

Free Verse Poetry: "I am Poem"

I am a kid who loves God---

I wonder what I'm missing in my life.

I hear God speaking to me.

I see His word teaching me.

I want to see Him with my eyes.

I am a kid who loves God..

I pretend I'm a part of God---

I feel His Word.

I touch the pages that teach the Word.

I worry if I'm good for Him.

I cry about being away from Him.

I am a kid who loves God.

I understand the Word of God---

I say the Word to my parents.

I dream about being with God.

I try to be as good as I can.

I hope to be with Him in heaven.

I am a kid who loves God and I know I am His son.

Free Verse Poetry: "I Am Pretend Poem"

I am a Jedi ---

I wonder if the Dark Side will never attack--

I hear gunshots.

I see Tie-fighters, x-wing pilots, and storm troopers.

I want a double-bladed light saber.

I am a Jedi.

I pretend that I surrendered---

I feel unsafe.

I touch the light saber.

I worry about my people.

I cry out for clone troopers.

I am a Jedi.

I understand that my power is strong---

I say, "Stay behind my back!"

I dream of being a real hero.

I try to save my people.

I hope I don't die.

I am a Jedi.

Eagle's Landing Christian Academy

Sarah Lundstrom

4th

Rhymed Poetry: "School"

School is dull...
I work and work...till I cry...
Till my brain flies.
I dry my eyes
And I feel surprised-
Cause I'm never going to get it tonight!

I close my eyes
And I realize
That my brain is not fried.
I wake from a deep sleep
And know what I need.
School is not that dull after all.

Short Bio Story: This Is My Mom

My mom's life is very complex, but I will tell you all that I can.

When she was very, very young, she was dropped off at an orphanage where she would stay for many years. Every day kids would get picked up and taken home. My mom wondered, "Is this the day that I will get picked up?" But no one came. She did not have friends, but my mom was very creative. She made up her own games to keep herself entertained. The food at her orphanage was not very good, but my mom was very kind and said thanks when she got food.

Years later, someone finally came to the door of the orphanage. He looked around and finally set his eyes on my mom and adopted her. She was adopted by the Springers. They were semi-kind people who had no kids and went to the orphanage to adopt one day. My mom's family were not really Christians, but my mom got interested in Christianity, and she started going to church and reading the Bible. She was very happy.

Soon she was old enough to go out on her own. My mom married my dad. Later, my mom gave birth to me and then to my brother.

Years later, my mom received a call from the Virgin Islands that her dad was sick and dying. When she went to the Virgin Islands, she found her dad very sick. He did die.

While my mom was mourning, she got a call saying, “Everette, we found your real mother.” She was overjoyed! She went to the destination and met her real mother. Even after being left in an orphanage and losing her step dad, she still pushed on. My mom does not give up easily. She is very tough. She loves us, and I love my mom. **We are a happy family.**

Eagle's Landing Christian Academy

Paige Priestly

4th

Free Verse Poem-"It's Cold Outside"

My hands are cold.
My heart is warm.

It's cold outside.

Knowing that God loves me
And I love Him,
Makes me feel good.

It's cold outside.

I make a snowman
His name is Snow.
He loves me and I love him.

I feel calm when I am with the snowman-
Like waking up to a beautiful ocean breeze.

Calm-

It's cold outside.

Eagle's Landing Christian Academy

Kylen Smith

4th

Rhymed Poetry: "Movies"

--Wanna go to the movies!

We can see a comedy

Or a very scary movie.

Candy-- candy—oh how yummy!

Buttery popcorn hurts my tummy!

Action movies make me jumpy!

-- Wanna go to the movies?

Free verse poetry:" I Am Pretend Poem"

I am a loving teacher---

I wonder if others are loving at my school.

I hear good things about them.

I see them being friendly.

I want to be loving to others.

I am a loving teacher.

I pretend to be a loving teacher---

I feel excited about teaching.

I touch the kids shoulder at school.

