

All About Me

**& other poems written by children
living in:**

*The Concourse House
Home for Women and Their Children
Bronx, NY*

2015

Introduction

In 2012 a volunteer group of teenagers and I began engaging children in the after school program at Concourse House Home for Women and Their Children, in writing and performing poetry. We discovered that the process, particularly reading on the mic, drew out even the shyest children, focused the unfocused, but most importantly, gave all the children a vehicle for self-expression and empowerment unlike anything else we explored in similar theatrical projects. The children eagerly helped each other write, edit and read their poems aloud weekly for the entire school year. Often when we arrived a child would run up to us and say, *Did you bring the mic?! I need the mic! Can we write poems?*

I continued the poetry project every year and assemble the collections into chapbooks for the children. Most of the teens continue with me year after year, committed to helping the children write and read their poems, as well as their own.

This is our third chapbook and we hope you enjoy reading them.

-Sally DeJesus, facilitator, poet & artist

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Your love and commitment to the children at Concourse House is invaluable and inspires me beyond words.

The authors in this book are not identified by their real names. They created fictitious names to protect their privacy.

POEMS

by Iyad

<i>My Favorite Things</i>	6
<i>Fall</i>	6
<i>All About Me</i>	7
<i>About the Author</i>	7

by Everyone - a Group poem

<i>I Wish</i>	8
---------------------	---

by Alex the Great

<i>Video Game Haiku</i>	9
<i>If I Were in Charge of the World</i>	9
<i>My Favorite Things</i>	10

by Jilsen

<i>Things I Love</i>	11
<i>Fall</i>	11
<i>Halloween Haiku</i>	12
<i>All About Me</i>	13

by Anonymous

<i>Ten Reasons to Love Me</i>	13
-------------------------------------	----

by Everyone - a Group Poem

<i>I Love to go Where Tomatoes Are</i>	14
--	----

by The Titanium Master

<i>All About Me</i>	15
<i>What I Like</i>	15

by The Titanium Master

<i>Spring</i>	16
<i>Fall</i>	16

by XYC2

<i>What I Love</i>	17
<i>Autumn Haiku</i>	17

by Samurai XIV	
<i>Spring</i>	18
<i>Fall</i>	18
<i>All About Me</i>	19
by Everyone - a Group Poem	
<i>Springtime</i>	19
by Morgan	
<i>All About Me</i>	20
by T. Jefro	
<i>All About Me</i>	20
by Abomination	
<i>Pacific Rim Haiku</i>	21
<i>Fall</i>	21
<i>All About Me</i>	22
<i>Spring</i>	22
by John Atoms	
<i>All About Me</i>	23
by Everyone - a Group poem	
<i>Day Before Thanksgiving Thanks</i>	24
<i>Thanksgiving Haikus</i>	25

My Favorite Things

by Iyad

Cookie steak I'm a piece of cake
with me I shake before I bake

If you don't know how to hit the moon
like me then go ahead and say, *Mommy.*

And when you go to the store
the cashier says,
I don't want that piece of horror
in my store, man.

Fall

by Iyad

Fall looks like munchkins
smells like French Fries
sounds like Michael Jordan screaming
tastes like ghost peppers
and feels like bouncy balls.

All About Me

by Iyad

I am a hyper, crazy, serious gamer
sibling of the Titanium Master
someone who loves my crayons
who fears dying
who needs a mansion
who gives munchin
who hopes for money
and resident of rich crayons.

About the Author

by Iyad

Iyad follows his role
just like his soul
he rhymes all day
then he says, yay!
Don't touch me cause
you're in deep sleep
He likes music
likes the cool rubric
loves food, like his mood
Hoo hoo... He says, like the moon.

I Wish

a Group poem

I wish that a rocket would explode in the sky
I wish my brother was nice to me and I that had
a jet pack and a big lollypop.

I wish I was a teacher and I had a tattoo
wish my sister would be nice to me and
that I could fly in the sky
pull out my jet back and float.

I wish I had my own room
that I was a super hero and had a big house
I was flying with no jet pack
grabbed an airplane instead
wish all our wishes would come true.

