# Table of Contents

Introduction .......................................................................................... 3

Elementary school winner ................................................................. 5
Middle school winner .......................................................................... 6
High school winner ............................................................................. 7
Patchwork, but complete,
   *inspired by art prompt 1* ......................................................... 11
Got lost in a book,
   *inspired by art prompt 2* ......................................................... 15
Dots instead of leaves,
   *inspired by art prompt 3* ......................................................... 23
youthful eyes sky bound,
   *inspired by art prompt 4* ......................................................... 27
think of the banned books,
   *inspired by art prompt 5* ......................................................... 39
To sleep unaware,
   *inspired by art prompt 6* ......................................................... 45
skinny bones of trees,
   *inspired by art prompt 7* ......................................................... 53
The once hopeful root,
   *inspired by art prompt 8* ......................................................... 57
My cleats strike the ball,
   *inspired by art prompt 9* ......................................................... 65
Dewdrops shower me,
   *inspired by art prompt 10* ....................................................... 71
Index of haiku and artwork by school ............................................. 79
Introduction

On April 17, International Haiku Poetry Day, the winners of the 2023 Team BCPS Haiku Contest were announced. Images of an abstract tree, a fallen leaf, and a patchwork dog inspired the three winning poems.

This year, for the first time, rather than challenging Baltimore County Public Schools students to write haiku related to a word or concept, students were asked to write in response to a piece of student artwork selected from among 10 pieces. Nearly 2,200 entries were received from 111 schools, centers, and programs – including the Virtual Learning Program.

After a lengthy debate, a panel of judges selected the following contest winners:

- Elliana Cunnington, Grade 5, Sparks Elementary School
- Graham TerBeek, Grade 7, Dumbarton Middle School
- Paige Mathias, Grade 11, Eastern Technical High School

The three winners of the 2023 contest each received gifts from The Charmery and The Ivy Bookshop and a framed poster of their haiku from BCPS.

Contest judges included award-winning student writers – Couryn Branch of George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology, Lucia Bray of Dumbarton Middle School, Ashley Lazo of Loch Raven
High School, Ivy McKnight of Cockeysville Middle School, and Favour Ogedengbe of Eastern Technical High School – and staff members from the Office of English Language Arts and the Department of Communications and Community Outreach.

All entries are judged blindly (without any identifying information about the writer), and haiku being considered for prizes are checked to ensure they are original works.

The following five schools submitted the highest number of student entries: Hereford Middle School (287 entries); Arbutus Middle School (147 entries); Sparks Elementary School (90 entries); Hillcrest Elementary School (85 entries); and Owings Mills Elementary School (80 entries).

In addition to the winning haiku, an additional 162 haiku were chosen by the judges to compile this book.

The haiku contest is only possible through the support and enthusiasm of BCPS teachers and students. We celebrate and honor our writers and artists for their contributions, and we hope you enjoy this book.

*Please note that poems are presented as submitted, without corrections to writers’ spelling and grammar.*
The tree is quite old
The branches still reach for me
Comforting me now

Elliana Cunnington, Grade 5
Sparks Elementary School

Coralea J. Tarlton, classroom teacher
(The haiku was written in response to art created by JP Stokes of Ridge Ruxton School)
Insignificant?
Falls without making a sound.
Life, purpose, fulfilled.

Graham TerBeek, Grade 7
Dumbarton Middle School

Kristy Knuppel, English language arts teacher
(The haiku was written in response to art created by
Lundon Lewis of Sudbrook Magnet Middle School.)
Patchwork, but complete.
I have made myself out of
the wreckage I find.

Paige Mathias, Grade 11
Eastern Technical High School

Morgan Phillips, English language arts teacher
(The haiku was written in response to art created by
Gus Cohee of Hillcrest Elementary School.)
Patchwork, but complete.
Gus Cohee
Hillcrest Elementary School

Medium: collage

Artist Statement:
The inspiration for this artwork was artist Michel Keck. I chose to illustrate this dog because it has similar features to my dogs at home. My dogs always comfort me.
Patchwork, but complete.
I have made myself out of the wreckage I find.

Paige Mathias, Grade 11
Eastern Technical High School
Teacher: Morgan Phillips

The abstract puppy
many different papers
The purple background

Lillianne Meyer, Grade 4
Hillcrest Elementary School
Teacher: Michael Cooney

the clown of doggies
So playful indeed and fun
loyal companion

Grant Malone, Grade 4
Sparks Elementary School
Teacher: Courtney Shekells

Though you find me cute
I was only bred this way
To suffer for you

Jailene Piper, Grade 11
Perry Hall High School
Teacher Christina Turner
Cut paper pieces,
Paste them down in mixed patterns
Create an old friend.

Makenzie Catina, Grade 11
George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology
Teacher: Norman Prentiss
Got lost in a book
McKayla Shannon
Kenwood High School

Medium: photography

Artist Statement:
As an artist, my work explores everyday objects. Through using my phone camera, I try and show the beauty of everyday things that we sometimes take for granted. My creative process often involves experimenting with objects I normally would not think of for photos and mess around with it until I get it to exactly where I like it, or I would draw from inspiration around me. I hope my art impacts the lives of young artists learning and wanting to try new things or affects the viewer, such as sparking a sense of wonder or inspiring contemplation.
Got lost in a book
Got lost in a book
Can’t seem to find my way out
Not sure I want to

Lucie Caplan, Grade 4
Pine Grove Elementary School
Teacher: Kevin Dunn

write and leave your mark
when you die your words live on
never forgotten

David Yuan, Grade 8
Ridgely Middle School
Teacher: Heather Harget

The world surrounds me
The beauty floods my whole heart
Trapped in the pages

Dempsey Nelson, Grade 7
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Amirah Arafat

Pages worn and frayed,
Worlds within words to explore,
My book, my escape.

