

the Writer's Block



**NFA NORTH CAMPUS
LITERARY ARTS MAGAZINE**

spring 2017

Thank you

FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ
NEWBURGH FREE ACADEMY'S NORTH CAMPUS
2017 LITERARY ARTS MAGAZINE

THE WRITER'S BLOCK

SPRING EDITION

We would like to thank all of the North Campus students who submitted work to this year's Spring Edition of The Writer's Block, as well as the teachers who encouraged their students to explore their ideas and thoughts creatively through writing. We are so fortunate to work in a school that supports student expression and celebrates writing and for that, we wish to thank Mr. DODDO and the administrative team at North Campus. In addition, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. MITCHELL at the NECSD print shop, the ladies at NFA North's Writing Lab, members of the North Campus ELA department and all of whom helped make this Spring edition of The Writer's Block a success (you know who you are!).

The Moving Train

Crossing the street
Looking both ways
My feet lift off the ground
Time flies away
I look back and I'm more scared than I am today
To see the past and never walk away
I remember when I laughed and I smiled every day
A smile that wasn't fake
Pure joy
Something you don't see normally
They say those were the good times
But I see it a different way
The way I see it life might've been good
But for others it might not have been the same
Sure people made fun of me
But wasn't that ok
If it was happening to others wasn't it supposed to happen to me
I didn't see it like it was a problem
I saw it as something that happened on a normal day
Maybe if I realized that then
I would've said the things I needed to say
People say you make your own choices
But for me it was like a life altering decision
Something that I needed to do to be forgiven
Something that had to be done in order to get past it
To pass that line between good and fantastic
They pushed me to curse
They said not doing it would make me weak
They celebrated my first word as if a baby just learned to speak
I remember the first day I said a curse word
I felt so powerful
Little did I know
Words have consequences
They make people feel less of themselves
They say one man can change the world
But I believe one word can change a man
One word can change a person's look on life
Change the beliefs inside their mind
Screw up a rhythm and turn it into a rhyme
Can make a man shoot up a store
Then take his life because he felt he wasn't worth anything anymore
Dice rolling
Minds Strolling
Times are changing
Lives ending unexpectedly
Stories told when it's too late
Signs not seen when they were all over the place
Words not understood until the disappearance
Of the one person that wrote it
Not looking to show it
Not looking to spread it across the world
I don't want money

I already have love
But still my heart feels crushed
Lies on top of lies
Like stacks of paper on the desk that is my mind
Slipping away flying in the air
In the haze of confusion that is time
I didn't see it months went by
I've lost so much time and somehow it all seems to go away when I rhyme
It's like I get this feeling that everything is paused
That for a second all the pressure is off
And I can feel my heart lifting into the sky and flying away
Like the wind when I stop and here it sway
Like the clouds watching over me in the night and the day
With the stars twinkling hiding in the sky
Sometimes I wish it was gone
The words in my mind
Like confusion jumbled overtime
I just think and I think and I can't seem to run away
I feel so stuck like my feet are glued to the ground
And no one's here to pick me up and save the day
Sure I have friends
Sure I have family who are concerned about me
They say teenagers don't understand that people can feel their pain
People don't understand the pain we feel when we see the judgment on their face
You say this is a safe space
But I don't feel the same
I feel as if you're watching my every move listening for the keyword to lock me up
Lie to me and tell me it'll all be ok
I want to be ok I swear I really do
Sometimes it feels like life is slipping away
When I'm lying or sitting right in the room
Sometimes I stop and stare at a wall or two
Wondering who will walk up to me and say are you ok?
I'm never gonna answer that question truthfully
But I'll always know that you care enough to come my way
I'm not depressed I'm not suicidal but still I feel uneasy every day
Uncomfortable not wanting to be hugged by the people who say they care about me
There are some people that could relate to me and I don't know their names
But I hope one day they can work up the courage
To tell someone all the words their screaming in their brain
I love myself
I feel like I'm the best person I can be
I get up out of bed and walk to school yet somehow that's still not enough
For those who do not see what I see
Maybe I haven't been through a lot I mean I'm still growing after all
I'm only 14 but somehow life seems to have froze
And left me stranded in the sea
A sea full of sharks that come after me
Some people call me ugly but I don't see what they see
I see a beautiful girl who's still alive and has something that she wants to be
Not big but not small
Just enough for people to know my name and understand the things I believe

By: Ariana Fielding-Clarke

WORDS OF ADVICE:

THE HURT THEY LEFT WILL ETCH ITS WAY INTO YOUR SKIN,
DON'T LET IT BECOME YOU.