I wish I could dance on my hands and it was summer
I wish I had glasses like Angel
and I wish I could be small and big, big and giant.

I wish I could grow up and get married
That it was 80 degrees and sunny today
I wish I had a chocolate sundae to eat.
I wish it would snow at least one foot
I wish I could be a big football player
and fly like a bird.

Video Game Haiku

by Alex the Great

Video games rock
and the fighting games are boss
plus you can eat, too.

If I Were in Charge of the World

by Alex the Great

If I were in charge of the world
I'd let birds be free
I'd let dogs play and
I'd be respectful.

If I were in charge of the world
there'd be tall buildings
there'd be beautiful flowers and
there'd be a population of 200 to 1 million people.

If I were in charge of the world
you wouldn't hurt birds
you wouldn't hurt people and
you wouldn't throw garbage on the sidewalk
If I were in charge of the world.

My Favorite Things

by Alex the Great

White Hershey rocket cake
I can be all of the things that I bake
Color green is my team
Eating cookies with my rookies
Play station 3 is the key
Music dub step
I do the rub step
Hit the quan I can run
Rap xegonigis is the fun of this
Parkour is hardkour
Dane's floor
Is the very core
Everyone is more
So you can't bore

This is a nice poem
Because of the boredom
Be nice and eat rice
Keep calm smack your palms
Jump two times
Come for rhymes
Get some time
Right spice light and write
Never lose because God is with you!

Things I Love

by Jilsen

Pencils and fries taste good
subway surfers
rhymes with
subway Merfers.

My mom is nice
transformers are nice too.

Bacon tastes good but not
better than eggs with cake.

Eggs rhymes with begs
I hate trees but I like bees
pancakes taste better than Mancakes
when I bake cookies I shake!

Cartoon network is not better than
Car net work
paste is better than naste.

These are all my favorite things!

Fall

by Jilsen

Fall looks like books
smells like raining tacos
sounds like cows
tastes like sharks
and feels like raining televisions.

Halloween Haiku

by Jilsen

I like to eat food
and scare people with pumpkins
I like to read books.

All About Me

by Jilsen

Who likes running, fighting, TV and games
I am a sibling of sisters
someone who loves his mom, his dad and his uncle
who fears Freddie, killers and snakes
someone who needs pants and shirts
someone who gives my games
who hopes for one thousand dollars
a resident of Concourse House.

Ten Reasons to Love Me

by anonymous

I may not be perfect, but I can play basketball
I always wish for a phone and a basketball
I do my best to understand Roblox
I can create a basketball
I want the people around me to feel happy
I hold onto some things forever, like my basketball
I have unusual ideas, like running across the ocean
If I were an animal, I'd be a Jaguar
I have a secret talent - I can dance!
I am eight-years-old.

I Love to go Where Tomatoes Are
a group poem

I love my mama
green beans, carrots, and broccoli
green beans are the best vegetable!

When I feel blue
I play in the park
listen to music and read
I talk to my friends.
I jump through hoops
taking a nap, writing a rap
drawing, writing, reading
I eat my favorite snacks!

For my birthday we eat out
have a party
celebrate with my family.

Playing basketball, football, and singing
are my special talents.

I love my friends
Most of them!
I love to go outside
drink lots of water on a sunny day
dream to be an astronaut
and write poems!

All About Me

by The Titanium Master

I am mean to bad people

I am a sibling of Iyad

who is my brother

I am someone who loves soccer and

I am someone who fears bad people.

What I Like

by The Titanium Master

What do I do?

I play video games

I get chicken nuggets

I color crayons

turn down for what?

I like hammerhead sharks

and going to parks

These are all my favorite things.

SPRING

by the Titanium Master

Spring looks like flat snow
and spring smells like good

Spring sounds like a parade
and tastes like water

Spring feels soft.

Fall

by The Titanium Master

Fall looks like it's raining
smells like cotton candy
sounds like wind
tastes like chicken nuggets
and feels like snow.