Finn Fowler, Grade 7
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Amirah Arafat
September arrives
children's faces stuck in books
all sitting silent
  Kelly Ji, Grade 7
  Ridgely Middle School
  Teacher: Veronica Pessaro

looking at the world
But through someone else's eyes
with thoughts that aren't mine
  Levi Crawford, Grade 7
  Dumbarton Middle School
  Teacher: Kristy Knuppel

Books reflect on light
Darkness needs light to reflect
Dark is beautiful
  Amore' Johnson, Grade 7
  Northwest Academy of Health Sciences
  Teacher: Monica Rastegar

reading more and more
words drowning me everyday
i feel like im trapped
  Lee Tyler, Grade 6
  Arbutus Middle School
  Teacher: Caitlin Webster
Between the pages
A spark, a space for something
Beautiful to grow

Eleanor Mishook, Grade 6
Arbutus Middle School
Teacher: Gail Gast

Imagination
endless possibilities
for books to blow minds

Eric Balbier, Grade 5
Westchester Elementary School
Teacher: Vicki Charikofsky

A book full of words
Imaginations in minds
Imagine your own

Lyla Kaptein, Grade 5
Westchester Elementary School
Teacher: Vicky Charikofsky

Life is like a book.
Every day is a new page.
Move on from the past.

Kaiden Bradley, Grade 5
Owings Mills Elementary School
Teacher: Erica Gibson
Endless descriptions
Both forming unstoppable rivers
Peeking out of sight

_Davon Washington, Grade 5_
_Sandalwood Elementary School_
_Teacher: Michael Kuczmynda_

Flipped pages reading
Silently reading alone
Quiet darknesses

_Camden Leone, Grade 4_
_Sparks Elementary School_
_Teacher: Courtney Sheckells_

Page by page I turn
Suspense running through my mind
Sad it has to end

_Emma Glazer, Grade 4_
_Fort Garrison Elementary School_
_Teacher: Theresa Genovese_

The bending pages
smell of the delicate book
and meaningful words

_Harper Giddens, Grade 4_
_Timonium Elementary School_
_Teacher: Lisa Sauerwald_
Wait for Mom to leave
Grab my flashlight and my book
Ticket to new worlds
Hailey Metkus, Grade 4
Timonium Elementary School
Teacher: Lisa Sauerwald

Books are a tunnel
Filled up with so many words
To a brand new world
Sarah Commins, Grade 4
Hillcrest Elementary School
Teacher: Mary Bridget Quinn

Free world, timber shelves
Such plots richer then the ink
Words deepen wonder
Abbie Lippert, Grade 12
Catonsville High School
Teacher: Carolyn Ruppel

staring though the void
cylindrical statements form
encroaching light speaks
Tyler Peters, Grade 12
Catonsville High School
Teacher: Carolyn Ruppel
Imagination
Another world found in words
Reading is escape

Mahlet Nigussu, Grade 11
Perry Hall High School
Teacher: Christina Turner
Dots instead of leaves
JP Stokes  
Ridge Ruxton School

Statement from  
Tricia Lane-Forster, art teacher,  
Ridge Ruxton School:

JP’s ‘Winter Tree’ was part of a collagraph edition. He made the tree printing plate out of cardboard, applied black tempera paint and printed the trunk and branches onto blue paper. Then he used a sponge brush to apply the large white circles and a red dot marker for the red circles. He selected all of the colors using his communication device. When asked what season his tree print represented, he selected an image for ‘Winter’ and that is how he came up with the title ‘Winter Tree.’
Dots instead of leaves
Dots shine brightly on the tree
Branches hold them loose

_Nolan Fox, Grade 6_
_Hereford Middle School_
_Teacher: Adrienne Sutton_

Fighting for freedom.
Segregation everywhere.
Pushed away always.

_Kaydance Spiece, Grade 5_
_Battle Grove Elementary School_
_Teacher: Shannon Harvey_

A corncob texture
Many different circles
Everything is art

_Chelsea Wu, Grade 5_
_Pinewood Elementary School_
_Teacher: Erin Paquette_

The tree is quite old
The branches still reach for me
Comforting me now

_Elliana Cunnington, Grade 5_
_Sparks Elementary School_
_Teacher: Corjie Tarlton_
Black or white is great.  
Best leader for the people.  
Freedom is for all.  

Itzayana Lazaro Portillo, Grade 4  
Battle Grove Elementary School  
Teacher: Shannon Harvey

The red and white paint  
Splattered across the canvas  
With elegant strokes.  

Michael Carey, Grade 4  
Hillcrest Elementary School  
Teacher: Michael Cooney

Polka dots falling  
Big black tree in front of me  
Red and white shine bright  

Lila Schmitter, Grade 2  
Riderwood Elementary School  
Teacher: Jennifer Brown

Chopped down to the ground  
The apple tree where snow fell  
Now a mere shadow  

Claire Chason, Grade 11  
Towson High School  
Teacher: Kevin Sun
youthful eyes sky bound
Socorra Reggie
George Washington Carver
Center for Arts and Technology

Medium: digital (Photoshop with blender)

Artist Statement:
This piece was meant to reflect the uncertainty of coming of age and feeling the walls of your childhood home fall away. While this feeling can certainly be anxiety inducing, I also wanted to illustrate hope for the future in the light shining through the walls and the blue sky beyond the edges of the building.
youthful eyes sky bound
four walls stained with adulthood
how obscure those eyes

Alessandra Hayden, Grade 11
Perry Hall High School
Teacher: Christina Turner

The ground left my feet
Everything is leaving me
But I am still here

Analise Chinniah, Grade 8
Ridgely Middle School
Teacher: Jonathan Robinson

Capsized gravity
Walls of cards drift like bubbles
With unrestrained bounds

Landon Zibell, Grade 8
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Brian Fitzgerald

Look it's raining chairs.
They are made from wood and nails.
Let's sit this storm out.

