

Literary Arts Winners

Literary Arts, 6 -8

First Place, Daisy Maxwell, Swanson, 8th Grade

Heard

I can't cure hunger
Or homelessness
Or any of the other horrors
That wreck our world
But I can hold someone's gaze
I can smile at them
And let them know that I'm listening
That I hear them
That they are heard.

I can remember their names
And what they told me last
And ask them for an update
I can start a conversation
I can make them laugh
I can do so many things
By just paying attention.

I can check in
On my friends, on my family
To remind them that I'm there
That I love them
That I want to listen
A text, an email
A simple, 'How are you?'
It feels good to be noticed
It feels good to be heard.

So I stop
And I listen
And I make their day just that tiniest bit better
Because that's what I can do
That's how I can help
That's how I am making my community
A better place.

I am listening.
You are heard.

Second Place, Mayah Millhouse, Kenmore, 7th grade

Acceptance

Loving one another unconditionally
An unbreakable bond of trust
Setting someone free
A beautiful thing

Kindness

An act out of love
Something spectacular
With no reward
With no payment of any kind
A strange thing to do

Hope

Something that can never fully break
And once you get it
It will get stronger
As long as you believe

Special

People with these skills
Are a rare thing
An amazing thing
People with these skills
Are what we strive to be
And what we can be
People with these skills
Are like Martin Luther King, Jr.

A voice

I never thought to get one
For so long I have been spoken for
Even if they were all looking at me
I asked my sister where I could get one
But she said "if you can talk, you already have one"

But the first step

Is kindness
True kindness

Third Place, Kate Floom, Williamsburg, 8th Grade

To make a difference is standing up
Not out of bitterness but out of love
We all have some wish that we long to see granted
But fairies do not visit those who stay planted

A dream for a world without poverty and fear
But hope that flows like a river; so clear
A desire for love and equality and peace
A prayer for our siblings left on the streets

For these wishes to emerge from the ocean of oppression
We cannot stay silent—we need to take action
Raise up our voices and shout through the storm,
“We will not be silent until our world is reformed!”
“Like Dr. King, I have a vast dream
That wraps around the world, bright as a sun beam.”
Once our symphony of change has been played
We will play it again, unafraid
And those who join in will know in their hearts
That this movement is only the start
The start of a dream will unite to protect
The start of a world bundled in respect