What I Love

by XYC2

I love necklaces
long and short

I love my mom
she has money

I love playing games
and drawing
fish in the water
and food,
food is good.

Autumn Haiku

by XYC2

I like the flowers
I like the turkey and pie
I like the roses.

SPRING

by Samurai XIV

Spring looks like breeze in the air
and smells like blossoms and screaming cows
Spring sounds like cows and
tastes like humans screaming from my mouth
it feels like blossoms.

Fall

by Samuri XIV

Fall looks like leaves falling
smells like flowers
sounds like Kevin screaming
tastes like hay and Kevin
and feels like nothing.

All About Me

by Samurai XIV

I am nice, not cool, weird, told, *not cool*
sibling of Abomination
someone who loves apples
who fears wolves
someone who needs food and water
who gives
who hopes for ten thousand dollars
a resident of Concourse House.

SPRINGtime

a group poem

Spring looks like flowers, being happy a butterfly and trees
feels like good and awesome fresh air!

Spring sounds like cool birds and kids playing
tastes like soup, cotton candy and carnival ices.

Spring feels like a flat pancake with butter
jelly and pudding.

All About Me

by Morgan

I am quiet, hungry chatty and sleepy
a sibling of Robin
someone who loves his wife
someone who fears snakes
someone who needs to take a nap
who gives time
who hopes for more money
resident of New Jersey.

All About Me

by T. Jefro

Who is awesome, cool, incredible and modest
someone who loves being active
who fears spiders
who needs water and air
who gives hugs
who hopes for health and happiness
resident of America.

Pacific Rim Haiku

by Abomination

Striker eureka
it is a Gypsy danger
a crimson typhoon.

Fall

by Abomination

Fall looks like fun
smells like no listening
sounds like parties hollering
tastes like chili and cheese
and feels like cows jumping on me.

All About Me

by Abomination

I am a funny, hyper, honest voice changer
a sibling of Samurai XIV
I am someone who loves my family
someone who fears dying
someone who needs love
who gives fun
who hopes to cross the valley of death
a resident of The Concourse House.

SPRING
by Abomination

Spring looks like cotton candy and ice-cream
Spring smells like corn-dogs and fresh fruit punch

If you want a poem
feel free to call me at:
1-800...

Spring sounds like grass and trees
birds and grasshoppers hopping

All About Me
by John Atoms

Who is friendly, organized, kind and lazy
someone who loves her mom
who fears insects over two inches in length
who needs lots of food.

Fall

by John Atoms

Fall looks like colorful trees
smells like food being cooked
sounds like wind in trees
tastes like apples
feels like a fresh breeze.

Day Before Thanksgiving Thanks!

a group poem

I am thankful for my family
Xbox 360 and my mom gives me
medicine when I'm sick
I wonder when we eat
if people are gonna be nice to me
and why 'Super' is called 'Super Why'?

I hear Thanksgiving calling my name
I see turkey and Christmas
I want Xbox and for my mom to eat the turkey
I made with an apple
I pretend I'm a superhero or a basketball player
I feel happy, glad, excited and happy
cause its Thanksgiving and that's cool
I understand my mom when she explains stuff
I say, *What, when you hut*
I dream of being a millionaire and to be with my mom forever
I try to explain things to people here
at after school and I try to be nice
I hope dinner is yummy and that my mom
will never be poor and always be rich
I hope Christmas will hurry up and come
I hope I become a basketball player
I hope I can fly.

THANK YOU HAIKUS
by Everyone

Being mean is mean
Thank you for stopping meanies
Makes me sad and mad.

I like turkey, please!
Because it taste like chicken
It is so yummy

I like Thanksgiving
I eat turkey and good pie
But I don't eat stuffing

I have to celebrate
Watch a parade, then give thanks
I love turkey day!

I like turkey food
It tastes good and it smells good

Hiding in the leaves
the cold winter
A pot of soup boils
Eat it and warm up

All About Me
A chap book of poems written by children at
The Concourse House
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Published & Edited
by Sally DeJesus

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For additional books please contact:

Sally DeJesus

candidhumans@hotmail.com

347-776-1114

