



**East Brunswick Magnet School's
Literary Arts Magazine
SPRING 2023**





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Spring 2023

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May, 2023

DEAR READERS:

Welcome to *STRIPES* Literary Magazine: Spring 2023 Edition. We are so excited to have been able to bring you this magazine and share the work of all our talented artists, photographers, and writers!

This year's Spring Edition focuses on growth, hope, and love. As the world continues to experience turmoil, we sometimes feel like we are losing track of ourselves. However, with each changing season, we are given fresh opportunities to leap back into ourselves, becoming better versions of ourselves to create a better world in turn.

We hope that you find hope and inspiration in the beautiful poems, photos, and artworks contributed by your fellow students here at East Brunswick Magnet School. We know that we have!

Sincerely,

Katelen Estrada & Marializ Guzman

MANAGING EDITORS

Are you a poet, writer, artist, or photographer?



TIGER SAYS: Join *Stripes*!

Interested? Email Mrs. Solomon at SolomonL@mcmsnj.net

NEW BEGINNINGS

IN MY ONE AND ONLY EPIC

by Reese Redzinski

I will not just reach for the twinkling night
sky, but I will grasp what shines and carry it
with me every step I take

I will not disregard the dirt, but I will look in
it for the hidden seeds that will grow into a
strong, sturdy, and shady tree

I will not let the light turn to ashes, but I will
search all over for sticks and twigs to keep
this fire going

LEAP

by Arden Gonzalez

A year full of leaping out of my comfort
zone

A year full of completing tasks on time

A year full of growing from mistakes

A year full of standing up for myself

A year full of welcoming new beginnings
with open arms

RESOLUTIONS

by Gianna Graffeo-Seda

self-confidence, doubting
standing tall, not hunched
talking less, thinking more
gossip less, focus more
lots and lots of work to do
let the new year humble you



Photographer: Jessica Rodriguez

SIMPLE GOALS

by Jessica Rodriguez

Good grades and good health

A vacation somewhere warm

Reading more books

And maybe even more money

TREASURE HUNT

by Mario Cruz

In the land of Andalusia,
A treasure lies hidden deep,
In the heart of the desert,
Where the sun's rays never sleep.
The journey will be tough,
And the road will wind and twist,
But with determination and grit,
You'll discover what you've missed.

Follow your heart, young traveler,
For it knows the way to go,
It'll guide you through the sands,
To where the treasure glows.



Artist: Prisha Shah

WHO I'D BE

by Katelen Estrada

(Based on the song "Who I'd Be" by Jeanine Tesori)

I guess I'd be an author, use words to tell my story
And write myself in glory, my books would gain acclaim.
Or else I'd be an athlete, and live a life of honor
A medal 'round my collar, and all would know my name.
I'd walk the court, I'd tour the world, I'd win the biggest races.
I'd score a goal, I'd see them cheer for me:
A crowd of smiling faces.
That's who I'd be.

Or I could be an artist and write the next best single
And with my fans I'd mingle. I'd no longer be ignored.
Onstage, I'll be my brightest. The mics would help with volume
The lights would paint the ballroom, and strings would strike a chord.
I'd sing a verse, I'd pluck a tune, with confidence I glisten.
I'd hit the note, I'd be the star I dream. And everyone would listen.
But we all learn.

The extroverts live dreams. They're heard loud and clear.
But a wallflower shall be someone that no one hears.

So yes, I'd be an author, and if that were to be true
Life would be a virtue after all my books are sold.
Of course I'd be an author! I'd be my own protagonist.
My life would be the catalyst for the greatest story told.
Next thing I know, my book gains fame, and all the fans are crying,
My words change lives. I am finally heard after all those years of trying.

They hear and care. They smile and laugh, and there's no pretending.
For in this world, I made a difference. I'd have an author's ending.
A perfect happy ending. That's how it would be.
A loving, inviting, and accepting world.

But it's not for me.

