

“Everyone must learn before they die, what they are running from, what they’re running to, and why.”

—James Thurber

TEACHER’S NOTE:

Inside this book are reactions to images that I posted on the board. The adolescents didn’t know that on the back of each image was a set of suggestions. I encouraged them to use these suggestions but to own their stories. I told them to look at the pictures and tell me what they see. This book is a result of that exercise. I haven’t edited them. The stories stand *as is*. They were given twenty minutes to write these stories—a feat in itself. So know that these stories aren’t perfect, but if you look behind the veneer, you will discover their fear and anger. It’s amazing how much they reveal about themselves.

Some of the pictures on the board get more attention than others, which is a study in itself. Most are very creative with much insight. They possess judgment. Sure, slightly skewed at times. It’s offbeat and quirky. But hopefully this exercise taught them to think about their decisions in life. It was also about following through with decisions—good and bad. The good must continue and the bad must be dealt with, in spite of the consequences. This is my hope.

—ROBERT, TEACHER

Superhero by Colton

I would send the bad people to Decatur general west. Then they would have to do community and eat at a certain time and do all the other crazy stuff we do. I



would name my city coolville and all the bad people were gagsters thugs and drug abusers. without them the city would be a whole lot cleaner safer and more

eco friendly. The world would be a whole lot better if we had a super hero that done all that. I think the economy would be better and people could actually keep a job and not be struggling to survive. so here is a suggestion for all you drug abusers stop before you ruin our world.

Two ponies fall in love



There as two ponies that meet by river the river in though the woods.

One was a boy pony named Damian and the other pony was a girl and her name was Brittney.

They both were talking about what they like to do

for fun, and Damian said that he would like to explore the world and go find his true love and Brittney said that she already found her true love and he asked who is your true love that you found and Brittney said you Damian. Damian was in love at first site. Damian made the first move on Brittney and then they kissed. Then they got married and then had two ponies and their names were Payent and Pepper. They lived happily ever after.

Done Bye Lizzie



H o l d i n g

Holding on above the world because there is nothing left to do.
I've tried and tried to hold on tight but I'm barely getting through.

My heart drops to my feet on the literal sense it makes me sick.
Because things that happen in my life are like bombs dropping way to quick.

I'm scared to death of life, but I'm also scared to die.
Who would want to stand in these shoes when my whole life has been a lie?

Everything in my life I love is always taken.
Why cant anyone see this heart that's breakin'?

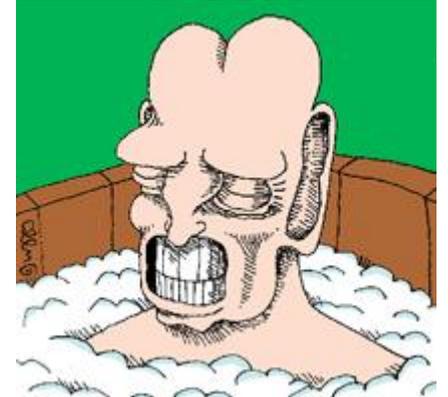
I'm still holding on, but I'm loosing all my reasons.
My world has turned upside down and I'm left picking up the pieces.

Just like the picture of this cat, can you not see my fears?
Is it not obvious something's wrong when I'm holding back my tears?

So just like this kitten I'm still barely holding on.
Life may seem awful now, but it eventually goes on.

BUTT HEAD LIFE STORY BY TETEZ

Hi my name is Butthead.
You might know me from my show call Bevis and Butthead.
But that is my fake life. I live on a different planet called Butt Brain. It is 1,000 miles from Earth. Some people wonder how I get to Earth so fast. Well I can say my rocket goes 3 times faster than a regular rocket. I get paid good on earth because they need butt heads to laugh at. Our brain farts. Another question people ask is do I date Butthead women? No. I date women from earth. I just put on a hat. My world looks similar to earth. Its like a cloned earth. With cloned people. It's cool. I'm in this hot tub because I chose to be in it. It's my hot tub at my home.



Run Away By: Natasha

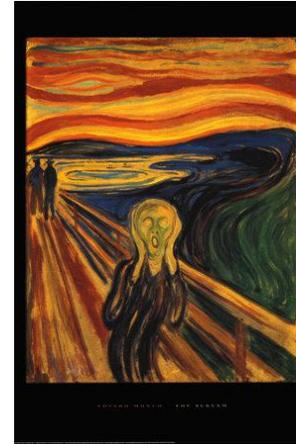
My name is Natasha Fox. I am 16 years of age. I ran away from home about a month ago i had a thousand idollars to spend. I am all out of money, no place to go, and I am cold and hungry. I want to go back home but i know they are going to send me to detention so, I am going to have to find me a job.

The reason I ran away from home is because, where i live there is no excitment no fun you cant enjoy yourself. There is no jobs, no place to go to chill with your friends. I knew i had to get out this place and run away to a bigger city. Where there is excitement and fun all around.