Kia Moore, Grade 8
General John Stricker Middle School
Teacher: Lori Watchinsky
Learn because you must;  
The world is upside down, yet  
Maybe you'll fix it  
_Ipsita Swain, Grade 8_  
_Ridgely Middle School_  
_Teacher: Jonathan Robinson_

whose mind are you in  
page torn from stories within  
a world that's shrouded  
_Amara Thompson, Grade 8_  
_Windsor Mill Middle School_  
_Teacher: Aarohi Brahmhatt_

Watching the world morph  
Distant reality spins  
Remolding itself  
_Scarlett Cometa, Grade 8_  
_Catonsville Middle School_  
_Teacher: Brittany Jakubowski_

This world is bending  
and i keep spending all time  
trying to find you  
_Giulia Huff, Grade 7_  
_Hereford Middle School_  
_Teacher: Sara Mcshane_
How can I still stand  
When the world around me spins  
And my brain is bare  

Ashrita Anand, Grade 7  
Hereford Middle School  
Teacher: Amirah Arafat

The chairs start to rise  
The ceiling starts to crumble  
Yet I stay grounded  

August Birdsall, Grade 7  
Hereford Middle School  
Teacher: Amirah Arafat

Hope's light beckons us  
Lives unraveled by chaos  
Seek peace and endure  

Vivienne Melbert, Grade 7  
Deer Park Middle Magnet School  
Teacher: Jennifer Aufiero

many lives in here  
each ignorant of others  
but tangled by fate.  

Mary Curson, Grade 7  
Ridgely Middle School  
Teacher: Veronica Pessaro
Gravity is gone
Wishing for a moment's pause
My world goes upwards
Joelyn Milne, Grade 7
Deer Park Middle Magnet School
Teacher: Jennifer Aufiero

Try closing your eyes
and you see a world waiting
up for you, waiting.
Kylie Forringer, Grade 7
Ridgely Middle School
Teacher: Veronica Pessaro

Everything is gone
I shed a sigh of relief
End of the cycle
Zoa Kelley, Grade 6
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Adrienne Sutton

Sky is filled with chairs.
What the heck is going on?
I think I'll sit up.
Natalie Anderson, Grade 6
General John Stricker Middle School
Teacher: Stephanie Strayer
Furniture strikes back
Chairs don't like to be sat on
Coming to kill us!!

*Holden Dickerson, Grade 6
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Adrienne Sutton*

Together in room
World falls down on us, floor falls
We are still standing

*Kayla Connor, Grade 6
Pikeville Middle School
Teacher: Diana Lane*

Gravity lifting.
The earth shaking around me.
Shaping a new one.

*Shawn Thompson, Grade 5
Owings Mills Elementary School
Teacher: Adam Otterbein*

When life falls apart
Search for opportunities
But mostly, for hope

*Caleb Gabrielse, Grade 5
Riderwood Elementary School
Teacher: Mary Lord*
chairs swirl around fast
shocked people looking upward
watch out! Duck! danger!

_Kennedy Black, Grade 5_
_Owings Mills Elementary School_
_Teacher: Joseph Lipo_

Winds of destruction,
Bringing chairs and desks skyward,
Make children look up

_Lisen Hart, Grade 5_
_Westchester Elementary School_
_Teacher: Vicki Charikofsky_

How did I get here
Thoughts spinning like a whirlwind
Help me gain control

_Liam Watters, Grade 5_
_Stoneleigh Elementary School_
_Teacher: Kelly Ronson_

Sadness can be found
In midnight rain but sorrow
Will hide faraway

_Catherine Shitta, Grade 5_
_Cedarmere Elementary School_
_Teacher: Patricia Hall_
In a unknown land  
Me and two others, confused  
Levitating chairs  
*Harper Swenson, Grade 4  
Sparks Elementary School  
Teacher: Courtney Sheckells*

Amidst the chaos,  
Wonders to be discovered,  
Our hope is not lost.  
*Khaled Al Issa, Grade 4  
Timonium Elementary School  
Teacher: Lisa Sauerwald*

Chaos fills the air.  
Reality out of reach.  
Now where will I sit?  
*Miles TerBeek, Grade 4  
Riderwood Elementary School  
Teacher: Kelly Fetterolf*

When chairs fall I don't care, this always happens to me. I deal with it.  
*Darrell Bly, Grade 4  
Glyndon Elementary School  
Teacher: Shelly Mitchell*
Fractured soul, heart, mind
Born into a struggle, yet
Death gives way to life
Dylan Dunn, Grade 12
Towson High School
Teacher: Jackie Flynn

As my slumber fades,
auburn petals take to flight.
Tickets to heaven.
Serenity Scott, Grade 12
Catonsville High School
Teacher: Carolyn Ruppel

The thoughts I think, have
Sadly escaped, breaking through
dreams that keep me wake.
Shawn Traynham, Grade 12
Catonsville High School
Teacher: Carolyn Ruppel

Warm glow shines above
Ebb and flow of earthly light
My mind’s sweet escape
Grace Stecher, Grade 12
Hereford High School
Teacher: Michelle Stachura
It collapsed again
We stared at it knowing well,
It will come again

Samreen Khalid, Grade 12
Perry Hall High School
Teacher: Stefanie Tadman

Gaze in wondrous awe
Our old life leaves us empty
Hung in the balance

Zarmina Khan, Grade 11
Franklin High School
Teacher: Timothy Showalter

The ceiling ascends
Chairs and men in weightless flight,
Breathless wonder reigns.