WHAT IS IN OUR FUTURE?

by Danielle Zur

Raise our GPAs.
Join as many clubs as possible, and spend extra time at school.
Showcase our leadership potential.
Demanding college applications.
Stressful periods of waiting for responses.
Important decisions on what we want to spend our lives doing.
Picking a place that will feel like home.
Questioning our every opinion.
Leaving our family, friends, and childhood behind.
Saying goodbye.

A NEW CHAPTER

by Jaylene Gardener

The New Year is
The beginning of your next chapter
We all wish for a happily ever after
We think about what we can do
We think about what we plan to pursue
Within this new year
I genuinely do not have a clue
What I can do nor what I can pursue
Within this new year
I plan to take it day by day
I plan to be okay
The New Year

2023

by Madison Woods

Making the most out of every day
Leaping over obstacles like a ballet
Learning new songs on the bass
Staying in the right headspace
Going on vacations
Letting go of my frustrations
Composing more music and writing new songs
Separating the rights from the wrongs
2023 will be fun and carefree

GOALS

by Sonia Dass

Goals?
Get strong?
Too long.
Get rich?
No itch.
Make more friends?
The pit will never end.
Eat more?
That's a bore.
The madness is endless.
I'm not brainless.
I'm smart.
I need a restart.



Photographer: Sophia Fishman

THE YEAR OF SUCCESS

by Emma Glasser

to study more
to not be bored
to get straight A's
for the rest of my days
to read more books
to learn to cook
to be more involved
so I can evolve
spending time with the people I love
finding people who fit like a glove
learning to look for the positive things
gaining the hope to spread my wings

I HAVE A DREAM

(inspired by the words of Martin Luther King Jr.)

DREAMING

by Mathieu DeOlio

I have a dream that one day this nation will learn.
I have a dream that one day this nation will learn to love.
I have a dream that one day this nation will learn to love each other.
I have a dream that one day this nation will learn to love each other regardless of their history.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day people will be able to look past face value.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day others will grow up.
This is my hope and faith.
With this faith, we will be able to move past our previous connotations.
This will be the day when this nation will learn.



Artist: Prisha Shah

DREAM

by Chase Neary

I have a dream that one day this nation will be great again.
I have a dream that one day my life will be dream-like.
I have a dream that one day my heart will sing again.
I have a dream that my kids will grow up to be big and strong.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day everything will fall in place.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day I'll get my degree in college.
This is my hope and faith.
With this faith, we will be able to push forward and grow.
This will be the day when we all realize right and wrong.

HAPPINESS

by Sonia Dass

I have a dream that one day I will have a stable job.
I have a dream that one day I can live on my own.
I have a dream that one day I can be myself.
I have a dream that my family will be proud of me.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day I will go to a good college.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day I will make good friends.
This is my hope and faith.
With this faith, we will be able to live a good and healthy life.
This will be the day when I find out what it feels like to be truly happy and at peace.

UNITE

by Gina DeCaprio

I have a dream that one day this nation will unite.
I have a dream that one day our nation will look past someone's gender and race.
I have a dream that one day everyone will be treated equally.
I have a dream that people will be looked at for who they are.
I have a dream today.