YOUR HEART IS A LION, TRAPPED AND CHAINED, IT SCRATCHES AGAINST THE CAGE THAT IS YOUR RIBCAGE. LET IT
FREE EVERY ONCE IN AWHILE, THE WILD CALLS FOR YOU.

SOME DAYS, THE SUN WILL SEEM TO RISE SOMEWHERE ELSE. SOME DAYS, THERE IS EVEN DARKNESS FOR THE GODS.

THERE IS SOMETHING BRAVE IN YOU, SOMETHING UNSEEN. YOU ARE MORE THAN WHAT PEOPLE SAY YOU ARE. YOU
ARE MORE THAN A GRAVEYARD FOR YOUR REGRETS.

STOP SHATTERING YOUR SWORD AGAINST SHIELDS FOR PEOPLE WHO WON'T DEFEND YOU BACK. YOU'RE THE ONLY
ONE WHO ENDS UP WITH BRUISED KNUCKLES AND BLOODY NOSES.

BY MORGAN GAETANO

Girl, I want you to go out with me
But stop playing with me in Clash of Clans
Stop donating me Goblins and Balloons
And give me Co and Dragons
I attack every war
Why won't you promote me to Co-Leader?
I get 3 stars in a war
I'll take you out on a date if you donate me dragons and giants. K? Thx

Toyota Corolla, Vampire City, Level 63

by Mike Manza

Spines of a Cactus

At first you were green,
You were full of life.
Nothing could stop the thriving of your delight.
I could stay in your company, day or night.
Now I simply cannot stand your sight.
Why?

Maybe it's the way your spines impaled my life.
Everything was calm, everything seemed right.
It even seemed there was a perfect end in sight.
Then all of it changed with just one break,
Just a few months made it too late.
You are different now, grown and stern.
Nothing prepared me for this sudden turn.

We went from an amazon of love to a desert of drought.
New experiences led you, and turned you inside out.
You are no longer the friend I once loved and trusted,
You have become a spur of thorns, torn and busted.

From the friendliest of your kind to the most savage,
All of your promises destroyed me, I am ravaged.
Never again will I befriend a cactus,
For in such a short time it will surely leave me damaged.

By Veronica Gonzalez



*I felt your breath near my ear and was stunned
frozen. Aware of every molecule of oxygen and carbon dioxide
hitting my skin. It's funny how those little things get stuck
like a record whose groove is bent. On repeat.*

Your breath.

Your breath.

Your breath.

by Anonymous

Angel of Mine

Throbbing pain,
Who should know?
Happy smiles,
dying inside.
Not wanting to speak, be judged
Missing you,
easy as breathing.
Crying for you,
my soul is searching out.
When I lay down to peace.
Take my hand and fly
to Heaven's gates.
It's hard not
to cry when somebody loves you,
Even though you didn't want us to.
Comforting touch, inspiring words
My heart hurts,
no release.
It's like I'm getting punched where my heart is,
By a heavy fist.
your presence never again,
Kills me inside.
Try not to cry,
isn't as easy as it seems.

When I lay down to peace

Take my hand and take me to the a place that is pure, white and golden
and I'll be....

Home...

Because home is where your *heart is*.

R.I.P to one of the greatest women I have ever known, thank you for your love and support.

But I know you'll do it in Heaven now.

I love you to the moon and back.

R.I.P Angel of Mine

by Britney Rodriguez-Smith

RANDOM THOUGHTS

SO MUCH DEPENDS UPON WHETHER OUR SKY THAT RUNS ON FOR MILES TOUCHES EARTH'S GROUND

MY HANDS RUN THROUGH THE MILLIONS OF STARS, JUST LIKE THE MILLIONS OF WORDS THAT ARE NEVER FINISHED.