Fahad Iqbal, Grade 11
Eastern Technical High School
Teacher: Morgan Phillips

A ruthless whisper
The wind was always their muse
Uninhibited

Ashley Pullen, Grade 11
Parkville High School
Teacher: Julie Evans
As time countermands.
Existence stops... one moment.
A world frayed, dreaming.

*Alyssa Smith, Grade 11*
*Parkville High School*
*Teacher: Lindsay Montgomery*

Chairs dance in the air,
A waltz of wooden debris.
Will we soon join too?

*Madison Myers, Grade 10*
*Eastern Technical High School*
*Teacher: Jacqueline Davis*

Life cascades upwards
Defying expectations
But we will not fall

*Lucy Mlinek, Grade 10*
*George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology*
*Teacher: Rebecca Mlinek*
Think of the banned books
Corryn Word
Milford Mill Academy

Medium: oil pastel on paper

Artist Statement:
For this portrait, I wanted it to have a warm approach. That's why I used red and yellow. I also wanted to add the book ‘Concrete Rose’ by Angie Thomas because it's one of my favorite books. I used red for my regular skin and yellow for the brightness of the blinds to show the difference.
Think of the banned books
Each one is representing
Something that's unsolved

Inara Ozinal, Grade 8
Sudbrook Magnet Middle School
Teacher: Janine Schofield

Life is too complex,
All I can achieve is hide
till a sign stops by

Asmaa Saeid, Grade 9
Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts
Teacher: Imani Alleyne

Quiet is happy
Yet the world seems to think that
Dark always needs light

Sadie Levi, Grade 7
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Amirah Arafat

Hidden in locker
Away from humanity
Shielded by a book

Victoria Marburger, Grade 7
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Sara McShane
Trapped, stuck in the dark.
Caught in the words, where dreams roam
Lonely not alone.

*Abbey Nixon, Grade 6*
*Hereford Middle School*
*Teacher: Adrienne Sutton*

She hides somewhere safe,
And quietly reads alone.
When will she come out?

*Leah Oakcrum, Grade 5*
*Bear Creek Elementary School*
*Teacher: Lauren Hoffman*

A painted on smile.
Washes away slowly slumped.
when judgement is served.

*Kash Washington, Grade 5*
*West Towson Elementary School*
*Teacher: Erin Rossetti*

patriotic light
lands precisely upon me
as i read my book

*Astrid Kleine, Grade 4*
*Hillcrest Elementary School*
*Teacher: Mary Bridget Quinn*
Shadows from the sun
Concrete Rose floating above
Serene, as you were
Abby Jazwiecki, Grade 4
Hillcrest Elementary School
Teacher: Michael Cooney

The locker hides me
as i read for the last time
the shooter is near
Jordan Michaels, Grade 12
Catonsville High School
Teacher: Carolyn Ruppel

I cower behind
and do nothing while our world
breaks apart itself.
Brooke Ellis, Grade 12
Dulaney High School
Teacher: John Wagner

On the concrete floor,
I see red. Through the crooked
blinds, I see your hate.
Autumn Whiteford, Grade 11
Teacher: George Washington Carver
Center for Arts and Technology
Tracey Fried-Kasofsky
Pages read in dark
light peaks through the window pane
reads eternally

Maria Lazzaro, Grade 10
Franklin High School
Teacher: Timothy Showalter

In between the lines
My trauma lies, shots outside
I cannot escape.

Naomi Orimalade, Grade 10
Owings Mills High School
Teacher: Alexis Wendt

Box braids neatly tied,
Pages turn with every thought,
Black girl lost in book.

Abena Nyarko-Brentuo, Grade 9
Franklin High School
Teacher: Kristen Hodskin
To sleep unaware
Alyssa Cui  
Lutherville Laboratory

**Artist Statement:**
My painting was created to show others the beauty of everyday nature. The painting takes place at night with a red panda resting on a branch of a tree. The panda is a mysterious, magical creature beyond the view of people.
To sleep unaware
Of this hurt and broken world
Is a peaceful bliss

Campbell Blanks, Grade 7
Dumbarton Middle School
Teacher: Kristy Knupple

The Fearsome beast sleeps
Near harmless in appearance
Alas, it will kill

Nyu Shakya, Grade 8
Loch Raven Technical Academy
Teacher: Alyssa Bernblum

Rich tangerine fluff
Frost painted faces and ears
Gleaming stars above

Akira Synkowski, Grade 8
Dumbarton Middle School
Teacher: Susan Smith
cute, fuzzy, cuddly  
red panda scampers around  
in the starlit night  
Annie Bell, Grade 7  
Hereford Middle School  
Teacher: Sara McShane

The little red child  
Still grasping his mothers love  
Like we all used to  
Daniel Yechale, Grade 7  
Arbutus Middle School  
Teacher: Meghan Kelley

The fox’s fur glowing  
Resting eyes, paws outstretched  
Claws shining, unsheathed  
Connor Wetmore, Grade 6  
Arbutus Middle School  
Teacher: Deanna Yorke

I am ambitious  
I will achieve all my goals  
But after nap time  
Brayden Oden, Grade 5  
Dogwood Elementary School  
Teacher: Roxann Wheeler
Sunset orange fur
Tiny ball of shining gold
Glowing in the sun

Hailey Mychailsyzn, Grade 5
Sparks Elementary School
Teacher: Mia Donovan

Cute and small sleeping
red, white and black medium,
sharp silver claws night

Macie Wagner, Grade 4
Sparks Elementary School
Teacher: Courtney Sheckells

Great blood red. Also,
the darkest eyes. And sometimes,
active during night.