I HAVE A DREAM

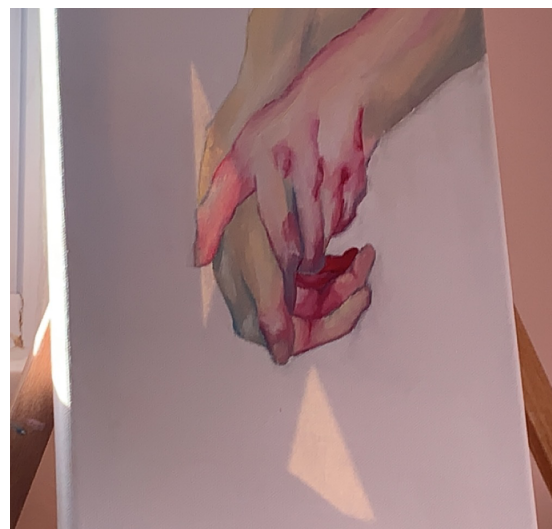
by Michael Rizzi

I have a dream that one day this nation will unite,
And all its people live with freedom and delight.
I have a dream that one day we'll put aside our hate,
And learn to love and appreciate.
I have a dream, that one day justice will be served,
And all God's children will be well preserved.
I have a dream that all will be equal, fair, and just,
And in this dream, my heart and soul will trust.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day all will see the light,
And walk together in peace, free from the night.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day, all will be set free,
And live in harmony with liberty.
This is my hope and faith.
With this faith, we will be able to overcome,
And create a world of love, peace, and fun.
This will be the day when all can sing,
With joy and hope, peace takes the wing.

DREAM

by Estevan Atanacio

I have a dream that one day this nation will know love.
I have a dream that one day I will find a job I love.
I have a dream that one day I will be able to provide for my loved ones.
I have a dream that I will be the best version of myself.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day my friends and I will be happy and successful.
This is my hope, my faith.
With this faith, we will be able to achieve our greatest goals.
This will be the day that I find purpose in life.
I have a dream that one day, nice, genuine people will be noticed.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day sexism and racism will not exist.
This is my hope and faith.
With this faith, we will be able to live without judgment.
This will be the day when everyone will live equally.



Artist: Diana Maranzano

HOPE

by Danielle Zur

I have a dream that one day this nation will
learn to accept others for who they are.
I have a dream that one day we will all be
able to live in a land without judging each
other.
I have a dream that one day we will be able
to see the visions of others through their
lens.
I have a dream that the boundaries set
around what art is will soon be nullified.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day we will connect
over what once set us apart.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day people will be
able to make themselves vulnerable without
feeling afraid. This is my hope and faith.
With this faith, we will be able to expand the
walls of the arts.
This will be the day when we take advantage
of the potential that is set for us.

OPEN ARMS

by Sameer Samid

I have a dream that one day this nation will
open its arms wide to those who need it.
I have a dream that one day we will not be
sitting around doing nothing.
I have a dream that one day we won't have
to go through these inhumane measures.
I have a dream that we will stand together.
I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day we can all walk
and run towards our goals without fear.
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day we can go
outside without fear.
This is my hope and faith.
With this faith, we will be able to move
forward and do good.
This will be the day when Black Lives
Matter.

PEACE

by Madison Woods

I have a dream that one day this nation will
unite
I have a dream that one day everyone will be
equal
I have a dream that one day the world will
be peaceful
I have a dream that we will live in prosperity
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day kindness will
not be shown temporarily
I have a dream today.
I have a dream that one day karma will not
be overlooked
This is my hope and faith.
With this faith, we will be able to make hate
abate
This will be the day when there will be
progression but not perfection in society.

THE GREATEST LOVE

THE HELPER

by Antonio Torres

food for homeless
with new shoes too
clothing on the back
heated blanket too
all I want to do is help you

WINNING

by Danielle Zur

What is winning?
Some believe it is the action of beating
others at something.
Perhaps it is the action of beating yourself.
This action is supposed to produce a joyous
feeling.
It is supposed to make you feel like you are
on top of the world.
However, how does it feel when you
remember what it is like to lose?
Maybe, you think the hard work paid off.
The blood, sweat, and tears were worth it.
But, pause and rewind.
How long did that joyous feeling last?
It is gone already.



Photographer: Jaimaris Rosado

UNBREAKABLE

by Madison Woods

Jealousy spreads like a disease
But I've got a vaccine called "I love me"
No one is born perfectly
I focus on all of my good qualities
I am brushin' off the negative words
'Cause they're not worth my time, and I'm
secure
Try to shake me like an earthquake, and I'll
still be standing tall
I will get through it all

My strength is something you can't take
away
I'm glass that's unbreakable
I tune out all the things they say
'Cause I'm irreplaceable

LOVE

By Emma Glasser

Love should be gentle, patient, and kind.
The most genuine love begins in your own
mind.
You can be your own date for the next 20
years.
As long as you are happy, don't waste your
tears.
Heart-shaped snowflakes bring love to the
air.
It can make you forget what's already there.
You are the only one who can truly see you.
Soul to mind, through and through.
You are the one who makes dreams come
true.
You are the one who will be there for you.
If they do not admire you, someone else will.
Love will not run from you; you can stay still.
As the flowers bloom and the rainbows
shine,
I hope you see the pot of gold is your own
mind.



