playing with their siblings.
The sun was coming out so people can have fun in the weather.
I noticed that the temperature started to drop,
then get back higher.

Winter - Malaysia D.

I see a cat that's lying in the snow,
I see that some of the leaves are dead
and falling down.
I see a brown cat
letting the snow land on him.
I see that the trees are dead,
I see half of the sticks
are in the snow.

A Walk in the Rainforest - Malaysia D.

As I was slowly walking through the rainforest,
walking through all the plants and hearing the sounds the birds made,
making me feel like I was by myself
and didn't have anybody.
Hearing the bears crawling up the trees and finding food to eat,
it sounds like they're attacking someone.
Then I started back to walking and it started to thunderstorm and lightning,
It was puddles of water and mud.
I wonder how the animals feel about the storm and lightning.
Hearing the waterfall makes the forest nice and calm and relieves stress.
I think the animals like being in the rainforest because they can hear the water and
some can fly through the rain, and some animals can find food while it's raining.
Being in the rainforest is very calm,
especially if you have never been there before.
It helps you lose stress and makes you happy during the day
and makes you take your mind off what you've been going through
or what happened in school.

Marshawn G.

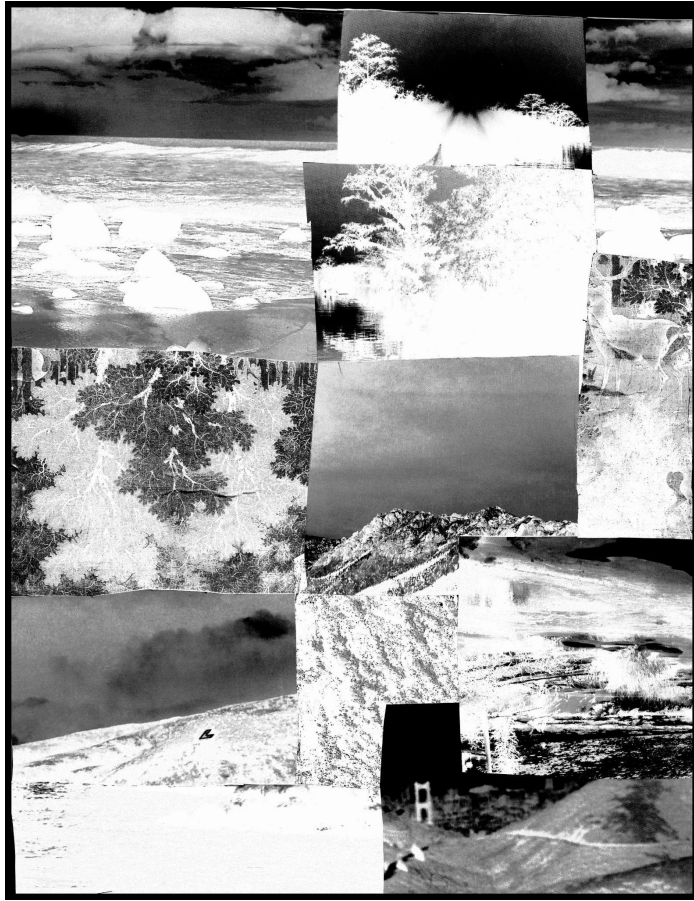
The Life of Nature

Leaves swooshing in the fall,
falling off the trees that are tall
hot on a summer day,
walking and watching the sweat drip down your face.
Outside cold as it gets,
falling snow is great for the kids
they play, they eat, and they sleep,
but there's nothing better than the spring,
Sunflowers coming out of the grass
will bring a bright smile and make you glad,
The seasons are perfect
laughing and crying in the seasons with the right persons,

I was waking up on an early morning, "ate" and heard the birds chirping
I was walking down the street on a trail
fish jumping out the water and seeing their scales
I walked back home and checked the mail after that
I went in and had another meal
I went to the forest
Saw a bear and we made a deal

I went to school and did my work
went to the forest and laid in the field watching the stars
I fell asleep and had a dream
I was on Mars
I woke up and
caught bugs in a light jar
after that, I left and went home in my sports car
woke up, went to my lab, and checked my radar.

Marshawn's Nature Collage



Priest R.

SOMETHING STRANGE

I was walking down the path
When I heard something
Out in the woods
The sun beamed down through the trees
I looked back, but the thing in the woods was gone

Sienna D.

One day I Decided to Visit Nature

As I walked into nature,

I saw

Green trees

Butterflies

I also saw a waterfall

Rocks inside the water

I also seen lots of red birds

Lots of blue birds

In the water with rocks

I also saw turtles

I also saw bears

I also saw giraffes

I also saw monkeys

I seen a flower

It was pink



Shantel V.

How to clear your mind

One day, I was taking a walk to clear my mind
the sun was so bright I could barely see
but it felt so nice to be outside and to feel the wind blowing
and seeing the leaves falling and hearing the birds.
As I walked, I heard the leaves falling on the ground as I stepped on them
Then I seen a deer, and there was a pond, and I seen fish moving side by side
There was a big one, and it looked so big I had to take a pic of it
Then the big fish jumped
I didn't realize water got on me because I was trying to take a picture
After that I walked more down the path
there was a lot of bees, and I could hear them buzzing in my ears
There was a lot of different flowers, pink ones, blue ones, yellow ones
The bees like to eat the flowers
I also seen bunnies, they looked so cute and i seen butterflies
they looked so pretty, all the different colors

Walking in nature is nice and calm
it helps you calm down so you can just feel nature
and actually notice the nature around you.
I walked more down the path to see more.
I seen a snake
I said when I seen the snake.
I don't really like them but this one was different for some reason.
I like this snake even if I was a little scared.
I walked more but before I could see anything more it started to rain.

The sun was still out when it was raining and then i seen a rainbow
i wanted to see it close up so i walked more up the path so i can see it close up
but it didn't really help.
So i was looking to see more things.
i seen a lizard it looked so cute and then it switched colors
i seen the cutest little bunny, i wanted to take it so bad but it hopped away.
Anyway I walked back up the path.
i walked for so long, but i loved it .
It helped me know how nature has a lot of good things in it,
And knowing nature is this animal's home.
I want to care and help nature grow.
This walk was fun and helpful and cool.

Shantel's Nature Collage



Victory G.

Nature Poem

Dark and light, day and night.
For nature to live I will always fight.
Despite the circumstances
I will always take the chances.
Cool winter breeze
Blowing through the trees.
A small little ant
is crawling in the plant.
It loves to be in nature so it can be free.
I love to be in nature because I can be me.