Safiya Ortiz, Grade 4
Sparks Elementary School
Teacher: Courtney Sheckells

Warm peaceful like stars
Laying dreaming calm content
Panda sleeps carefree

Avery Sheehan, Grade 4
West Towson Elementary School
Teacher: Theresa Mohr
Fluffy as a cloud
Sharp claws, twenty tiny knives
Cute as a baby
_Sam Laubach, Grade 4
Hillcrest Elementary School
Teacher: Michael Cooney_

Rusty Colored Fur
Is no more seen as frequently
Near gone in the trees
_Febechukwu Di-ibor, Grade 11
Pikesville High School
Teacher: Rebecca Puelle_

In peaceful slumber,
Red panda dreams in stillness,
Nature's tranquil muse.
_Kayla Tabernero, Grade 11
Parkville High School
Teacher: Virginia Richard_

All day spent hunting
Curling in my comfy den
Now, it's time to rest.
_Derek Hunter, Grade 5
Pinewood Elementary School
Teacher: Erin Paquette_
Serene summertime
A brief moment of escape
Caressed by a dream

Kareena Saywack, Grade 6
Cockeysville Middle School
Teacher: Marian Garvin
skinny bones of trees
Diana Vargus Juarez  
Dundalk Elementary School

Medium: Oil pastels and tempera paint

Artist Statement:
I worked to make trees in fall with leaves falling in the grass. I want people to know that they can see lots of things in Fall, like trees and leaves and animals. I love everything about my artwork.
skinny bones of trees

skinny bones of trees
nest the colors of the leaves
in a sea of ease

Keira Nelson, Grade 11
Dulaney High School
Teacher: Meekah Hopkins

The leaves in the wind
I could get lost in a world
I never once met

Anna Walsh, Grade 6
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Adrienne Sutton

Life is a flower.
It grows until it lets go.
Then begins again.

Taylor Matthew, Grade 6
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Adrienne Sutton
As I sit outside
Warm colors drift through the sky
Shimmering in light

Isla Sullivan, Grade 5
Hillcrest Elementary School
Teacher: Rosemary Dillingham

Hibiscus blooming
in a garden full of bees
flowers born again

Morgan Howell, Grade 5
Owings Mills Elementary School
Teacher: Adam Otterbein

I love the bright gold
taste of summer and the end
of cold dull winter.

Nahla Bishop, Grade 5
Owings Mills Elementary School
Teacher: Adam Otterbein

Trees of all quaint shades
Vivid colors seal the dark
The sky luminous

Kadejah Jackson, Grade 5
Owings Mills Elementary School
Teacher: Joseph Lipo
The once hopeful root
Everett Lawrence
Harford Hills Elementary School

Mixed media: cut paper collage, crayon, tempera paint, and oil pastel

Artist Statement:
I made this carrot because I like carrots. Also, I thought it would be interesting. When I made this, I was thinking ‘How will I do this?’ and I realized to just make a carrot with a face, arms, and legs. That is how I made this art. I am very happy with how this turned out!
The once hopeful root
Has been betrayed by his friends
carrot is lonely

*Jared Cherry, Grade 4
Summit Park Elementary School
Teacher: Hope Bluementhal*

Carrot with no tooth
with his grassy stem and eyes
Electrocuted

*Sullie Cohee, Grade 8
Arbutus Middle School
Teacher: Aimee Hutchison*

wild vegetable creeps
follows me asking to eat
i ate him instead

*Maxwell Atai, Grade 7
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Sara McShane*
A creepy carrot
only keeps to the shadows,
deformed and orange

Ben Rowe, Grade 7
Ridgely Middle School
Teacher: Veronica Pessaro

I live for carrots
Especially that one there
Leafy hair, crooked smile

Abigail Harriman, Grade 6
Arbutus Middle School
Teacher: Deanna Yorke

creepy rabbit food
see the carrot turn evil
deformed by moonlight

Brynn Nottingham, Grade 6
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Adrienne Sutton

Small children fear me.
They all think I will attack.
I'm the healthy snack!

Alaina Walters, Grade 5
Owings Mills Elementary School
Teacher: Erica Gibson
Carrot creeping up
on unsuspecting tourists
to give them a snack

_Dominic Giuliano, Grade 5_
_Riderwood Elementary School_
_Teacher: Jennifer Buchman_

Psychopathic food
It's eyes stare into your soul
Standing there waiting

_Heavenly Dennard, Grade 5_
_Sandalwood Elementary School_
_Teacher: Michael Kuczmynda_

Little Carrot boy
ate all the sweets in the world
No more teeth or sweets

_Andrew Ottey, Grade 4_
_Timonium Elementary School_
_Teacher: Lisa Sauerwald_

will eat you alive
the carrot apocalypse
soul eating monster

_Kylie Tartaglia, Grade 4_
_Timonium Elementary School_
_Teacher: Lisa Sauerwald_
Juicy orange short  
Picked from a big carrot farm  
But this one went bad  

Oliver Cannon, Grade 4  
Hillcrest Elementary School  
Teacher: Michael Cooney

a happy carrot  
doing moves music blaring  
til his teeth fell out.  

