

Dreams of Hope and Love

River Rouge STEM Academy
Spring 2023





Special thanks to the following individuals for their support in bringing InsideOut to **River Rouge STEM Academy**:

Principal: Dr. LaToiya Revell

Host Teachers: Crystal Smith, Gloria Williams, Laura Wyman, and Michele Zmich

InsideOut Writers-in-Residence: Jeffrey Dean Amato, Felicia Krol, and Katie Williams

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InsideOut has been serving students at **River Rouge STEM Academy** since **2016**.

Through creative writing, InsideOut inspires and equips young people to think critically, create bravely and share their voices with the world. This year we are honored to have support from:



InsideOut also receives operational support from:



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DREAMS OF HOPE AND LOVE is a publication of InsideOut Literary Arts.

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Printed in USA.

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the creative minds of the third, fourth, sixth, and seventh grade students at River Rouge STEM Academy. Within these pages, you will find an exploration of hope, dreams, likes, dislikes, fears, images, sounds, love, and self. To read is to experience the creativity of a young imagination—an imagination that only has room to grow and strengthen.

Our journey through poetry has taken us inwards and outwards as we explored everything from ourselves to the past. The third graders discussed hope with Emily Dickinson and explored the city of Detroit with Langston Hughes. We examined our biggest fears with Maya Angelou and got a bit silly with Shel Silverstein. The fourth graders celebrated their loved ones, their homes, their senses and memories. We practiced affirming ourselves and each other with Kwame Alexander, dreaming worlds to life with Margaret Noodin, basking in the joy of poetry with Martín Espada. The sixth and seventh graders were inspired by a variety of poets. We wrote love poems with Donika Kelly, hums with Jamaal May, dissected dreams with Amanda Gorman, and examined images with William Carlos Williams. Imagination took the students on great adventures and allowed them to notice the finer details of the classroom.

We want to thank the administration at River Rouge for allowing InsideOut to be a part of the 2022/2023 school year. A special thanks to the wonderful teachers, Ms. Zmich, Ms. Smith, Ms. Wyman, and Ms. Williams for welcoming us into their classrooms and participating in the facilitating of the poetry sessions. It has been a sheer pleasure to guide these young minds through the world of poetry.

All that is left to say is, welcome to River Rouge STEM poetry. Enjoy.

Sincerely

Katie Williams
Jeffrey Amato
Felicia Krol

Hum To The Basketball

Everyday 8:00 sharp,
a basketball game happening,
and when I hit the ground,
it gets dark and black,
it's like I'm underground
and every day all the time
I'm in the air. It's like I'm
flying every single day.
I just keep trying.

Hum To The Volcano

The durable, hard shell full of burning liquid
in the middle of nowhere starts to feel

lost and confused, it gets overwhelmed with
lots of feelings, feels it needs to
explode.

The pressure builds up, and it
explodes. It was afraid of being
by itself.

The End Of Winter

Winter is cold, harsh, bold, and tart.
Sometimes we wish the cold
had never come out of hiding.
Winter brings out a really cold feeling.
It may leave us dry or broken.
All we can do is think.

But as it comes to an end,
the feelings loosen.
Do we feel warm?
Do we feel happy?
Are we okay? Are we done?
Can we continue? Can we relax?
Those questions come to our minds
as winter leaves.

The warm spring welcomes us
with relaxation and relief.
As we feel the warmth,
we then know we really are
free.

IMAGES AND WORDS

Window View

I. A girl looks out the window to see the view. She looks like she's scared to go out into the open. She's all alone in a little tiny house. Staring into the open sea.

II. A teen girl is looking out the window. Out the window, there's a lot of water and a boat. If you really look, there's land on the other side. It looks like towel or something on the window. She's alone in this picture. Her house looks like it's on the other side of the water.

III. When I wake up, the day just comes to me. I feel the sunlight coming through my window.

Too Small, Too Big

Big enough to be a city,
small enough to be a town.

Small enough to form bonds with people
around you.

Your neighbor could be your brother.
A brother, not bonded by blood
but the experiences in this town,
no, city.

To be small enough for everywhere,
in any corner or outskirt.
Anywhere is familiar,
a privilege that most places do have.

The thing most people take for granted.
The history that makes us.
The history that brings us together.

What Matters

Everyone's different, that's somewhat true.
But did you take a moment to see
our similarities?

We may be a different skin tone
or have a different texture of hair,
but that doesn't matter.
It's who you are and what's in there.

It matters what's in there,
it matters what's in there!