I worry if the kids get sick.

I cry when my children are hurt.

I am a loving teacher.

I understand children's needs---

I say, "Study, study, study".

I dream about my children getting "A's".

I try to be helpful.

I hope they go to college.

I am a loving teacher.

Eagle's Landing Christian Academy

Miller Doerr

5th

Free Verse: "Strong"

Let the Lord be your strength

In your times of trouble.

Let the Lord be your refuge

In even the calmest sea.

Because when you need Him,

He stretches out his hand,

And helps you to the end of your days.

Let the Lord be your armor

In your times of fear.

Let the Lord be your weapon

In your battle.

Call on Him.

He will fight beside you.

He knows your future

Along with your past.

He knows what it is like

To be scared of the night.

He will be your refuge.

When you hide from the storm,

He will be your lighthouse

When you are in a storm of fear,

He will be your rock.

When you need to run,

He has overcome your world.

Just run to Him.

Just trust Him.

Just love Him.

Let Him be your all.

Let Him be your wall to lean on.

Just let Him love you.

Let Him be your all.

And let His words be your rules.

Let Him save you;

Let Him be your strength...

Let Him be your ALL.

Eagle's Landing Christian Academy

Caity Patterson

5th

Free Verse Poem: "Winter"

Winter---

Playing in the snow

Sledding down hills

Snuggling by a fireplace

Gliding across ice

Drinking hot cocoa

Giving blankets to the poor

Cherishing last summer

Making snowmen

Falling in love with this season

Winter---

Eagle's Landing Christian Academy

Kennedy Thomas

5th

Free Verse Poetry:" Bio poem"

I am Kennedy Elyse Thomas,
Child of Tameka and Derrick Thomas,
Who enjoys broccoli, math, and reading,
Who hates peppers, cats, and science,
Who wants to go back to Jamaica,
Who wishes she could've met her great uncle,
Who is scared of dolls,
Who dreams of having a phone,
Who is determined to be a surgeon,
Who values food, friends, and family,
Who is proud of her accomplishments,
Who is in fifth grade,
Who lives in Georgia.
I am Kennedy Elyse Thomas

Rhymed Poetry: "Snow"

I am fluffy,

I am puffy,

I am light,

I am bright.

I can flow,

I can blow,

Blow me somewhere,

Where I can show.

I am small,

I like to fall,

But when the sun comes,

I am not at all.

Eagle's Landing Christian Academy

Sahil Trivedi

5th

Rhymed poetry: "Parents"

Parents are helpful, Parents are nice.

When you get hurt, they give you some ice.

When you get the blues, they cheer you up.

When you fall down, they pick you up.

When you're not the best,

They don't love you less.

Essay: The Mary Celeste Mystery... Solved

The disappearance of the crew aboard the Mary Celeste is a mystery puzzling many people. The ship was located along with its cargo, but where was its crew? According to records, Captain Benjamin Briggs and his wife and daughter and crew of nine began a voyage across the deadliest parts of the ocean and headed to Italy. They never arrived. In spite of the warnings about conditions on the sea, the family set sail, leaving one child behind because he was in school. This child grew up wanting to find out what happened to his relatives. A descendent, a great, great niece began a search to solve this mystery. Was this ship just unlucky as many had believed, or is there a plausible solution to this mysterious disappearance?

There are many theories with a backstory to them. Some of them may have been likely, but many are without evidence. Here are seven known theories. **The Pirate Theory** which indicates that pirates boarded the ship and took it over. While this could have happened, there had been no pirate attacks for a long time and the boat and cargo was still afloat. Those who believe **The Weather Theory** stated that bad weather may have thrown the ship off course and storms could have tossed them overboard. No records show that kind of weather and also the life boat was missing. **The Drunken Crew theory** surmises that the crew drank the cargo alcohol and in a drunken state took command. Still there is the missing boat and no crew on board that took over. **The Sea Monster Theory** gives a suspicious nature by saying a monster ate the crew-

though no sea monsters were ever sighted. The most popular **Conspiracy Theory** which casts the belief that the captains who found the murdered the crew to heist the ship's cargo for their own gain. Even though a court trial and investigation was held, there was no proof of that. **The Seaquake** Theory proposes that earthquakes caused by the tectonic plates in that area created great waves that banged the bottom of the ship frightening the crew away. None of these seem to give reason for the crew to leave their larger and safer lifeboat. The old rule of sea indicates that no captain or crew would leave the boat unless they feared that the boat itself was in danger of sinking.