James Wolfe, Grade 12  
Parkville High School  
Teacher: Lisa Hebert

Angry carrots glare,  
Bitter and orange, it fumes,  
Sharp words spew like roots.  

Georgios Ahrenberg, Grade 11  
Perry Hall High School  
Teacher: Christina Turner

The carrot scrambles  
Trying to collect its thoughts  
Colors left behind  

Leah Clary, Grade 11  
Perry Hall High School  
Teacher: Meredith Drusano
Devious carrot
Man who came straight from the ground
Is king of this world

Eli Krikstan, Grade 5
Jacksonville Elementary School
Teacher: Megan Figola
My cleats strike the ball
Riley Darchicourt
Sparrows Point High School
My cleats strike the ball
Conveying it through the air
I had scored a goal
"Fatima Cisse, Grade 7
Loch Raven Technical Academy
Teacher: Joanne Alaoui"

Another shot made
New goals blossom before me
Where now, if not here
"Morghan Butler, Grade 9
Parkville High School
Teacher: Joseph Ames"

In the dark gleaming
Foot meets ball, lights on field lit
Boom the ball zoomed. Goal!
"Sage Pelusi, Grade 7
Catonsville Middle School
Teacher: Kimberly Mills"
Mirroring sunset
as snowy clovers bloom for
your last victory.

Sierra Brown, Grade 12
Catonsville High School
Teacher: Marie Thrailkill

Today, I run, kick
Get better, better by day
As the flowers grow

Allison Sobchuk, Grade 6
Pikeville Middle School
Teacher: Diana Lane

You need a border
But, sometimes you need a kick
To achieve your dreams

Nasrullah Awali, Grade 6
Northwest Academy of Health Sciences
Teacher: Jezelle Middleton

trash talked, bullied, nerd
channel anger no weakness
shoot the ball and score

Jaylen Gray, Grade 5
Martin Boulevard Elementary School
Teacher: Kristin Kraus
Screaming from the crowd
Shooter bolting towards me
Ball rests in my hands
  Emily Ortel, Grade 5
  Sparks Elementary School
  Teacher: Mia Donovan

Sprint quick as lightning
Five to five, feel the pressure
Run, punt, kick, score, goal!
  Molly Jupitz, Grade 5
  Sparks Elementary School
  Teacher: Corjie Tarlton

Precision soccer
Champion collaborate
Obstacle convert
  James Carrington, Grade 5
  Owings Mills Elementary School
  Teacher: Heather Harless

Kick the ball and score.
Famous player Alex M.
You can be one, too.
  Ella Ewell, Grade 4
  Sparks Elementary School
  Teacher: Courtney Sheckells
Like a lightning bolt
Zooming towards the ball, kick
She wins the practice

*Mabel Sulzbach, Grade 4
Sparks Elementary School
Teacher: Courtney Sheckells*

White and black fast balls
Run and kick we must be quick
The ball hits the net

*Astrid Gonzalez Serrano, Grade 4
Hillcrest Elementary School
Teacher: Mary Bridget Quinn*

Take the field. Run. Score.
Consistent. Hard work.

*Silas Childs, Grade 4
Carroll Manor Elementary School
Teacher: Sandra Boyle*

Fierce and fast she moves
Maneuvers effortlessly
Legs strong like the ball

*Aria Rawls, Grade 2
Cromwell Valley Elementary Regional Magnet School
Teacher: Christine Flynn*
Dewdrops shower me
Lundon Lewis  
Sudbrook Magnet Middle School

Medium: Chalk pastel

Artist Statement:
The reason why I chose to draw this leaf is because it was the most unique out of all the leaves that were scattered on the hill. It was colorful, and it looked like it was perfectly put there with the little water drops on top including the grass. Also, while I looked at the leaf, I noticed that the grass was a dark green and the leaf was a bright red, which got my attention.
Dewdrops shower me

Dewdrops shower me
The vibrant red maple leaf
Consumed by the grass

Mary Badders, Grade 5
Sparks Elementary School
Teacher: Corjie Tarlton

In the grass lies hope.
In the grass lies tomorrow.
In the grass lies us.

Emily Bystry, Grade 7
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Amirah Arafat

A pop of color
lies in puddles of sorrow
ready to change all

Lillian Longobardi, Grade 7
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Amirah Arafat

I am like a leaf
I will drift along my life
One day I will rest

Jocelyn LePage, Grade 7
Hereford Middle School
Teacher: Sara McShane
Life is like the fall.
We can change with the season.
We can't stay the same.
Carter Norris, Grade 7
Sudbrook Magnet Middle School
Teacher: Kimberly Beckman

Leaves a lot like minds
The way they flutter and drift
Through darkness and light
Natalie Vance, Grade 6
Perry Hall Middle School
Teacher: Pamela Rees

A fleeting maple,
resting in the autumn wind,
Its charm swiftly dies
Shu Leong, Grade 6
Cockeysville Middle School
Teacher: Wendy Kulesz

The season has changed
Everything glows warm orange
Such mystic colors
Lesah Watkins, Grade 6
Pikeville Middle School
Teacher: Diana Lane
Proud of its contrast
Different than all around
Just one by itself

Hannah Sampson, Grade 6
Ridgely Middle School
Teacher: Veronica Pessaro

The leaf falls to death.
Nothing can escape the end.
But, decay aids life.