Photographer: Gina DeCaprio

SELF LOVE

by Alexia Hilarczyk

Self love is not something that comes with ease,
 It isn't something you can learn overnight.
 Self love comes with time just like many other things.
 You need to appreciate yourself and the things you do in order to gain self love.
 That does not mean go and change everything you do because you don't like it or think you can do better,
 It means to appreciate what you have in this moment.
 Take it all in,
 Love everything you do and be proud of yourself.
 Do not sacrifice your own well-being for others,
 You are extremely important too.
 Learn to love everything about yourself,
 From your mindset, to your body, to your everyday life, to all of you.
 No matter what you think of yourself,
 You are so special.
 If you don't have self love right now,
 Just wait.
 Self love is the most important kind of love.

THE GIRL IN THE MIRROR

by Jaimaris Rosado

She's jealous.
 She's jealous of the girls she sees
 Because,
 When she looks in the mirror,
 She feels inferior.
 She hates the way she looks.
 When she cries...
 Can anyone hear her?

What she doesn't see
 Is the beautiful girl in the mirror.
 One day,
 It all changed.
 It all became clearer.
 Now she sees that beautiful girl in the mirror.

She feels so much more confident,
 even loving herself became prominent.
 She walks through the halls,
 with her back straight,
 now that she replaced hate
 with love,
 Because she doesn't care about her height
 or her weight.

Some people adore her,
 Some people even fear her,
 Because she became...
 that beautiful girl in the mirror.

LOVE'S GREATEST FORM

by Gianna Graffeo-Seda

love
 can take many forms
 but loving oneself, is the greatest form of all

SELF LOVE HAIKU

by Estevan Atanacio

You are not to blame.
Mistakes happen and are made.
You should feel no shame.

Love to be yourself.
As unique as a snowflake.
You shine in the light.

Sometimes it is tough.
Your path is dark and cold.
But there will be light.

Count all your blessings.
It's special to have a life.
It's not always night.

Finally shining,
You are the sun to the Earth.
Love your very own life.

SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN

by Lemonik Cedano

Somewhere in between
My Bold eyeliner turned into natural eyes,
My False lashes turned into regular
mascara,

My Long acrylic nails turned into natural
clean nails,
My Short skirts turned into sweats,
My Straightened hair turned into natural hair,
My "One meal a day" mindset turned into
three,
My scabs turned to scars, and somewhere
in between...
I healed.



Artist: Prisha Shah

LOVING YOURSELF JUST LIKE YOU LOVE SOMEBODY ELSE

by Lemonik Cedano

Love,
When you think of the word, the first thing
you think of is someone else.
It's common nature to have such great love
for another individual,
That even the simplest of words is a
constant reminder of them.
How you miss them,
How you care for them, and help them grow.
How you would put anything on the line for
them
Because that's what love is all about, right?
Loving someone can sometimes shadow
the thought of loving yourself.
The quiet, loud, exquisite, adventurous sides
of you are all a masked beauty waiting to be
seen.

THE TREASURE WITHIN

by Nathaniel Rosas

In sands of time, a tale unfolds,
A quest for treasure, as fate beholds.
"Follow your dreams," the omens speak,
In pyramids vast, secrets to seek.

With every step, the desert sighs,
Whispering tales under starry skies.
Alchemy's wisdom, elixir's delight,
Hidden in depths, a shimmering light.

The universe conspires, guiding the way,
Through omens and signs, dusk to day.
In heart's pursuit, a soul sets free,
The treasure within, a destiny.



