

Feinstein MS students hit it big, get published

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COVENTRY — Nine middle-schoolers at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School in Coventry now have the opportunity to boast that they are not only poets, but published poets.

Students in the sixth-grade at Feinstein were given the opportunity to submit the poems they wrote in school to an annual poetry contest through Creative Communications. In January, the school heard back that nine students were amongst the winners.

"They were thrilled to death," said English teacher Jen Kilduff of the students. "I told one of the students in the hallway and she said, 'no, not me,' because she was so shocked."

Kilduff explained that the sixth grade class began the poetry unit in October and in the beginning of November, students were writing their own poems for the contest.

"It's great when the community offers the opportunity for kids to be published and take what they are learning and make it real-world," said Linda Middleton, an English teacher.

Elizabeth Kenney, 12, explained that, to her, poetry brings a new meaning to what they learn in class.

"I like poetry because I can tell people how I'm feeling, but it also makes you think about all the things that our teachers have taught us. We usually have a Word of the Week and you kind of want to incorporate that into what you're doing," said Elizabeth.

Middleton explained that poetry is

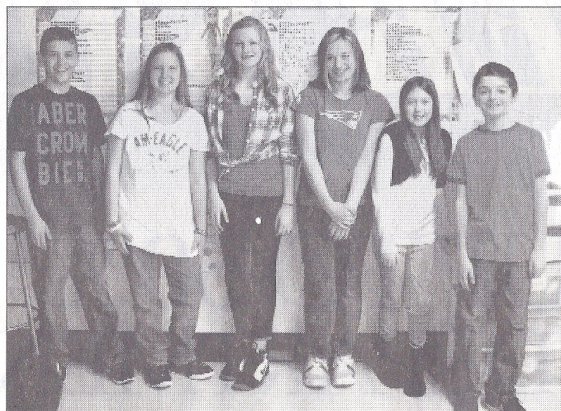


Photo: Lauren Knight

Feinstein students (l-r) Kelton Latour, 12, Elizabeth Kenney, 12, Delaney Ryan, 12, Cara Turner, 11, Lauren Tanner, 12, and Joshua Chopy, 11.

important for students because it provides "a place where kids can be successful."

"They can put all those thoughts and feelings in a poem, and it's short and sweet," she said.

Elizabeth, one of the published students, uses imagery in her poem, titled "All about Me." She uses similes and descriptions for her hair, eyes, mind and heart to explain to the reader about herself and her personality.

"I was really excited because I was published in fourth grade," said

Elizabeth of when she heard the news. "I thought this was a really big step to get published again."

When Joshua Chopy, 11, heard that his poem would be published in a book, he exclaimed that he was "super-duper excited."

Joshua's poem, titled "Happy," is about just that: being happy.

"I like to smile a lot so it kind of fits me," he said. "Everyone calls me Smiley and my last name is Chopy, which I always laugh about, so I'm always happy."

The poem uses imagery to show how happiness feels and what it looks like, explained Joshua. He uses the color yellow, because it is the color of sunshine, and relates it to an ice cream cone because "I like them and they make me happy."

Kelton Latour, 12, also wrote a poem about being happy. He wrote "Happy" because when he sat down to write the poem, he was happy and wanted to express himself.

Cara Turner, 11, wrote her poem, titled "Excited," to describe how excitement feels through the five senses.

"When I wrote this poem, I thought about my five senses and what each sense feels when I think about excitement. What I smell: I imagine I would smell birthday cake. What I feel: I described smooth and round because I was thinking of a smiley-face," she explained.

Another published student, Delaney Ryan, 12, wrote about her emotions. Her poem, titled "Fury," was written because she felt that poetry affords her the opportunity to express herself freely.

"What I like about poetry is that you're not judged for your feelings at the time. You can just say your emotions and people can choose to respect it or not," said Delaney.

Her poem takes a glimpse at how she feels when she is angry, what it looks like, and how anger causes other people to feel. Delaney uses imagery, such as "boiling pot of hatred" and "salty tears of anger" to describe what

fury is.

"With poetry, if I feel one way, I'll show my happy self on the outside. But the second I start writing poetry, I can go darker and think on the inside. That's what this poem is about," she said.