Anagh Harnol, Grade 5
Pinewood Elementary School
Teacher: Crystal Westerberg

Twirling in the wind
until they land on the ground
leaves coat the green grass

Claire Mueller, Grade 5
Pinewood Elementary School
Teacher: Tara Brickley

Falling gracefully
Carried by a crispy wind
Very colorful

Camryn Serio, Grade 5
Sparks Elementary School
Teacher: Mia Donovan
Fall's light shines through you
As the colors change, you do
You both are the same
  *Katelynn Franklin, Grade 5*
  *Sandalwood Elementary School*
  *Teacher: Michael Kuczmynda*

Lies holding me tight
Many hands reaching for help
Strings holding me back
  *Christian Walston, Grade 5*
  *Sandalwood Elementary School*
  *Teacher: Michael Kuczmynda*

Bold and Bright with life
Swift like Birds, Shining like light
Unable to Hide.
  *Brooklyn Henneberry, Grade 5*
  *Jacksonville Elementary School*
  *Teacher: Meghan Figola*

Just a small lone leaf
It shines in the drippy grass
Fell from autumn tree
  *Coco Walker, Grade 4*
  *Sparks Elementary School*
  *Teacher: Courtney Sheckells*
Orange leaf at dusk  
Glittering with drops of dew  
Autumn's gentle gift  

_Mahum Malik, Grade 4_  
_Woodbridge Elementary School_  
_Teacher: Nathan Glenn_

oh so delicate  
the zephyr shows his fury  
my blades put to rest  

_Braith Ortenzi, Grade 4_  
_Rodgers Forge Elementary School_  
_Teacher: Lynn Traynor_

Tiny scarlet leaf  
The rain falls from the cold sky  
the leaf mourns summer  

_Evelyn Romeo, Grade 4_  
_Carney Elementary School_  
_Teacher: Katie Hauf_

Flying in the wind.  
Soaring high, nature flies by.  
Beautiful leaves sprout.  

_Folawemi Afesojaye, Grade 4_  
_Pot Spring Elementary School_  
_Teacher: Kyla Lanchak_
Last autumn leaf falls
its grief binds it to the Earth-
its beauty shows change

Kenzyl Gelpi, Grade 12
Dundalk High School
Teacher: Abigail Ritter

Insignificant?
Falls without making a sound.
Life, purpose, fulfilled.

Graham TerBeek, Grade 7
Dumbarton Middle School
Teacher: Kristy Knuppel

Life is like a leaf.
It keeps growing but one day it dies.
Use it until its gone.

Tanvir Arora, Grade 6
Arbutus Middle School
Teacher: Erica Aaron
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arbutus Middle</td>
<td>Tanvir Arora</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sullie Cohee</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abigail Harriman</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eleanor Mishook</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lee Tyler</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel Yechale</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connor Wetmore</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle Grove Elementary</td>
<td>Itzayana Lazaro</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kaydance Spiece</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Creek Elementary</td>
<td>Leah Oakcrum</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carney Elementary</td>
<td>Evelyn Romeo</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carroll Manor Elementary</td>
<td>Silas Childs</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catonsville High</td>
<td>Sierra Brown</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abbie Lippert</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jordan Michaels</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tyler Peters</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Serenity Scott</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shawn Traynham</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catonsville Middle</td>
<td>Scarlett Cometa</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sage Pelusi</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedarmere Elementary</td>
<td>Catherine Shitta</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cockeysville Middle</td>
<td>Shu Leong</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kareena Saywack</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cromwell Valley Elementary
Aria Rawls ................................................................. 70

Deer Park Middle Magnet
Vivienne Melbert ......................................................... 31
Joelyn Milne ............................................................... 32

Dogwood Elementary
Brayden Oden ............................................................ 48

Dulaney High
Brooke Ellis ............................................................... 43
Keira Nelson ............................................................. 55

Dumbarton Middle School
Campbell Blanks ......................................................... 47
Levi Crawford ............................................................ 18
Akira Synkowski ....................................................... 47
Graham TerBeek ........................................................ 6,78

Dundalk Elementary
Diana Vargus Juarez .................................................. 53,54

Dundalk High
Kenzyl Gelpi .............................................................. 78

Eastern Technical High School
Fahad Iqbal ............................................................... 37
Paige Mathias ............................................................ 7,13
Madison Myers ........................................................ 38

Fort Garrison Elementary
Emma Glazer ........................................................... 20

Franklin High
Zarmina Khan .......................................................... 37
Maria Lazzaro .......................................................... 44
Abena Nyarko-Brentuo ............................................. 44
General John Stricker Middle
Natalie Anderson .................................................................................... 32
Kia Moore ................................................................................................ 29

George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology
Makenzie Catina....................................................................................... 14
Lucy Mlinek ............................................................................................. 38
Socorra Reggie ....................................................................................... 27, 28
Autumn Whiteford .................................................................................. 43

Glyndon Elementary
Darrell Bly ............................................................................................. 35

Harford Hills Elementary
Everett Lawrence .................................................................................. 57, 58

Hereford High
Grace Stecher .......................................................................................... 36

Hereford Middle
Ashrita Anand .......................................................................................... 31
Maxwell Atai ............................................................................................. 59
Annie Bell ................................................................................................ 48
August Birdsall .......................................................................................... 31
Emily Bystry ............................................................................................. 73
Holden Dickerson ..................................................................................... 33
Finn Fowler ............................................................................................... 17
Nolan Fox ................................................................................................ 25
Giulia Huff ................................................................................................. 30
Zoa Kelley ................................................................................................ 32
Jocelyn LePage ......................................................................................... 73
Sadie Levi ................................................................................................. 41
Lillian Longobardi ..................................................................................... 73
Victoria Marburger ................................................................................... 41
Taylor Matthew ....................................................................................... 55
Dempsey Nelson ...................................................................................... 17
Abbey Nixon ............................................................................................ 42
Brynn Nottingham ................................................................................... 60
Anna Walsh ............................................................................................... 55
Landon Zibell ......................................................................................... 29
Hillcrest Elementary School
Oliver Cannon ................................................................. 62
Michael Carey ................................................................. 26
Gus Cohee ................................................................. 11,12
Sarah Commins ........................................................ 21
Abby Jazwiecki .............................................................. 43
Astrid Kleine ................................................................. 42
Sam Laubach ................................................................. 50
Lillianne Meyer .............................................................. 13
Astrid Gonzalez Serrano ............................................ 70
Isla Sullivan ................................................................. 56