Artist: Prisha Shah

GROWTH & RENEWAL

A WARM SPRING MORNING

by Arden Gonzalez

I smile as tulips bloom
With their bursting hues of pink and orange
And their fragrance wafting through the air
Of a warm spring morning

The dew on their petals reflects the sun
As it peaks its head out
From the underbelly of the world

I smile as birds chirp
With their melodic melodies and tunes
Reverberating among the treetops
Of a warm spring morning

They return from a long migration
Spent in the warmth of the southern air
Escaping the chill of a melancholy winter

I smile as new beginnings blossom
And opportunities arise
To welcome the start
Of a warm spring morning



Photographer: Juan Patino

FLOWER

by Alexia Hilarczyk

You are a beautiful flower with a long stem
and thorns.

And you are any color you dream to be.

But you only have a couple petals left.

You used to stand tall, and the sun would
shine brightly right on you.

But the people who said they would water
you and care for you haven't in a while.

You have begun to droop, and you are
starting to lose that beautiful color.

You lose a petal.

Where did they go?

Why haven't these people been taking care
of you?

This beautiful flower shouldn't be set aside.

You lose another petal.

The more and more you question why these
people have given up on caring for you,
It doesn't fix the damage that has been
done.

You lose another petal.

Suddenly, out of the blue,

Someone appears.

They are different.

This isn't someone who broke that promise.

They start to give you water and take care of
you.

You stopped losing petals.

You have rebloomed.



Photographer: Ember Arp

THE BREEZE KEEPS ME GOING

by Madison Woods

Flowers dance as they hear the birds sing
 Worms twist in the rain during spring
 My allergy medication is my best friend
 When will the congestion ever end?
 New possibilities bloom everywhere
 Spring cleaning may sound like quite the
 scare
 But the breeze keeps me going
 Because I'm seeing everything around me
 growing
 The grass is the greenest
 The sun has the keenest
 Love for making everyone shine
 The season of spring is so divine

SPRINGING FORWARD

by Emma Glasser

Trees are beginning to find their color.
 All the warm days blend into each other.
 No more residue from the snow,
 With only three more months to go.
 The smell of fresh flowers is filling the air.
 The T-shirts we have, we can finally wear.
 As the time springs forward, so do we.
 Blossoming amongst the trees.

SPRING

by Azzareya Gordon

The robins are back
 The buds are showing
 A newborn child smiles
 As his mother holds him tight
 Tears in her eyes
 Warm as the sun, so bright outside
 Kisses from spring lovers
 Children sneezing from pollen
 I lie back in the sunkissed grass
 A cloud goes by



Artist: Cara Comunale

BLOSSOM FORTH

by Yohanes Conte

As winter fades and spring draws near,
The world begins to bloom and cheer,
With flowers bright and colors bold,
New life emerges, as days grow old.

Like nature's cycles, we too can change,
And shed old habits, to rearrange,
Our lives for good, with a fresh new start,
And let positivity fill our heart.

As blooms push through the thawing ground,
We too can rise up, from where we're bound,
And reach for heights we've never known,
With courage, strength, and seeds we've sown.

So let this season be our guide,
To make the changes deep inside,
And let our lives be full of light,
As we blossom forth, with all our might.

NEW BEGINNINGS OF SPRING

by Leila Perez

Outside when the flowers start to bloom
I come outside of my room
I walk downstairs and walk out in the spring breeze
I breathe with ease
I love the fresh scent of the flowers
blooming on the first day of spring
I feel like I want to sing
I wanted to do something new
I decided to grab a shoe
I went back to my house to grab some seeds
I then found a weed
I then plucked it out
I put the seeds inside the shoe that was filled with dirt
I waited a few weeks for it to grow
After it grew, it had a glimmering, shining glow

It looked as beautiful as the sun
Growing flowers is a lot of fun
You should learn how to grow too
So you won't be blue

COLORS OF SPRING

by Haley Poulsen

I open my eyes
The flowers have bloomed
Bringing color to the lifeless world before
Standing under the golden light
As it shines upon me
The air is crisp and clean
And I feel glee
The wind whips around
I can hear a symphony
As the colors of spring pass me by
I sit and enjoy my time



Photographer: Sophia Fishman

APRIL SHOWERS

by Lemonik Cedano

They've always said "April showers bring
May flowers."