MY MIND DANCES INTO THE ENDLESS BLACK HOLE AS I GET LOST IN THOSE THOUGHTS.

BY KAIORI WILLIAMS

SEASONS

Let it be forgotten, forever and ever,
let the memories fall like leaves in autumn.
Let our leaves fall into a pit of nothingness.
Let us crumble like leaves that have been stepped on.
Let the breeze take our pieces away.

I won't blame you for the feelings of guilt,
and I hope you won't blame me for the feelings of hate.

Let new memories blossom,
like new leaves blossom in the spring.
Let the past spill out of your hands like the river stream.
Feel the breeze take you away,
and don't you dare offer to stay.

Let it be forgotten, forever and ever.

Let our past memories shatter,
like snowflakes shatter when they hit the icy ground.
Let our mistakes melt away
like ice cream on a hot summer day.

I won't blame you for the feelings of despair,
and I hope you won't blame me for the feelings of rage.

Let it be forgotten, forever and ever.

by J.CRUZ

Colors

I've known colors
I've known colors that shine as bright as the burning sun.

My soul has grown to be free like the colors.

I see them and I think of what their purpose might be.
I wonder what it's like for those who can't witness them.
I can feel them as they touch my face,
A warm and gentle touch.
I see them dancing as if time were slowing down.

I've known colors
Warm, fuzzy colors

My soul has grown to be free like the colors.

by Morgan Stroud

BOREDOM of LIFE

I'm bored of the mundane
I'm bored of the redundancy
I'm bored of the cage from age
I'm bored of the no responsibilities

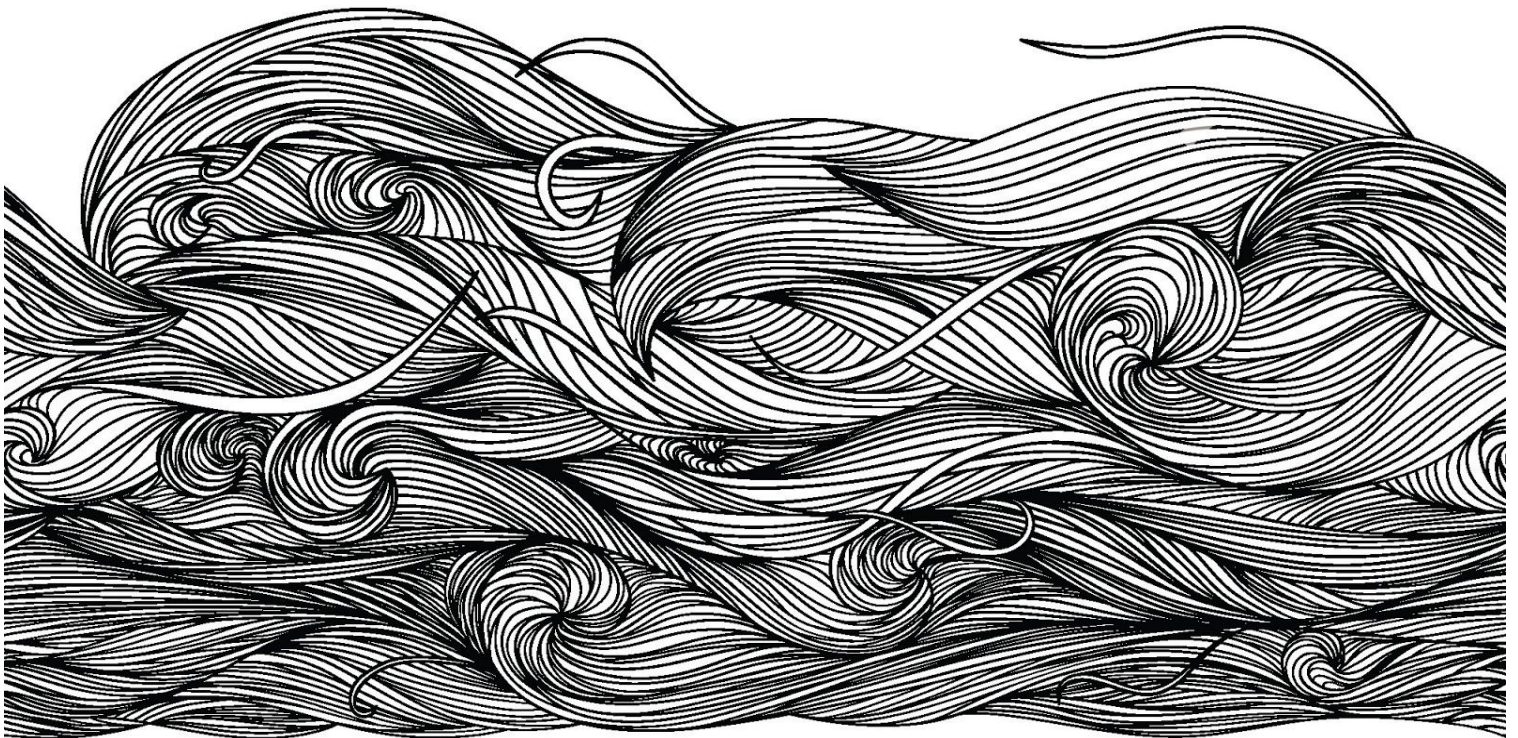
"I wish I could go back to the good old days"
I have heard so many adults say this
Why, all we have is the competition
Who bullied more or who had their first kiss

