

Arts in Mind

Children's Poetry Explores Mysteries

By Suz Lipman

In last month's "Arts in Mind" column, poet Terri Glass wrote about the connection between poetry and healing. Glass, who serves as Coordinator for Marin County's longstanding California Poets in the Schools program, wrote, "Poetry allows the surprising imagery of the unconscious ... to be articulated by the logical structure of speech."

Nowhere does the unconscious appear to be so abundantly, and enviably, accessible as it is to the children in the Mill Valley School District who work, through Kiddo!, with the poet-teachers of Poets in the Schools. These poems, written by students last spring, ponder the mysteries of the cosmos, the seasons, human emotion, and beauty.

Untitled

I am a black wolf standing on the edge of a cliff with the wind blowing through my fur.

I am a wire of lightning glistening with great light.

I am the silver of moonlight.

I am the boom of thunder in the dark gray sky.

I am the blooming rose in the peaceful garden.

I am Winter, when the joyful holidays come.

I am the Nile River going through the deserts of Egypt.

I am a dark raven flying through the ruins of Ancient Rome.

I am the light of the red hot Sun.

I am the dream of a child sleeping through the night.

Noah Watson,

Written in 3rd grade, Strawberry Point School

A Glimpse of August, A Flock of Cranes

Despair of the past,

secrets of the future.
The fog of my imagination.
Caution of thunder, lightning and hail.
Moss of the sun,
miracles of embarrassment.

Poetry is not just about cherry tomatoes,
Or the end of January.
It goes hundreds of miles, swimming
ahead in the green swamp.
It is a clock of whooping cranes,
stepping high.
It is a glimpse of August.
It is the horse of Paul Revere.
Poetry is the despair of silence.

Adiyana Bates,
Written in 5th grade, Edna Maguire School

How to Make a Star

Mix one piece of a glimmering night
Stir in two green leaves.
Add a few emeralds hanging from space.
Bake for three nights under the stars.
Simmer in the caves of darkness.
Watch for a whole sun-full of poems to appear.
Now you can lift it into the sky,
up top for everyone to see.

Sacha D'Amore
Written in 3rd grade, Tam Valley School

Untitled

I am a bright red bird like a flame in the sky
I am the sun shining down on earth
I am the green of the grass in a field
I am the bark of the neighbor's dog
I am the petal of the pink rose in the garden
I am spring, when the snow melts away into the ground

I am the moon glittering like a diamond
I am the light of the candle shining in a pitch black room

Claire Donohue
Written in 3rd grade, Strawberry Point School

“Arts in Mind” is a series from Kiddo! that explores arts and arts education. Suz Lipman is a writer and a parent in the Mill Valley School District. Children’s poetry and visual artwork can often be found in Mill Valley businesses and galleries. The second annual “Celebrating the Arts in our Schools” show will appear in the 142 Throckmorton Theatre Gallery this spring.