They meant it about the earth, but what
about a person?

The tears we've wept, the "showers" that
had fallen.

Nose so stuffy you may think it's from
pollen.

But as your tears dried up and the earth
takes the rain,

It's like both the earth and yourself have
grown into such a beautiful name,
Blossomed into someone new, free of hurt,
and shame.

Growth is a beautiful part of your brand-new
flame,

Blossomed into a beautiful soul.

Let the showers teach you, or what you call
the tears;

Even the most "ugliest" dispairs
Create such beautiful personal repairs.

SPRINGTIME'S WARMTH

by Mathieu DeOleo

When winter's chill has come and gone,
And springtime's warmth begins to dawn,
The world awakens from its sleep,
And all around us starts to creep
The signs of life that soon will be
In full display for all to see.

The buds on trees begin to swell,
And soon enough we'll start to tell
That nature's cycle is in motion,
And soon enough, we'll see the notion
That life's beginning once again,
And all around us, there's a grin.

For in the air there's something new.
A feeling that's fresh and full of dew.
A sense that something's soon to be
Blooming, growing, wild and free.
And so we welcome in the spring,
With all the joy that it can bring.

With colors bright and scents so sweet,
The world around us can't be beat.
And as the days grow longer still,
We know that soon the world will fill
With life and growth and all things new,
And we'll be blooming too.

APRIL BREATH

by Alyssa Rivera

April breath is near:
the birds singing,
flowers blooming.
Everything seems more colorful:
breathtaking scenery,
a cheerful time of year.
The sun is out,
new beginnings,
second chances,
fresh starts,
are near.

A NEW BEGINNING

by Sonia Dass

It's finally over.
No more pain.
No more rain.
No more sadness.
No more madness.
It's finally over.
Can finally smile.
No more denial.
Can finally laugh.
No more paragraphs.
It's finally over.
No more long nights crying.
No longer feel like dying.
Can finally be happy.
No longer sappy.
It's finally over.



Photographer: Gina DeCaprio

SPRINGTIME HAIKU

by Estevan Atanacio

The flowers turn pink
The air feels soft on my skin
Springtime is coming

Love is in the air
Outside, children are playing
Trees fill with new life

Gentle breeze blowing
The cold is no longer here
There's no more snowing

New birds start chirping
Singing with their happy song
Returning back home

Green grasses smiling
Mother Earth greets happily
Spring time is now here

FLEETING SPRING

by Sharon Ramos

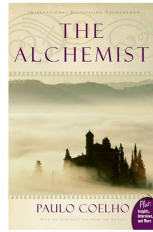
As she comes and goes,
Her soft pastel colors, in the air
They flow
Spouting life from down below
Behold her beauty

See it truly
As the world regains its color
Calm yet bold like no other
Her time will come dully

She is kind, but she can be cruel
As people get sick of this subtle renewal
But until then
I look forward to springtime again

JOURNEYS

(“Found poems” incorporating the inspiring words of Paulo Coelho’s *The Alchemist*)



ADVENTURER

by Emily Gonzalez

I'm an adventurer looking for treasure.
The world was huge and inexhaustible
But I'd like to see castles.
The secret of happiness is to see all the
marvels of the world, and never forget the
drops of oil and the spoon.
The soul of the world is nourished by
people's happiness.
When you want something, all the universe
conspires in helping you achieve it.
I promised that I would make my own
decisions.
Need to cleanse our minds of negative
thoughts.
A moment of silence so profound.
If I can learn to understand this language
without words,
I can learn to understand the world.

