

1st Place: K-4th Grade

Horses Run

Horses gallop to run the sea,
Off the sun they jump,
Running they see the West,
Sun guides horses West.
End of the childhood.
Sun shows it's time to go for the horses,
Running to the West star, no water to be
Found West, they are the song of the world,
Found, go home to your family.
Travel on the West,
They make a stand to run the sea,
They run for days.

By Davis Smith

--Inspired by "Four Horse Songs"

3rd Place (tie): K-4th Grade

He Had Some Horses

He had horses who loved
the wind through their fuzzy fur.
He had horses that had
eyes like rains.
He had horses that feel like
rabbit's fur.
He had horses that smell like
the rodeo dirt.
He had horses that look like
my dog.

By Brody Atchley

--Inspired by "She Had Some Horses"

2nd Place: K-4th Grade

Morning Song

Mom making sizzling bacon
Orange juice in my cup
Red, cold apples
New day is a better day
Ice cold apple sauce
Newspapers crackling
Green trees getting blown in the sweet air

Sweet syrup drizzling on my pancakes
Obsessing over Texas French toast
Nibbling on yummy morning breakfast
Gathering with family

By Aspen Reed

--Inspired by "Morning Song"

3rd Place (tie): K-4th Grade

I Remember I Caught a Fish

I remember I caught a fish

I remember it was very big

I remember it weighed a ton

I remember it was a lot of fun

I remember it going left and right

I remember reeling with all my might

I remember it putting up a fight

I remember that first bite

I remember holding it by the lip

I remember releasing the fish.

By Ali Pierce

--Inspired by "Remember"

3rd Place: 5th-8th Grade

Pool Day

I remember the sun being very hot and bright.

I remember the water cold as ice and blue like the sky.

I remember watching my cousins jump in and the water splashing as they jumped.

I remember walking to the steps carefully so I wouldn't fall.

I remember as I got to the steps, I put my feet in slowly and got chills immediately.

I remember hitting the bottom looking up seeing the sun.

I remember swimming underwater seeing the lights and toys floating

I remember swimming with my cousins and playing games in the pool with them.

I remember after a while it was getting a little dark outside.

I remember going inside my aunt's house and eating a hot pizza with my family.

I remember it being dark going to the car to go home as I look up I see the moon.

I remember laying in the car falling asleep to the radio.

I remember when I woke up being in my bed and it being a new day.

By Kayla Cowan

--Inspired by "Remember"

1st Place: 5th-8th Grade

Slipping

There's 13 floors one for every person
Who she has loved one for every woman
Who feels the same sorrow deep within
Her moon lit heart like spring storms
Her tears come as she's hanging there
Every trigger trying to pry her finger
Tips from the ledge crows gather
Around ready to watch her break into
Pieces like a flower in a tornado
Some scream to let go others circle
Her head like a halo as she starts
To slip she thinks of all who might
Miss her and for a quick second
She grieves for her lost life and like
A waterfall her tears drowned her
She fades from existence and
Soon from your memories.

By Alexis Copeland

--Inspired by "The Woman Hanging
from the Thirteenth Floor Window"

2nd Place: 5th-8th Grade

I Remember

I remember when we used to talk
While walking down the sidewalk

I remember when we used to laugh
You used to call me your better half

I remember when we used to smile
We haven't done that in a while

I remember everything we used to do
Now it's just me without you

I remember all the games we played
I really wish you would have stayed

I remember when it was me instead of her
Now I know she's the one you prefer

I remember when we looked at the sky
Now every time I think about you I cry.

I remember when people would ask if
I was fine
Now if you're mentioned I say
You were never mine

By Rylie Wagner

--Inspired by "Remember"

2nd Place: Adult

The Kitchen Table

The kitchen table has vanished.
Invisible as botox filled laugh lines.

We feed our kids drive thru meals
Barely recognizable as food,
Eaten at warp speed in a box on wheels.

We raise our kids on google, facebook, youtube,
Entertain with iphone, ipads, video games,
Television, anything but spoken words.
Anything but time.

We sit together in a room on opposite walls
Like teenagers at a first dance
Afraid of making eye contact
Pass the fried chicken please.

We tire of the pace.
Search for a way to reconnect.

It's there behind a furniture blanket
In a dusty corner covered with cobwebs.
Scarred legs disconnected and splayed
Out like windmill blades.

It pulls at us like the ebbing tide.
Uncover me.
Dust me off. Put me back together.
Use me.

Perhaps the world begins here.

By Kelly Palmer --Inspired by "Perhaps the World Ends Here"

1st Place: Adult

Deleted

I removed you
From my contacts today.
I was chasing what
Was not running.
I was moving toward
Something I left behind.
But I read your texts first.
“We shall watch the
Sun touch
The deck and fall to the pond.
We will build a fire
And talk of growing
Old with cinders on
Our boots and
Fire in our hearts.
We will wake to
The sun sitting on
The deck and
The chickadee’s song.”
Deleted.

By Roxann Yates

--Inspired by “Desire”

3rd Place: Adult

Coming Home

How did you stand it

She said

The constant move from

City to city state to state

And you so young

You had no say

In wher your fortunes lay

In Calif. Colo. Texas

Or Oklahoma

This is the only way

I knew

Load the truck with

Shade-tree beans and hope

Camp by the side of the road

And make sure the water bags

Were filled at a dirty gas station

And washcloth baths were taken

And maybe a penny candy lifted

Our spirits.

And that is fine

Because the end of the road

Was always Oklahoma.

By Betty Perkins

--Inspired by "The Last Song"