Yes, we have no responsibilities
But we also have no control
We are at the mercy of life
We drown under the waves and rolls

I want to grow up already
I want to pay bills and go for my life goals
I want to be able to take care of myself
I want to feel the connection between souls

I want to go follow my dreams
I want to get a job and get payed
I love the idea of independence
I'm tired of waiting for the next birthday

by Isabel Laracuenta



Iron Fist

Do you know what it's worth?
Do you know how much this hurts?
How I could bleed
Would you save me?

The only way I could remove my pain
Is by writing every single day
It's what helps me release my stress
And the voices in my head?
They all go mute
It lets all the logic I learn compute
All the things I learn? I use!
Using it in my life
Guess what? It all goes right
Soon I'll be ruling with no leniency
My kingdom will go to the top
And I hope one day you'll see

[Chorus]
I'm controlling every move
I see everything you do
I have an Iron Fist
(I rule with it)
Controlling using fear
Lying to every single ear
You think you're free
But I have chains on you

You think I'm blind
You're ruling everyone with fear
Everyone that hates
Mysteriously disappears
The fear you have from losing your reign
Would it be a loss?
Bringing the kingdom pain?
Or would it bring a Golden Age?
All the troubles, fading away
Time of prosperity
Life could be livable
You made it such a tragedy
No one's living happily
You're ruling so angrily!

[Chorus]
[Instrumental]

[Softly][Repeat louder]
///You thought you had control
But you were overthrown
A rebellion caused your end
A new era will now begin///

[Chorus]
We are the new voice!
We make our own choice!
No more chains on us!
This war, we have won!

I controlled every move!
I controlled every thought!
I was later overthrown
But in reality I have won!
I rule with an Iron Fist!
I have you...
INSIDE OF IT!!!

by Jeremy Escobar

CONFLICTING EMOTIONS



Oh Sorrow,
Why do you make me cry
For things I know are right?

Oh Sadness,
How you haunt me at night
Even though my choices are right.

Oh Fear,
Fear of the unknown
Will faith take me where I should go?

Oh Faith,
Will you ever come back?
I need to heal
To be brought back to life.

Oh joy,
Please come back
I need you to take Sadness' wrath.

by Anonymous

Anxiety

Anxiety wraps himself around you like a blanket
entangling you in a web of deception
He makes you see things that aren't there, puts his clammy hands over your
mouth.

NO WORDS.

NO BREATH.

He whispers silent thoughts
that make you believe you can't make it through.

He fogs up your mind with his screams, which echo with the hum of metal.

He convinces you that you can't make it through.

Aims to kill.

Suffocate.

Asphyxiate.

by Kayla Deleon

Where I am From

I am from a Patwa speaking, loud reggae blasting, and dominoes smacking on the table almost every night. Posters from Bob Marley to Jamaican flags. Red. Black. Yellow. Green.

