

Paterson Kaleidoscope

Poems by the Young People of Paterson



Edited by Susan Amsterdam

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Contest Judge
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A cooperative project between
The Poetry Center
Passaic County Community College
and
The Theater and Poetry Project:
A Language Arts Enrichment Partnership
at
Passaic County Community College

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2010 PATERSON STUDENTS' POETRY CONTEST

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Passaic County Community College
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Paterson, New Jersey 07505-1179



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This anthology is the result of a co-operative project between the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College, the Theater and Poetry Project: A Language Arts Enrichment Partnership at Passaic County Community College and the Paterson Public Schools. The poems in this book are the winners of the 2010 Poetry Contest for Paterson Students, first through twelfth grades.

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We would like to thank the principals and teachers who encouraged their students to participate in the Contest.

We also need to express our thanks to the Passaic County Community College, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and the Paterson Schools for their support of the many poetry and writing workshops that inspired the enthusiasm and guided the talent of the students in expressing themselves through poetry.

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2010 PATERSON STUDENTS' POETRY CONTEST

First Prize Winners

GRADES 1 THROUGH 4

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Monazha Bender	My First Time on a Rollercoaster	28	3	Mrs. Anderson
Alexis Ferrao	The First Day of School	29	1	Ms. Carlin
Ahmad Jamhour	Ahmad's Amazing Game	9	4	Ms. McAdam
Nakebria Murray	Suffering in Haiti	Norm S. Weir	4	Mrs. Gates

GRADES 5 THROUGH 8

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Shahida Aktar	Goodbye Tonsils	5	8	Mrs. Pabst
Elizabet Benzaquen	A Tough First	Build Academy	8	Ms. Muller
Rameia Choudhury	My Favorite Thing to Do	2	6	Ms. Andretta
Ashley Martinez	The First Time I Saw Fireworks	27	5	Ms. Lee
Rohmi Rathy	the First Wedding	27	7	Ms. Cordero

GRADES 9 THROUGH 12

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Gerardo Irizarry	Three Kings Day	Garrett Morgan	12	Mrs. Cope
Jasmine Reynoso	Daddy I can't Believe...	Eastside High	9	Mrs. VanHouten

First Prize Grades 1 ~ 4

My First Time on a Rollercoaster

by Monazha Bender

I wanted to face my fears by riding on a
rollercoaster

It was huge and I sat in the back with my
cousin

I got on and sat down, the harness
went "click".

I was nervous.

Then the roller coaster started to move slowly.

My teeth started to chatter, my
eyes popped opened.

I looked down and saw my mom and
other family members.

The ride began to jerk back.

It went slowly up the tracks, then
whoosh! Down the tracks.

All of the people put their hands up
and screamed

I was too scared

I felt the bumps and the wheels went
squeak, squeak, squeak.

I can't wait until I go back, it was so much fun!

The First Day of School

by Alexis Ferrao

The first day of school I felt shy

I wanted to cry.

I saw so many children

I just wanted to go home.

I was so sad

Even a little mad

that my mom left me here!

Then I felt better

when it was time for gym.

The day went on and it was not so bad
good thing cause I had to go back again.

First Prize Grades 1 ~ 4

Ahmad's Amazing Game

by Ahmad Jamhour

Swishing through the basketball net,
A round orange basketball smacks down,
And meets the tough sidewalk.
Heart racing, hands shivering,
I dash across the attacking wind at the speed
of light
Towards the rebound.
My frosty fingers steal the prize
Growling and howling for the ball
And I make my way closer to the net
My opponent jumps towards my face
And Stop!
Basketball, Basketball, Basketball
This shiny sport is like a crusted, cheesy, black
olive pizza.
Yum!
I am the next Dwayne Wade,
Strong and a basketball expert I look up
towards the net,
The net screams,
"Come on Ahmad, you can do it!"
I spin a 360, fake to the right, back to the left
And I shoot.
Swishing through the basketball net,
The ball smacks down,
I win!