Jacksonville Elementary
Brooklyn Henneberry .................................................. 76
Eli Krikstan ................................................................. 63

Kenwood High
McKayla Shannon ......................................................... 15,16

Loch Raven Technical Academy
Fatima Cisse ................................................................. 67
Nyu Shakya ................................................................. 47

Lutherville Laboratory
Alyssa Cui ................................................................. 45,46

Martin Boulevard Elementary
Jaylen Gray ................................................................. 68

Millford Mill Academy
Corryn Word ............................................................... 39,40

Northwest Academy of Health Services
Nasrullah Awali .......................................................... 68
Amore’ Johnson .......................................................... 18
Owings Mills Elementary
Kennedy Black ......................................................................................... 34
Nahla Bishop ........................................................................................... 56
Kaiden Bradley ........................................................................................ 19
James Carrington .................................................................................... 69
Morgan Howell ...................................................................................... 56
Kadejah Jackson ...................................................................................... 56
Shawn Thompson .................................................................................... 33
Alaina Walters ......................................................................................... 60

Owings Mills High
Naomi Orimalade .................................................................................... 44

Parkville High
Morghan Butler ....................................................................................... 67
Ashley Pullen ........................................................................................... 37
Alyssa Smith ........................................................................................... 38
Kayla Tabernero ...................................................................................... 50
James Wolfe ............................................................................................ 62

Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts
Asmaa Saeid ............................................................................................ 41

Perry Hall Middle
Natalie Vance .......................................................................................... 74

Perry Hall High
Georgios Ahrenberg ................................................................................ 62
Leah Clary ............................................................................................... 62
Alessandra Hayden ................................................................................. 29
Samreen Khalid ....................................................................................... 37
Mahlet Nigussu ....................................................................................... 22
Jailene Piper ............................................................................................ 13

Pikesville Middle
Kayla Connor ........................................................................................... 33
Allison Sobchuk ....................................................................................... 68
Lesah Watkins .......................................................................................... 74

83
Pikesville High
Febechukwu Di-ibor ................................................................. 50

Pine Grove Elementary
Lucie Caplan ................................................................. 17

Pinewood Elementary
Anagh Harnol ............................................................................... 75
Derek Hunter ............................................................................... 50
Claire Mueller ............................................................................... 75
Chelsea Wu ............................................................................... 25

Pot Spring Elementary
Folawemi Afesojaye ............................................................. 77

Riderwood Elementary
Caleb Gabrielse ............................................................................... 33
Dominic Giuliano ............................................................................... 61
Lila Schmitter ............................................................................... 26
Miles TerBeek ............................................................................... 35

Ridge Ruxton School
JP Stokes.................................................................................. 23, 24

Ridgely Middle
Analise Chinniah........................................................................ 29
Mary Curson ............................................................................... 31
Kylie Forringer ........................................................................... 32
Kelly Ji ....................................................................................... 18
Hannah Sampson .......................................................................... 75
Ipsita Swain ............................................................................... 30
Ben Rowe .................................................................................... 60
David Yuan .................................................................................. 17

Rodgers Forge Elementary
Braith Ortenzi........................................................................ 77
Sandalwood Elementary
Heavenly Dennard ................................................................................... 61
Katelynn Franklin .................................................................................... 76
Christian Walston .................................................................................... 76
Davon Washington .................................................................................. 20

Sparks Elementary School
Mary Badders .......................................................................................... 73
Elliana Cunningham ............................................................................. 5,25
Ella Ewell ................................................................................................. 69
Molly Jupitz ............................................................................................. 69
Camden Leone ........................................................................................ 20
Grant Malone .......................................................................................... 13
Hailey Mychailyszyn .............................................................................. 49
Emily Ortel ............................................................................................... 69
Safiya Ortiz .............................................................................................. 49
Camryn Serio ........................................................................................... 75
Mabel Sulzbach ...................................................................................... 70
Harper Swenson ...................................................................................... 35
Macie Wagner .......................................................................................... 49
Coco Walker ............................................................................................ 76

Sparrows Point High
Riley Darchicourt .................................................................................. 65,66

Stoneleigh Elementary
Liam Watters ........................................................................................... 34

Sudbrook Magnet Middle School
Lundon Lewis .......................................................................................... 71,72
Carter Norris ........................................................................................... 74
Inara Ozinal .............................................................................................. 41

Summit Park Elementary
Jared Cherry ............................................................................................. 59
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timonium Elementary</td>
<td>Harper Giddens</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Khaled Al Issa</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Hailey Metkus</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andrew Ottey</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kylie Tartaglia</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towson High</td>
<td>Claire Chason</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dylan Dunn</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Towson Elementary</td>
<td>Avery Sheehan</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kash Washington</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westchester Elementary</td>
<td>Eric Balbier</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lisen Hart</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lyla Kaptein</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windsor Mill Middle</td>
<td>Amara Thompson</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodbridge Elementary</td>
<td>Mahum Malik</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>