Therefore, the theory that seems the most believable and is based on evidence found is taken from Smithsonian's research. This is **The Fume Theory**. It is supported by the following factors: Many maritime captains and investigative teams have searched the ocean and recorded data to find an answer to this mysterious crew disappearance. The evidence indicated that barrels rubbed against each other creating leakage and fumes which ignited and blew the hatch covers off. Seeing the flames, the crew abandoned ship in a life boat trailing behind the ship. They left quickly leaving everything on the ship because they believed it to be on fire. Experiments performed by the Smithsonian group showed how this could happen. The ship itself was found and sold as was the cargo. As to the crew, Smithsonian's evidence seems to solve the missing crew mystery.

Eagle's Landing Christian Academy

Scarlett Biggers

6th grade

Short Story: "A Water Cycle Story"

Hello, my name is Indigo. Believe it or not, I'm a water droplet. I live in Crystal River with my thousands of millions of siblings. Lately, the river is abuzz with gossip about *The Evaporation*.

"Ooooh, what's that?" Ugh, that was my sister, Crystalline. She's always in everyone's business.

"Yeah, what's that? It sounds dangerous!" chimed in Dot. He's Crystalline's twin and loves finding danger wherever he goes.

"Oh, I wanna know too!" My sister, Clarity shouts.

"Yeah, me too, me too", all the others chorus.

"Everyone, be quiet!" I shout.

They all pipe down. "The evaporation is when certain little water drops like you and me are chosen to float up to the sky on the sun's rays and join in a cloud", I explained.

At this thought, they all oohed and aahed. I told them that many fall back to the earth as precipitation (rain, sleet, or snow). Then, I sent them off to bother someone else.

To tell the truth, I'm actually a bit nervous about the whole thing, but I would never tell my siblings that. My mom says that I'm a hypochondriac (worrier).

It seems to be getting very hot now. I cannot find a lot of my siblings. No one knows where they went—whoa—oh! I'm flying! It's happening, finally happening! The sun has come to get us! Cool! I'm in a large gathering of my fellow droplets. We're forming a cloud by condensing in the atmosphere. Being in a cloud is like being in a large family. We all work together moving around. When we become heavy, some of us drop down to the earth somewhere. They say that's when you enter your "other life", whatever that is! New drops come into our cloud sometimes too. They share their stories and the stories of others as well. I don't feel too well.

Oh dear, sweet God of raindrops, I'm falling! I'm screaming, "help!" to my family, but I'm going too fast. Something's happening. It's cold! There's a bunch of little tiny stinging pin pricks on my body! I feel funny. I'm a...I'm a ...snowflake! What happened? No, no, no! I liked being a raindrop! Ouch! I've hit the ground. There are thousands of other snowflakes around all screaming and crying. I feel so alone. Will I ever see my family again? Am I going to turn back into a raindrop? I have so many questions. Despite all of the other snowflakes around me, I have a huge hole in my small watery heart yearning for something more. What am I going to do?

It's been six weeks since I fell as frozen precipitation. Sitting on this mountain top has been rather boring. I miss my family but I've made friends with some of the other snowflakes. Yet again, I find myself surrounded by gossip about some big event that I don't even want to happen! They call it, *the melting*.

There is a great body of water below us. It sparkles and shines. There are

whispers that it is the ocean! Oooooooooooooohhh! I just got chills. Now and then, I can hear the faint hum of singing coming from the water. Sometimes I imagine what it's like in that huge body of water with all the other raindrops living in perfect peace together.