I finally got a job at subway, earned enough money to go home. I go home and didnt get sent off to detention. THE EHD!!!

SCREAM By Lauren



The title of this paiwting is scream os tell me what this person is screaming about why does his world seen so crazy ?what has happened to this man?only you know,so write us understand why he or she is screaming .it be a woman. it could be a ghost ?

It could be a ghost it could be a woman but it's not it is his shores on his feet mack him scream like that this story can be 1,000,000 and the paiwting can be 1,000,000 the "scream" is real good i like the scream i hoop you like the men scream his name is joe and one more thing he scream like he crazy think you for raeding my book the end

BADDEST DOG EVER BY: SHAUNA



Being the baddest dog ever isn't all its cracked up to be. I hate being bad. I wasn't always bad either. I use to be the best dog, but when I was a puppy, my owner used me in dogfights. That's when I became bad. Now every dog fears me. It's so lonely. Every time I try to be friends with another dogs, they always run away. I stay in my cage all day now. The humans always picked puppies and cute dogs. One day this new dog came to the pound. They put him in the cage beside mine. He started talking to me and told me he was pretty bad himself. He stayed by my side the whole time. Four days later, this human came and said that she wanted to take him home with her. The people at the pound said the only way she come take him home was if she took me too. The lady decided to take us both home that day. It was the best day ever. She named me, "cookie" and named him "spike". About a week or so later, the human came home with another dog. The human named her "lady". Spike, Lady, and I ever never bad dogs again.

USHER IS GUILTY BY: LIZZIE



Usher is in jail because he had passed gas. His flatulence was offensive. The reason why he passed gas is because his friend passed gas in the presence of his girlfriend. Usher tried to get the air freshener, but he could not find it fast enough before the smell offended the whole town. The cops came and got him and were not happy with what was going on. They could not believe that he had passed gas in the town, never the less the police car!!

They had to take usher to a prison 500 miles away from town. They had to evacuate the town because of the awful smell. The next morning the police men took Usher to court and found him guilty of flatulence in the first degree. He got 10 years in prison, and he was sentenced to flatulence anonymous. He finally did his time and got out a year early for good behavior. From then on he passed gas more discreetly.

SHOW YOUR COLORS BY LYDIA



I look at this picture, you know what I see? I see more than just four monkeys, I see myself. This may sound silly, but let me tell you why. Before I came to this hospital, my world was dark, just like the monkey on the bottom left corner. Then I thought about everything that was going on and what the problems really were.

Like the monkey on the top left, my world started to get brighter so I could see the big picture. After that, I began to see that there are other ways to handle my problems other than hiding in the dark or running away. I felt like the monkey on the bottom right my world was getting brighter than it had been in a long time, but I wasn't quite there. Now I feel like the monkey on the top right corner. I'm energetic, I'm laughing until I can't breath, I've learned coping skills that I'm putting to use and my world is brighter than it's been since my mom died. I finally feel back to normal. I feel like I can show my true colors.

THE ANCIENT MASK OF ROBERT DE SABLE BY DAVID



THE MAN WAS BEING CHASED BY THE BLACK CAR. HE WAS RUNNING BECAUSE HE STOLE SOMETHING. HE STOLE AN ANCIENT MASK FROM THE MUSEUM OF ANCIENT ARTIFACTS. THAT IS WHY HE IS RUNNING FROM THE MANAGER AND FOUNDER OF THE MUSEUM. AS HE RAN, HE CAME TO A BUILDING. HE WAS BLOCKED BY THAT IN HIS PATH. ALL OF A SUDDEN THE MASK LIT UP AND HE WAS THEN OFF HIS FEET SOMEHOW. HE WAS THEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL. HE KNEW THAT THIS MASK WAS NO JOKE. HE WAS REAL. HE MADE IT BACK TO HIS SMALL BRICK HOUSE, SAT IN HIS CHAIR, AND HE SLOWLY CAME TO SEE THE FIREPLACE, AND ITS SMELL OF BURNING. THY, IT WAS NOTHING BUT A DREAM. SO WHO KNOWS IF THE ANCIENT MASK OF ROBERT DE SABLE IS REAL? NO ONE MAY EVER KNOW.

VEGETARIAN TIGER

By VICTOR



Hey, my name is Victor the tiger. I love to eat corn, okra and more things so I guess I'm a vegetarian, but my mom and dad told me why are you a vegetarian? Why are you a meat eater? Go to your room .so I said I do not like the bloody taste of meat because I don't want to eat an animal that there only a few of them left like deer, monkeys, buffalo, and bambey. So one night we

were all at the dinner table, my mom put meat on my plate, and I said uh...uh...uh... I told you I don't want to be a meat eater and I went to my room. So mom and dad went up to my room and said if you will be 1/2 of a meat eater me and your mom will be 1/2 of a vegetarian. So 3 days later we all was 1/2 of a meat and vegetarian, but my friend said why are you a vegetarian... HERE WE GO AGAIN!!!