Suffering in Haiti

by Nakebria Murray

The air was still.
Every person for themselves.
Death was about to begin.
The earthquake destroyed everything.
People were rescued but some did not make it
Houses breaking down
Children getting hurt & looking for their
mom's & dad's
Sounds of crying, moaning & weeping
The air smells like pain, death & disaster
Is there any hope left in Haiti!
Haiti, Oh sweet Haiti
Prayers are all around you!
As the world around us rushes through life
You've taught us to be grateful, thankful &
faithful
Oh yes my sweet Haiti
Your beauty & history shall rise again

First Prize Grades 5 ~ 8

Goodbye Tonsils

by Shahida Aktar

My father squeezes my hand as we walk
through what seems like endless corridors
I peek into rooms and see people resting
Although I am apprehensive to go
My stubby legs push on
The air is heavy with the stench of anesthesia
I begin to feel dizzy
But I don't fall
Little beads of perspiration trickle
down my face
Finally
We reach the room I was assigned
My father sits me down on the hospital bed
We both await the doctor's arrival
I glance nervously at my father
Suddenly
The doctor strides in
She is elderly and looks fragile
Not one gray hair strays from the bun that sits
on her head
She smiles warmly and asks me to lie down
I do as I'm told
She pulls out a huge needle
I scream
Seeing she has startled me, she puts it away
So she turns on the laughing gas machine
As she places the mask on my face
I struggle
But she says everything will be okay
So I calm down
"Goodbye tonsils",
I think to myself
Then everything goes black

A Tough First

by Elizabet Benzaquen

It's a tough day.
You just found out your parents are getting
divorced.
You're confused. Life is a thunderstorm.
Your thoughts are like leaves blowing
in a tornado.
When your parents get divorced, you will have
to live with one of them.
You love them both.
It feels like bullets have pierced your heart.
Why is this happening?
Life is like a war.
Two sides battle for your heart.
Your parents weren't happy.
Your Dad hit your Mom.
The judge said so.
Fear controls your body.
The judge said you would live with your
mother.
Relief flooded you like water.
Now you know.
You can't change the past, but you can change
the future.
You promise yourself that you will be a better
man, father, and husband.

First Prize Grades 5 ~ 8

My Favorite Thing to Do

by Rameia Choudhury

Flip! Flip! Flip!
The pages are turning with great excitement.
The undying smell of a chapter is alive.
The letters, words and symbols are dancing
one by one.
The mystery of every scene is eating me alive.
I am anxious to know what is next.
Flip! Flip! Flip!

Flip! Flip! Flip!

The scenes and stories are as great as can be.
The characters are dancing and playing is all I
can see.
I feel as if! am flying in sky.
Inside a pool is full of imagination and
blue berry pie.
"The children of this world ... " is all they can say.
The boa constructor has slithered down the bay.
Flip! Flip! Flip!

Reading books is my passion.
Everyone can enjoy a book
A book can be handy, anytime, anywhere.
Drama, comedy, and mystery are my favorite.
Imaginative, crazy and wild are my only
thoughts.
No where to go, but inside my head.
Going to read no matter what.

The First Time I Saw Fireworks

by Ashley Martinez

When I was 4 years old I went to
Garret Mountain
My friends and family were there
My cousins asked me if I knew about
the surprise at night
I had a confused look
I didn't understand
I didn't know the surprise
At night my grandpa came
He carried me in his arms
He loves me more than the stars
We went to Garrett Mountain
When the sky was pitch dark
Something POPPED UP
I was amazed to see the lights in my face
They were so colorful
I thought it was a rainbow
My grandpa started to laugh
He thought I was telling him a joke
When the sky was quiet my family started
to talk out loud
I asked my aunt what I had seen
She told me the sparkles
in the sky were fireworks
I ran to tell my mom

I loved the fireworks
They made me feel fantastic
They were popping inside my head
That day made me feel vibrant, so alive
That was the Day I will never forget

First Prize Grades 5 ~ 8

The First Wedding.

Rohmi Rathy

The time had come
The time of the wedding
Wake up wake up it's the wedding day!
I was happy for my sister but not too excited
about my sister getting married
I thought my sister's marriage would cause a
gap, just like our age
Thinking about it made me think that the
worst was coming
Then I started to think positively, that I was
going to have a big brother,
Not a real brother but someone who would
protect and love me.
When my sister put on her red sari she was
filled with gold and silver sparkles
Her henna was in the most complicated
designs
On top of the henna designs, hand paintings
were copied
Her gold was shining like the morning sun
As she was put together she looked like a god-
dess
She was gorgeous it brought tears to our eyes
"Not now guys after the picture then cry" We
laughed

Lights along the road led us to the gate
As we entered the wedding it was amazing
I couldn't believe my eyes
We sat my sister down on the stage
with golden seats and golden curtains
In the middle were fresh flowers, maybe two
hundred of them
It came to the moment when my sister would
be a part of us and her husband's family
"Cobul" meaning I do
My family started to burst into tears
Everyone praying for the best to happen
I cried so much I still remember
my head hurting
My sister was crying
It was time to let her go
My father picked her up and carried her to the
car to leave
I could not catch my breath
I watch my princess go away
My dad had to stay strong for my mom
"My Ponu is married, she is so beautiful"
My parents looked at me it's your turn next

First Prize Grades 9 ~12

Three Kings Day

by Gerardo Irizarry

We were celebrating Three Kings Day.