Whoa, it just got a lot hotter. You know... I've—uh- I'm falling again! Well, it's more like rolling. I've melted back into my original water- droplet self. I've gotten quite old now. I think my time has finally come. I think I've found that there is something more. As I roll down this hill towards the beautiful blue ocean, I hope I've touched the lives of everyone I've met. I accept the end, but perhaps it's not the end. Maybe it's just the beginning. I wonder---is this the "other life"?

Eagles Landing Christian Academy

Destiny Blash

7th grade

My Role Model

The dictionary defines a role model as “a person whose behavior, example, or success is or can be emulated by others, especially by younger people”. To me a role model is someone in my life that has influenced me in a very positive way. Someone who helps mold and shape my future and I greatly appreciate them. One of the strongest role models in my life right now is Mia Vasser. Mia is my role model because of her leadership skills, her faith in God, and her loving personality.

I have known Mia all of my life and I have always looked up to her, but in the past few years I have had the opportunity to spend more one on one time with her and that has allowed me to really see her as a role model in my life. I admire Mia the most for her leadership skills. When she walks in the room, she walks in like she owns it and I love that about her. For example, our church family went to package 500 boxes for families on Thanksgiving. The people running the event were not very organized. Mia was able to step in and organize the event, within moments of being there. One day I would like to walk in an event and command the room, like that. Like Mia, I would not be “commanding” the room so that I could get credit for something; it would simply be from a desire to help others.

Mia is a young adult, in her early 30's, but she has a belief in God that is amazing. She truly believes and lives by the understanding that God will supply all of her needs. Mia's relationship with God has proven to me that He can work BIG

miracles in your life. A little over a year ago now, Mia traveled, halfway across the world to Australia, with a one- way ticket, a backpack, and not a lot of money in her bank account. She trusted God and had an amazing year and a half journey in Australia and surrounding areas and countries. Once she got back she shared her testimony and it was an eye opening moment for me that I needed to work on my relationship with God. Though she is an adult and I am obviously a child, she talks to me and interacts with me as if we were on the same level. I respect her as an adult, but I also appreciate that she knows how to reach me where I am and allows me to be me.

I also admire Mia and see her as a role model because of her loving personality. She loves to love on people. Even on days where she may not be feeling the best or even be in the best of moods, she finds a way to encourage others and helps others see the “silver lining” in things. Again, these are characteristics that I hope that I can have one day. I know that she did not just wake up like that but through life experiences she has learned to be this kind of a person.

In conclusion, I salute Mia Vassar as a great person and an awesome role model. I hope and pray that one day, I have lived my life in such a way, that there is a young girl that can look at me and say that Destiny Blash is a great role model. I thank God for putting amazing people like Mia in my life to help keep me motivated and always covered in prayer.

Eagles Landing Christian Academy

Jorlynn Cofield

7th grade

My Role Model

My role model is my mom. She has always been there for me. She has made me who I am today. She has told me the difference between right and wrong. Here are some others reasons why my mom is my role model

My mom is one of the best human beings I have ever met besides my dad, grandparents, and Jesus. I am very blessed to have a mom that loves me with all her heart. She has taught me different things throughout my life so far. She has even told me some of her life stories and mistakes. She is the one that gave birth to me. Without her, I would not be here or I would have a different mom. From the birth to be being potty trained to graduating from kindergarten, going on field trips, taking care of injuries, changing school my mom has been there for almost every single thing that has happened in my life. When my feelings would be hurt or if I'm just really emotional on some days, she would help me get through those difficult situations. If she did not help me through those rough situations, I would be an emotional wreck right now. That would be horrible for me and everyone that is close to me.