A Love Story By Jodie



Once upon a time, there was this horse named Sally. She set off walking through the woods then she came upon another horse in the woods and his name was Sam, so they

became friends and then before you knew it they were husband and wife. So there life went on. They had four baby horses. The names of the horses are Leslie, Serra, Codey, and Taylor. So as the days went on the horses wasn't getting along because they wanted to be different but finally it got better. So the family was back to how it was suppose to be.

Power Rangers S.P.R.

By Lauren



It is a new team of rangers call power rangers S.P.R.they figth a gets evil everyday the rangers win the figth but this is not the power ranger S.P.R.the S.P.D. S.P.D rangers die some the DR's

make a new team call power rangers S.P.R.they are 3 boys and 2 giles the rad ranger name Justin the blue ranger name Austin the green ranger name Dustin the 2 giles name Carmen and Lauren Lauren is the yellow ranger and Carmen is the pick ranger all those names i call is rangers power rangersS.P.R the evil CREATURES came to the city everyday and figth the power rangers the power rangers is going to die kill the rangers Sam Sam siad NO i on the power rangers stied Sam was a litte boy he have power he can ran rael fast the others rangers is tieing tieing tieing and tieing to help the people in the city Dr.k

siad Justin go get Sam Justin siad OK Justin can ran real fast to but the rangers is teenagersall the rangersis 16 years old all of them the evil creatures siad STOP do you no you is going to die the red ranger siad why are you destroy the city i want to destroy you do it thin ok the red ranger put out his gun and fiup it up his gun and put it like a stord and star yo figth one of the evil creaturethe others ranger star to fith to the red,blue,green,yellow,and pick rangers all ran to Sam and siad move Sam Sam siad want Justin put down his sword and ran to Sam out the way Justin did not have time but Dr. K have a new ranger to save Justin his name is Diollon the white ranger he have super stout the other rangers ran to him and said my name is Dillon. I'm 17 yrs old. Dr. K said yell need me she said yell is power rangers S.P.R. Dillon said want is S.P.R. Super Power Rangers. Dillon said I like that name but I think you should said power rangers S.P.R. 6 not 5 and they all star to be friends.

BARBIE BY NATASHA



Hi, my name is Ashley Kelley. I am a Barbie. I live with my husband Chris and my wonderful daughter Alicia Marie. I'm not an average Barbie I dress differently, I don't wear skirts or heels, and I wear pants and boots. I am a very independent Barbie. I live in a Fantasy world I love it there but some of the other Barbies don't like me because, I look better than them. I am currently a model at our local studio in Florence, AL. The other Barbies are trying to ruin my modeling career for me, it makes me so angry and aggravated. But my mom Dixie always told me if I think someone has a problem with me to confront them and work things out. So, the next day I dropped my daughter Alicia Marie off at my mother's Dixie home and I went to the studio to get fitted for our show tonight. When I had approached the studio I had saw that the other Barbies vehicles were there. I had taken a deep breath and entered the studio. When I approached the fitting room, I saw that the other Barbies were talking to my manager. I looked over and the other Barbies had rolled their eyes at me. I was so disappointed so I nicely ask to speak with them in private, I ask The Barbies "Why are y'all mad at me, have I did something wrong?" The Barbies said, "No, Ashley we just don't understand how our life has went to waste and yours is so perfect they said that they wished they had a modeling career or more less a wonderful family like mine." Of course, like me I spoke to my manager about getting them a job so maybe they would ease up a little bit and be nicer to me. A week later, the Barbies got their job as model we all went out and ate, and we all decided to be friends. The End

DISGUISE BY NICOLETTE



Because she think somebody looking at her or she think I looking at her no I not looking at her no I not annoying her she just looking mean that way and I don't know what kind of book she holding because it don't got nun on the book she not a friend not mi sister not mi girlfriend maybe

someone might be stalking her she really not a superhero because she don't got superpower she just standing there looking mean and she think somebody is looking at her somebody might come for her she holding a book and turn her head just to see who looking I can't say she don't got superpower she might got superpower somebody is looking rite at her or somebody is really stalking her and really her book really don't got nun on it.

In Love by Shauna



I wish I could get my family to like my boyfriend. They don't want to like him cause he is mixed. It makes me really upset. I want my boyfriend and family to get along. My boyfriend and I came

up with a plan to runaway together and get married. That wasn't the best idea. Then, I came up with the idea to have our family's meet at the mall together. At first, neither of our families wanted to be there. My boyfriend and I decided to tell our families our first plan. After they told their families that, they all started talking and getting to know each other. That made my boyfriend and me very happy. To this day, my boyfriend and I are still together.

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