Megan Leonard, 12, wrote her poem, "Can you Imagine," on a variety of commonly linked pairs, such as a cat and a dog or a mouse without cheese. The poem concludes with the line, "Me without my sister Molly."

"In the end it was about my sister, [saying] that she's always there for me," explained Megan.

Lauren Tanner, 12, was also inspired to write about pairs. She explained that as she wrote her poem, "Can You Imagine," about the pairs we see everyday that would "have no point if they didn't have something with it."

For example, what is a house without a door? Or, an apple without a core?

"I thought it would be a great idea to think of two things that make up one thing," said Lauren. "And I like things that rhyme so I decided to put these together."

Two other students were published, Madison Jencks, 12, and Marisa Senerchia, 12, but the Times was unable to reach them before deadline.

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School has been working with Creative Communications to promote writing for over 18 years. According to the Creative Communications website, the hard-bound books are available for purchase and are scheduled to ship in April.

POETRY FROM THE SIXTH GRADE AT FEINSTEIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

"Thanksgiving" by Madison Jencks

Thanksgiving is a day of thanks
for each and everyone.

It's the last Thursday of November.
It's festive and it's fun.

We stuff ourselves with turkey
until our tummies hurt but...

We also want to save some room
for all the yummy desserts.

We take some time throughout
the day to spend with family.

We end our Thanksgiving tradition
with the trimming of the tree.

Last but not least we string the
lights, hang the ornaments and create
a memory.

"Can You Imagine" by Lauren Tanner

A house without a door
An apple without a core

A pumpkin without a seed
A tourist that doesn't lead

A sun without shine
A paper without lines

Scissors without cut
A shell without a nut

Head without hair
Cub without bear

Halloween without candy
A beach that's not sandy

Computer without a mouse
People without a house

"All About Me" by Elizabeth Kenney

My hair is like the calm waves of
the ocean.

My eyes are like the clear blue
water.

My mind is crazy and unpre-
dictable.

My legs are long and strong.

My heart holds hope and love that
is pink like cotton candy.

I live in a turtle shell and eat the

loneliness.

"The Love of My Heart" by Marisa Senerchia

Love is blue
It smells like pretty flowers
It tastes like air
It sounds like bluebirds chirping
It feels like bunches of silliness
It looks like happiness in my heart
Love is like diamonds in the sky!

"Fury" by Delaney Ryan

Fury is flame red.
It smells like a boiling pot of
hatred.

It tastes like salty tears of anger.
It sounds like the harsh words

from people you thought were
friends.

It feels like a 200 pound weight
on your shoulders.

It looks like the embarrassed face
of a classmate you found revenge on.

Fury is like filling a glass until it
overflows with anger.

"Happy"

by Joshua Chopy

Happy is sun yellow.
It smells like a cake with a cherry
on top.

It takes like a big ice cream cone.
It sounds like a group of friends
laughing.

It feels like a cold ice cube in the
summer heat.

It looks like fireworks bursting in
the night sky on the Fourth of July.

Happy is like something you know
is awesome.

"Happy" by Kelton Latour

Happy is daisy yellow.
It smells like flowers blooming in
the cool spring air.

It tastes like honey fresh from a
hive.

It sounds like a bee buzzing from
hive to flower.

It looks like a smiley face.
Happy is like a joy to me.

"Excited" by Cara Turner

Excited is bright yellow.

It smells like delicious, colorful
birthday cake.

It tastes like sweet, soft strawber-
ries.

It sounds like the giggles of a
young child.

It feels like a smooth, round, type
of shape.

It looks like a cute, happy, black
and yellow smiley face.

Excited is the way you feel when
you get your first pet.

"Can You Imagine" by Megan Leonard

A cat without a bird,
A zebra without a herd.

A cucumber without seeds,
A bracelet without beads.

A zebra without stripes,
A day without night.

A face without eyes,
A party without a surprise.

A cat and a dog,
A thick sheet of fog.

A mouse without cheese,
A cat without a sneeze.

A little girl without her dolly,
Me without my sister Molly.