I am from curry chicken, stewed chicken, white rice, fried dumpling and fried plantains, mixed veggies and cabbage, oxtail, chicken feet, curried goat, coconut drop, gizzada, grater cakes, bulla bread, coco bread, pinch bread, boiled dumplings and potatoes.

I am from “Dem pitney deya. Cha yuh marga, Yuh need ta eat!”

I am from strict Kingston and Montego breed. Rasta uncles who are vegetarian, with the knotty long dreads that reach to their feet...just like the jellyfish from Shark Tale.

by Kailyn Bremmer

SHY

Shy is the boy who walks in the shadows.

He is the one who has great imagination but can't share.

He keeps his thought to himself all bundled up like a collection of thatch waiting to get burned in a fire.

Too scared that people will judge him if they get the chance to see the real him.

He is like a clam, scared to open up for one moment just in case someone is there to break him open.

He is the one that hides when there are public affairs, and doesn't come out.

Away from people he stays, even knowing he will enjoy others company.

by Vincent Lacertosa

ME

I am scared of dying.
Everyone tells me everything is going to be fine
but when?
My best friend is in Excelsior in his 3rd year
Books inspire me to acknowledge nature.
At the age of 8, I killed my fish
and then my brother killed my new fish 6 years later.
When I was little, I loved clowns.
I then hated clowns at the age of 10.
Ripped jeans and crop tops are my favorite,
but I don't wear them much.
I despise my height -others think it is cute.
Me and my dad share the same birthday number.
Guys annoy me at times.
Scary movies are my enemies.
I am not a talkative person.
My dog keeps me company when I'm watching scary movies.
I still remember the day my sister left the house
And there are nights when I cry.
I think as myself as a princess when I watch Cinderella.
Makeup and taking pictures are my favorite.
My worst nightmare is losing the people I love.
The walls talk to me when I am heartbroken.
Bright colors make me happy.
People say I am cute but I don't think the
same about myself.
Chocolate gets me hyper.
Singing and dancing were my thing
since the age of 4.
Rain makes me want to read love poems.
I wish time can go back to my happy moments.
People ask me why I'm quiet, but I'm just shy.
My friends say I'm unique
and that I am the most loving and caring person.
My time is worth a thousand stars
for you and me.

by Karen Vidals

My World Imaginary

And as I fall into my sleep
I will fall unto my knees
//And sing...//
As I visualize my dreams
And as life slowly escapes me
//I'll sing...//

[Chorus]
And I wish I could escape reality
And enter my world of fantasy
Walking into a world imaginary
I want to live in this world
(That's in my head)

As I cry and pray...
Day after day...
For someone to come and change my ways
And stay with me

I will sing...

[Chorus]

I will drift into my sleep
Enter my world imaginary
Start reliving my memories
Every detail seen so beautifully

[Chorus]

And I wish i could escape reality
And enter my world imaginary
I want to live in this world...

That is in my head

by Jeremy Escobar

So much depends
upon

The pills that keep
me sane

I know can't live
without them

My drugs control demons

Lessen the blades

Those walls that hide
my pain

Render me vane

Numb

by Adriana Frias



Cold

I've known this cold before.

I've known this bitter icy blue cold for millennia.

My soul shivers at its sight.

I've felt this cold like a punch to the chest, hard and unbarring.

I quiver at the thought of ever feeling like this again.

I've known this cold before.

My soul shivers at its sight.

by Andy Erskine

7.18.14

I had a friend online once
He was pretty cool
I only wish I had gotten to talk to him more

We played video games together

He was funny,
And although I never got to see him,
His voice was cute

I might have had a slight crush at the time

He left
July 18th, 2014
To go up into the sky,
Or in the ground,
Or whatever you believe

Every year I regret
All the conversations we never had
And how close we could've been

If only I had known he was dying

Our last conversation was 3 years ago
I was sick, but he was sicker
Cancer
It was cancer, but he never told me

There I was, with a minor cold, complaining
But little did I know what he was going through was much worse

"I'm sick too, but my sickness ends in Germany, which is where I am now"
"When I get back to America, I will be cured!"