I was 9.

I was amazed by the smiles on my family's
faces.

We herded together,

Like cattle on a ranch,

To get around the table.

I ate the rice and pork that my grandmother
made.

The rice was fluffy.

The pork was juicy.

I wore my favorite, black, leather coat.

The lining felt like a child's first blanket,

Soft and fluffy.

We watched Winter Wonderland.

My cousins were outside playing in the snow.

Throwing snowballs,

Making snow angels,

Building a snowman,

Singing about Frosty.

It was a great experience.

All of the adults were enjoying themselves.

All of the children were laughing.

It was a shame that everything had to end.

Daddy I Can't Believe...

by Jasmine Reynoso

Daddy I can't believe I never knew you.

Christmas and my Birthday passed by
And not even a call or a card just a goodbye.

Daddy I am scared,

To fall in love with a guy like you.

I felt you didn't want me

Is it true?

Daddy did you tell mommy,
That you were ashamed to have me?

What did I do, I cannot see.

Why didn't you love me?

I did nothing wrong.

Daddy all I tried,
Was to be one of your loved ones.

I know one thing,
I won't make the same mistake as you.

I will love my kids
The way you never did.

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Second Prize Winners

GRADES 1 THROUGH 4

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Majada Hussain	The First Time I Won a Poetry Contest	29	3	Mrs. Grieco
Jasmine McDuffie	I Enjoy Cheering	1	2	Mrs. Bauch
Francisco Perez	I Enjoy My Family	29	1	Mrs. Ali
Cyan Ramirez-Mirabito	My Very Special Dog	19	1	Ms. Regina
Randall Tarazona	The First Day I Went on a Plane	New Roberto Clemente	4	Ms. Hodges
Chariza Wilks	My 1st Day in America	New Roberto Clemente	3	Ms. Messina

GRADES 5 THROUGH 8

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Mamun Ahmed	First Day in America	5	8	Mrs. Pabst
Shubha Debnath	Writing On a Gloomy Afternoon	5	5	Mrs. DiMaria
Leslie Figueroa	When I First Got Sick	27	7	Mrs. Cordero
Korinn Harris	Ferris Wheel Of Horrors	7	7	Ms. Polo
Tiara Hawkins	Bowling	12	5	Mrs. Osback
Sauda Meah	Gardening	2	6	Ms. Andretta
Davion Walker	My First Loss	Renaissance One	5	Mrs. McCaffrey

GRADES 9 THROUGH 12

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Diana Martinez	Kindergarten Kiss	JFK	10	Mrs. Wojcik
Elva Martinez	My first but not my last	JFK	10	Mrs. Wojcik

Second Prize Grades 1 ~ 4

**The First Time I
Won a Poetry Contest**

by Majada Hussain

The first time I won the poetry contest ...

My teacher called me to go down
to the library to write a poem.
She said the Poetry Contest had
begun and I was ready.

My brain was flaying with ideas, and then I got it!
I got my special thought.
It came to me like a lightning bolt,
My head began to whirl
My paper filled with so many words.
My hand hurt from writing so much, I hoped it
would not be absurd,

I took my poem to Mrs. Popadics
She loved it! A winner she thought,
but could it be?

I waited and waited to see if I won.
It took a couple of months but the
wait was worth it!

I won, I won, I won!
It was even first place!

I was full of pride. My mom and dad burst with
delight.

I practiced reading it each day and night.
I would be ready for the special invite!
Finally, it was my turn to get up and recite
I was filled delight!

The first time that I won the poetry contest.

I Enjoy Cheering

by Jasmine McDuffie

"Elevate your body

And zoom to the top

Your hands start to move and

Your feet just can't stop

And your feet just can't stop"

Cheered and Shout

That's what I dreamed about.

I stomped and jumped

I fling my arms wide

As I shake my hips

Side to side.