The greatest mom ever also taught me about Jesus and the Holy Bible. When I was seven years old, my Mima told me about Christianity. After she told me that, I asked my mom how to become a Christian. She told that I have to accept Jesus. I did

not know how to do that so she told me how to become a Christian. Soon after that, I became one of Jesus' children. That is also another way why my mom is my role model.

Now when I was a little younger, I did give my mom hard times. I always thought that I was right, so we would be having these arguments. She would always win them, but I'm happy that she wins every single argument. In those arguments, I am being taught something every time. I love my mom a lot and so I should stop trying to argue with her and thinking that she is the enemy. I only have one mom and so I need to obey her and all because if I did not have a mom like her who care for me and loves me no matter what I would be upset and mad. In my opinion, I think that she is the best mom in the world.

Now, another reason why my mom is my role model is because she motivates me. My life dream is to become famous and she motivates me in singing, acting, dancing, playing the piano. It is nice to know that someone that likes you, cares for you, and supports behind whatever I do 100%. It's just nice to know that my mom is there and that she loves me.

What other things can I say about my mom? She is loveable; she is a caring beautiful lady. She is book smart and street smart. I'm basically her twin. People say we look exactly alike. She has nicknames for me. We have lots of fun when it is just a girl's day. I am blessed that out of all the moms in the world He chose the perfect mom for me. Without her, I would not know my manners, I would not know how to talk properly, and I would not know how to have some lady-like manners. That is why my mom is my role model.

Eagles Landing Christian Academy

Bailey Lane

7th grade

My Role Model

What is a role model? Well, a role model is someone that you look up to for advice, comfort, help, a good example, and someone who shows integrity. My personal role model would have to be my mom. Although moms are many other people's role models, my mom, Elizabeth Rena Lane, is one of the most Christ like women you will ever meet. For instance, everything that my sister and I have learned from my mom has been taught on Christian based principles. Also, she encourages us to get into our Bibles and come together as a family through Christ. Furthermore, my mom is like a bright light that shines through me even on my worst day. She always makes me feel good about myself. For instance, when I sometimes doubt myself and think that I am not going to do well on an upcoming test or quiz, my mom always makes me feel like I am a great person that can do whatever I put my mind to. Another wonderful quality about my mom's personality is that she has the most determination of any person I have ever met. A great example is her childhood. For instance, my mom had a rough childhood, but because of her determination she became a Christian, fought through the troubles of life, and is now very happy with a family that loves her more than anything and two daughters that respect and love her. Through everything, my mom is one of the strongest women I know. God has blessed my mom in so many wonderful ways. My mom is also very positive even through the most negative situations imaginable. I

always know that my mom will always support me. For instance, my mom supports the decisions I make with school, friends, and other events and people in life. I know in my heart that my mom loves me and would do anything for me. Sometimes, I get frustrated with my mom, but then I realize that my mom is the most wonderful woman in the entire world and that there is no earthly reason to be in a foul mood towards her. God has truly blessed me with a woman like my mom. Also, my mom was gifted with discernment to help others in situations that are not always going so great. She constantly is helping others grow closer to God and is also helping them with situations that they could not figure out on their own. I am so thankful for having the greatest mom in the world. Also, my mom never shows favoritism in any way, shape, or form. She always makes sure that everything is equal between me and my sister. I am very thankful to have a mom that is very fair. Another great trait about my mom is that she is hilarious. For instance, my sister, Mackenzie Lane, takes me home from school now, and the second we walk in the door to our house, we are instantly bombarded with hugs and kisses from my mom and she always makes a point to tell us “welcome home” over and over again. Every time I see my mom the biggest smile comes to my face because she always makes me happy. My mom is also a very honest and noble woman. If she promises something, I know that she will keep her word. Based on all this, I can honestly say that I can think of no one that I admire and look up to more than my mom. She is the greatest woman ever; that is why my mom is my role model.