DREAMER

by Jeremy Chan-Sia

Another dreamer
Whenever he could
He sought a new road to travel
He was able every day to live his dream
That makes life interesting, he thought
The possibility of having a dream come true
But to ask her hand
Had to choose between something he had
And something he wanted to have
Another dream

DAWN

by Arden Gonzalez

The day was dawning
The horizon was tinged with red,
and suddenly the sun appeared
The boy sat on the steps of the shop
He spent the entire morning observing
the infrequent comings and goings in the
street
He realized: People fail to recognize the
good things
that happen in their lives
every day that the sun rises

THE SHEPHERD

by Marializ Guzman

The roof had fallen in long ago.
See the stars through.
The book he had just finished reading as a
pillow.
He had the same dream.
“Why are you just a shepherd?”
Some mysterious energy bound his life.
The sheep were able to understand what he
said.
Tell them of the loneliness or the happiness
of a shepherd.
“It doesn't matter,” he said to his sheep.
He was sure the girl would never
understand.
But in his heart he knew that it did.



Artist: Prisha Shah

RED

by Eliot Jager

The day was dawning
 The horizon was tinged with red
 Ever since he had been a child, he had
 wanted to know the world
 He saw the gardens, the mountains all
 around him
 It's the possibility of having a dream come
 true that makes life interesting
 But in his heart he knew it did not matter
 The boy felt jealous of the freedom
 He would never again believe in dreams
 And he vanished
 The sun began its departure

THE DESERT

by Samantha Ngo

You are at the point where you're about to
 give it all up.
 There are thousands of kilometers of desert
 between here and there.
 But that's the way it is.
 That's the way it always is.
 It's your mission on earth
 To know new places,
 Learn new things,
 To see all the marvels of the world.
 Prepare your spirit and your will,
 And everything is possible.

POSSIBILITY

by Ricardo Rolon

God had prepared a path for everyone to
 follow.
 And dreams are the language of God.
 The boy remembered his dream, and
 suddenly everything was clear to him.
 He never realized that people are capable, at
 any time in their lives, of doing what they
 dream of.
 The idea frightened him.
 He had to choose between something he
 had become accustomed to and something
 he wanted to have.
 It's the possibility of having a dream come
 true that makes life interesting.
 There was nothing to hold him back except
 himself.
 From then on, he would make his own
 decisions.
 The boy laughed - out of happiness.

DESTINY

by Prisha Shah

Why do you weep?
 They wanted me to be a priest
 But in his heart, he knew
 The possibility of having a dream come true
 makes life interesting
 I'm an adventurer
 I'd like to see the castles
 The fields of Andalusia
 The pyramids in Egypt
 Or even search for treasure
 To realize one's destiny is a person's only
 real obligation

THE STRANGER

by McKenna Swan

The boy felt ill and terribly alone.
Everyone about him went to their knees,
placed their foreheads on the ground.
He knew nothing about the customs of the
strange land he was in.
There is no wine in this country, and the boy
preferred wine.
He was feeling sorry for himself, so
ashamed that he wanted to cry...
Through the narrow streets of Tangier,
There were thousands of people there,
arguing, selling, and buying.
He saw the most beautiful sword he had
ever seen.
He was a stranger in a strange land,
But instead of being saddened, he was
happy.
After all, what he had always wanted was
just that: to know new places.

SUNRISE

by Ashley Santos Hernandez

All this happened between sunrise and
sunset, the boy thought.
I'm going to hate those who have found
their treasure because I never found mine.
... because I'm too insignificant to conquer
the world.
"I'm like everyone else— I see the world in
terms of what I would like to see happen,
not what actually does."
He remembered the sword.
"I'm an adventurer, looking for treasure," he
said to himself.
He was learning a lot of new things.
He had not a cent in his pocket, but he had
faith.
... people fail to recognize the good things
that happen in their lives every day that the
sun rises.
All this happened between sunrise and
sunset, the boy thought.

LISTEN

by Yohanes Conte

Remember that wherever your heart is, there
you will find your treasure.
You will never be able to escape from your
heart. So it's better to listen to what it has to
say.

Every blessing ignored becomes a curse.

Intuition is really a sudden immersion of the
soul into the universal current of life.

When we strive to become better than we
are, everything around us becomes better
too.

It's the simple things in life that are the most
extraordinary; only wise men are able to
understand them.