He never came back.



by Jaden Daniels

Because Of You

by HeavenKing

*It all started in the 7th grade
We read books
We wrote essays
We learned conjunctions
Because of you I learned more
You helped me improve myself
You helped solve my problems
You helped change my life
Because of you I'm much more
I would write poems
And you would read them
I would write stories
And you would also read them
I would ask for feedback
And you would gladly help
Because of you I improved my writing
A long walk to water was a book we read
It was the best one yet
We even watched a movie on it
Because of you I yearned for books
Then came June
I was leaving your class
I was going to the 8th grade
I was continuing with the knowledge I obtain
Because of you I can use the skills you taught me
September came
I was excited
I couldn't wait to see my coolest teacher
However you were gone
You switched schools
But I stayed strong
Because of you I became strong willed
8th grade
It's a new grade, new start
Although you weren't there
You had left for the high school
There English was hard
However I remember fun our knowledge on english
Because of you I got through 8th grade English
It was going well then I heard about you
You were in the "Excelsior Program"*

*I had to apply to be able to learn more from you
Because of you I made it to the program
A new year as a freshman
A new start for school
A new beginning to learn english from you
Because of you we can have a new beginning
Summer time came and I saw you
You we're filled with joy when you heard about me
I had made it to the program
And that I would be in your class
It brought joy to both of us
Because of you I will be in your class again
It's July and I'm at NEA North
Taking classes for the program
And everyday time goes past
And I can't wait to be in your class
Because of you I got through my summer classes
It's September again
Finally at last, I get to be in your class
And learn more and more
Because of you I can learn about your knowledge
It's time to meet once more
To be able to be with you yet again
It was fun before, but this time it's going to be much
more
Because of you I can cherish the moments you teach
Hello again old friend
It's been so long
I can finally be here
To learn and hear
Your fun teachings
Until I am no longer here
Because of you I can listen much more
Now let's begin
With this new year
With you and me and everyone too
Going to a land of conjunction all because of you
It's been fun being with you
Learning English again
Being together until the very end.*

Something of Fantasy

As the noises fade away
As the silence breaks in
Will there be room for you in my life?
Will you be pushed aside?

[Chorus]
I'll dream
I will dream
Of a world more hopeful than this
I'll sing
I will sing
Along with the birds in their hymn

As the silence walks out
As the sounds creep back in
Will there ever be
A moment for me alone?

[Chorus]
Will you follow me?
Come to beautiful world
Sing me this song
To remind me that I'm loved

(I'll dream, I will dream. That there are better
things than this)

[Chorus]
Will you
Dream with me?
Pray for a world better than this

Could you
Sing with me?
Sing with the birds in their hymn
(Sing me this song... so I could be loved)



by Jeremy Escobar



I've known people
I've known people as cold as ice and others as sweet as candy

My soul was crushed the longer I saw you by my side

I thought I knew you well enough until I meet your other side
I got caught up in all your lies, I was tangled like a knot
I realized you weren't as sweet as I thought, turns out
I had it all wrong

I've known people, some that never left and others that never
stayed

My soul was crushed the longer you stayed

By Gabby Cordoba

This Is Just To Say by Samira Karim-Doran

I'm sorry
For not saying goodbye,
I didn't know you would go so soon

I'm sorry
That I never got to say "I love you" again,
That i hardly said it in the first place

I'm sorry
That I was so distant

This is just to say
I miss you
But I'm glad you're better now

Seven Reasons

#1

Like Icarus and the Sun, forbidden love does not come without consequences. So we fall from Olympus shooting past the clouds like stars in the sky. Crashing into the sea, waves meeting us and the water engulfing our bodies clinging to our lives as if trying to save us from our fate. Prophecy and death, there cannot be one without the other for our fates are predetermined by corrupted gods. The choices we have made do not make me feel regretful, instead nostalgic. It was all worth it, except for losing you.

#2

When I am mad, I destroy everything in my reach. I collect my anger in my fingertips and on the tip of my tongue. I use it to tear myself apart because it is easier to find something I hate inside, then it is to turn my anger towards you. I wish this was your blood instead of mine.