What is art? That is a difficult question to answer because art is a very vague word. However, if art were to be given a definition, I would think it to be this: "any form of self-expression". This quote by Jacob Nordsby explains very well what art is about, and what our ultimate goal as an artist should be: "Blessed are the weird people-poets, misfits, writers, mystics, painters, troubadours- for they teach us to see the world through different eyes." When I see a famed piece of art, it often looks "weird" at first glance. For example, look at Peter Max's rainbow Disney character paintings. Why would someone want to paint that? But when one looks deeper, he sees that Max is trying to make his audience smile, and to remind them to have fun in life. The reason we share art is to show our peers how we see the world. Our hope in doing so is that they can see our heart and inspiration, no matter what kind of art we are doing. That being said, art is defined as "self-expression: any and every possible way to get our message out to the world, be it a dance, a play, a painting, a song et cetera". The ways one can use art to express oneself are limitless.

Presently, I am putting together a team of artist affectionately named (by my friend, Ali) "the Renaissance Fam". We are poets, misfits, writers, painters, dancers, and musicians. We are those described by Nordsby's quote. Our goal is for our peers to see the gospel with different eyes. We chose the name because the Renaissance was a time filled with artists that brought fresh, new "enlightenment age" ideas to the world. We wish to bring about something old (the gospel) in a new way that connects to **our**

generation. **The** greatest missionaries **to** a generation are usually the missionaries **from** said generation. That is why we strive to use our art to connect our peers with God, a God that can sometimes seem far off when you are surrounded by the Christian-School atmosphere when you are forced into an environment where everyone appears to have the “Jesus-thing” figured out... except you. We aim to use art to reach those of our generation who know they need some life help, but have believed the false notion that all Christians either set the bar at such a level of holiness one could never fix himself enough to even enter a church, or they knew someone with a double life and assume all followers of Christ share this double standard. But in the words of Jefferson Bethke “the church is not a museum for all the good people, it’s a hospital for the broken.” We of the Renaissance Fam believe that our different specialties in the arts are our God-given platform to destroy the wall between our generation and the Truth. (Note the uppercase T)

This being said, though society often views art as eccentric and inapplicable to daily life, I believe art is an essential, nay- intrinsic, part of the Christ-following life. I believe this because the Bible is a great supporter of art, as well as the foundation of the art produced by our “Renaissance Fam”. One doesn’t need to look far to see that art is everywhere in God’s creation. It is in the crimson/cream layers of canyons, the songs of birds, whales, and waterfalls. It is in the dance of the raindrops on the earth. It is in the mountains, oceans, and plains. In fact, one would be very hard-pressed to find a part of art that is not His creation. One example is what He says regarding the horse: “Do you give the horse his strength, or clothe his neck with flowing mane? Do you make him leap like a locust, striking terror with his proud snorting? He paws fiercely, rejoicing in his strength, and charges into the fray. The quiver rattles against his side, along with

the flashing spear and lance. In frenzied excitement, he eats up the ground; he cannot stand still when the trumpet sounds.” (Job 39:18-24.)

Our Creator is an artist. A phrase coined by Jon Jorgenson even goes as far as to say “He **created** us to create”. And I, for one, believe it. So while the book definition of art may be “self-expression”, I believe the truest art, the kind that offers hope to the world, is simply praise. When you think about heroes of the Bible such as David, a man after God’s own heart; and Miriam, who led the Israelites in praise after the crossing of the Red Sea... both were poets, dancers, singers, worshippers, and artists. Their art is still changing people today thousands of years later as they read the songs of Exodus 15 and learn of the God who is “majestic in holiness, awesome in Glory, working wonders” (verse 11). People are changed as they read the songs of David and hear of the God who sets his Glory above the heavens, yet crowns us with glory and honor (psalm 8). Theirs is true art, the kind we want to make in the Renaissance Fam. It is eternal art that expresses the cries of joy from a broken world who has found their Savior.

Good artists are worshippers, people who notice beauty in the world that others don’t, and they can’t help but praise God for it. These people, the weird people, the worshippers are the ones that teach us to see the world through different eyes. My goal is to be one of these artists.