No matter what he does, every person on
earth plays a central role in the history of
the world. And normally he doesn't know it.

And, when you can't go back, you have to
worry only about the best way of moving
forward.

People are capable, at any time in their lives,
of doing what they dream of.

There is only one thing that makes a dream
impossible to achieve: the fear of failure.

STRANGE THOUGHTS

by Maya Wallenstein

I wanted to sleep a little longer.
The boy was surprised at his thoughts.
But in his heart he knew that it didn't matter.
But ever since he had been a child, he had
wanted to know the world, and this was
much more important to him than knowing
God and learning about man's sins.
At a certain point in our lives, we lose
control of what's happening to us, and our
lives become controlled by fate. That's the
world's greatest lie.
Maybe we're all that way, the boy mused.
I didn't need to waste my time just for this.
When someone sees the same people
everyday, as had happened with him at the
seminary, they wind up becoming a part of
that person's life.
People say strange things, the boy thought.
But when you're talking to people, they say
some things that are so strange that you
don't know how to continue the
conversation.

THE PRICE

by Isabella Marquez

For everything in life has its price.
preparation for your spirit and will.
However, as time passes, it will be
impossible to see one's destiny.
The secret of happiness is to see.
And always remember.
It prepares you for your spirit and will.
All the marvels of the world.
The responsibilities.
A mysterious force begins to convince.
Sometimes, there's no way to hold back the
river.

A NEW ROAD

by David Wolpiuk

The horizon was tinged with red, and
suddenly the sun appeared
He was excited, and at the same time
uneasy: maybe the girl had already
forgotten him
But in his heart, he knew that it did matter
It is the possibility of having a dream come
true that makes life interesting
The boy thought back to that conversation
with his father
"If God leads the sheep so well, he will also
lead a man,"
The boy laughed - out of happiness
Looking at the sun, he calculated that he
would reach Tarifa before midday
The day was dawning, and the shepherd
urged his sheep in the direction of the sun
Whenever he could, he sought out a new
road to travel.



Photographer: Juan Patino



MAIL BAG

Dear Diana Maranzano,

Hello, I read your beautiful "Nobody" poem (Fall/Winter 2022 issue), which was really well-written. I selected your poem as my choice to read because it caught my eye when I saw the title "Nobody," I became very interested. I love how your poem is so empowering to yourself and to everyone who reads it. Your poem is so intricate but I can completely understand "why to be someone else when you can be yourself". You should be proud of yourself for writing a beautiful poem such as this one.

Your friend/classmate,

Sienna Smith

Dear Lemonik Cedano,

I have just read your poem titled "Masquerade" (Fall/Winter 2022 issue) and it was very well written. I chose to read this poem because I knew you were going to be writing one but also the title caught my eye. This poem was about the man at the masquerade and how he hides behind this person that he is not. He fools many with his lies and under that mask is a man who feels no one's pain and only cares about himself. What I enjoyed most about this poem is the way it was written and how you went into detail but not too into detail but still to a point where it leaves the reader in thought. I can relate to this poem on many levels because I have

been through experiences where people have lied to me about who they are. They portrayed someone that they weren't and it left me broken or as you said in your poem, "Weeping in the dark quiet night." I am very impressed with your writing and I look forward to reading more of your poems.

Sincerely,

Sophia Mourino

Dear Emily Gonzalez,

I read your poem "Masks" in STRIPES (Fall/Winter 2022 issue). I agree with you that people hide their genuine emotions sometimes, from friends, family, classmates, teachers, colleagues, neighbors, and anyone they might come across. It is not always a matter of trust. As you say in your poem, it is also because of vulnerability. People will do that because they don't want to be taken advantage of, thought of as being weak, or yelled at. I wear "emotional masks" often to hide how I am truly feeling. I do this many times to blend in with peers or the crowd. I loved your poem because it contains experiences that I have had in my life and relate to them. If these masks were for real, I would need a secret closet for storing them!

Sincerely,

Divyansh Seth



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!