#3

You've forgotten what the sun looks like and the way the horizon is never ending. You've forgotten the feeling of warmth and the way the sky embodies every feeling of blue there is.

#4

she bled sunlight out of her veins and I swear there were actual stars in her eyes. I could feel the meteors in her stomach but damn, she was the blackest hole in the entire universe. Consuming everything in her path to fill a void she thought she would always have. I wish she believed me when I said I would always love her. I still do.

#5

you were a single wave stranded in the middle of the ocean. i swam to you until my arms turned to stone. and as i sunk into you, the thoughts of oxygen left my bones and never returned.

#6

you love her. in your dreams you feel her. memories of sunlight and armor and death. you don't understand, they cling to the back of your eyes and they haunt you in every moment. you look at her and sometimes she is dipped in gold but sometimes she is drowned in blood.

#7

She is a mystery, her emotions are too. you can't figure her out, no one can. she is not defined by meaningless words on ripped papers, i would love to write about her but i can't define her by a sad poem, she is so much more.

by Morgan Gaetano

What I thought:

by Jeremy Escobar

The world seems to be quite a mystery
Is it changing? Or how it used to be?
From what I can see
I'm changing slowly
For good or bad
Light and dark
The world seems like a lifeless dream
And as I walk away
From the world that I dealt with
I won't regret
The things I left
And I won't forget
The things you did to me

I thought I loved you
I thought that we could be something
special
It's just regrettable
It's unforgivable
And now I'm stuck and can't go on
The world seems to be such a tragedy
Am I changing or is it my mentality?
I know I'm blind
And I can't breathe
For good or bad
Light and dark
Life seems like a lifeless dream

And as I fade away
From the dream that I felt then
I will regret
The things I've kept
And I will forget
The things you said to me
I can no longer sleep...
I can no longer dream...
Reality, consuming me
Someone help me dream...
I used to breathe
I used to have my fantasy
Imaginary, became a real thing
Is it all in my head?
Or did I go to my purgatory?

Let me take my last breath
As I take my last step
Towards the gates of Heaven or Hell
The things I'll tell... you

As I fade away
From the dream that I felt then
I will regret
The things I've kept
And I will forget
The things you said to me
But I'll always for you

Am I feeling hope?



Recovery For My Mind

I've known sadness as dark and cold as the bottom of the Arctic Ocean.
My soul black and blue with no chance of recovery and no chance to survive.
I sat in a dark room crying enough to fill my empty heart more times than anyone can count.
I walked down the hallways with judgemental stares siring its way into my brain.
I carry this mark everywhere I go waiting for it to heal.
I've known sadness as deep as a hole to the center of the Earth.
My soul has no chance of recovery, and no chance to survive.

by Dariyea Leach

A Woman

I've known a woman
I've known a strong and delicate woman.

My soul was once a part of hers when she was thirty-three.

I have always caused her pain.
I have let her down on several occasions.
I have seen her get up after being put down many times.
I have seen her struggle, but it has only made her stronger.

I've known a mother;
A mother of three.

My soul only asks for her happiness and wellbeing.

by Rosemary Rodriguez

WIND

*So much depends
Upon the drift of the wind
Back and forth and back again
The breeze is so perfect
Standing outside is worth it*

By Zacchaenus Barnes

THE POWER OF HISTORY COULD BE OVERPOWERED by the darkness of secrets.

by Octavius Fryar

I've known History

I've known history as sometimes being deep, dark and depressing like one's secrets that do not want to talk about it. Slavery is apart of someone's past or their families past ancestry.

My soul is as deep and powerful as history and one's secrets.

I learned that history can talk and speak for itself, just as someone's secrets can speak for themselves and soon be exposed.

I know that history led to the present and if it would have been different, another outcome would have happened. Past leading into present as secrets can lead to a powerful outcome in the future.

I once gave my knowledge of history life and allowed it to be exposed.

I can see history being repeated through current events, I can see and hear someone who is worried that their secrets might be divulged.

I know that secrets can be as powerful as history, if not, more.

I've known history
Deep, powerful history.

My soul is as deep and powerful as history and one's secrets.