I tried my hardest and done my best

And was truly put to the test.

Cheerleading is a dream

That came true

Have faith in yourself in all you do!

Second Prize Grades 1 ~ 4

I Enjoy My Family

by Francisco Perez

I enjoy being with my family.

It's the best family you'll see.

Just come and visit with me.

They love me so much.

They have made my room a magical place.

There we play board games and watch TV.

Then we go shopping and eat together.

But my favorite time is when we
read together

Every night a different story is shared.

My family is the best in the whole wide world

Just come and visit with me.

My Very Special Dog

by Cyan Ramirez-Mirabito

Arioin is a playful puppy

Soft, curly haired, dark as night cute,

Spotted, floppy ears that

flip back when he runs,

Oh that hanging tongue breathing heavy

What a very special dog!

Loving, caring, almost perfect pet.

The day would be brighter if he wasn't lost.

I hope my puppy comes back to me.

My very special dog.

The First Day I Went On a Plane

by Randall Tarazona

As I passed the dark shallow tunnel with a bag
full of clothes

I was shivering like a cat

It was cold as the snow

I sat down on a soft seat

As we took off

I held the seat for my life

By the time we landed

I passed the dark shallow tunnel

My 1st Day in America

by Chariza Wilks

Finally, I came to America!

It was the color red, white, and blue!

It was the color of happiness in
my heart!

I also saw the color of darkness

since I missed my family in
Dominican Republic.

How many colors America has!

I love America very much

I want to stay in America forever!

I am proud to be in America!

I am proud to be an American!

Second Prize Grades 5 ~ 8

First Day in America

by Mamun Ahmed

As I landed, I began to wonder
about a lot of things
What am I doing here?
Why did I come here?

Everything was so sudden
At one moment I was in
Bangladesh, and the next I'm here
It was too quick to realize

At first I felt awkward seeing
no one I knew at the airport

I avoided everyone that were coming and leaving my sight in a rush
People looked at me as if I were an alien while I jumped from their way

I felt so happy when I realized my parents found my uncle and cousin that I had known
I rushed to my cousin and other relatives and greeted them with a glad expression on my face
My cousin knew that I was cold, hungry, and tired, so he told us to get in the car

As I was getting inside the car, I looked around and everything was blurry
I had water in my face as the wind blew

I began to feel really cold because I had not worn the appropriate clothing

I arrived on the front porch of my new house with many relatives greeting my family and me
It was warm inside the house so I was comfortable
Everything felt so normal from then on

Now I felt better
Now I knew what we were here for;
I knew why we came here

We came here for a better life, especially after seeing how my cousins lived

Although I didn't want to live here, my mind changed after a while
After a while I actually thought it's better here

From that moment I learned not to judge something without knowing anything about it

Coming to America was my chance.

I got a chance to pursue the education that my parent never received
Most importantly, I have a chance to succeed!

Second Prize Grades 5 ~ 8

Writing on a Gloomy Afternoon

by Shubha Debnath

On a frigid, unfriendly afternoon,
Rain cascades down against my window pane.
The dawning radiance of the sun struggles,
And mischievous clouds roguishly cover the heavens.
Steel bars imprison me,
While I wonder, when will this tragedy end?
With all my might, I reach toward my gold-trimmed mahogany desk,
As I seek sympathy from the cruel imprisonment that I face.
I seek out my greatest pencil, to that of Poseidon's Trident,
My most prestigious and magical sharpener, used by King Arthur himself,
And a piece of paper, which holds powers that, is unexplainable.
I began writing, while sobbing tears begin a puddle on my paper,
For every stroke of lead that engraves my every thought is splattered with hot tears.
The world that echoed around me has stopped, and I am in a silencing void.
I brighten my face and ferociously scribble on this white, meaningless paper.
I travel through my thoughts for anything that will aid me from this steel imprisonment.
I sweat rapidly, and my fingers are trembling, but my cause is concealed with hope.
Papers now of emotion and affection pile high above my desk, as my eyes gleam with light.
I see through the window past the steel bars that are illuminating in nightlight,
And before long, bales of paper are now filled with passion, instead vacant blue lines.
Dawn turns into dusk, as the sun comes down from the horizon, and the moon strides high.
My room is showered with moonlight from the night sky,

And the bitter murkiness of my room is replaced by the shining glitter of the moon.
My sorrows and grief are vanquished,
And the lock of my steel chamber unlatches and falls to the ground.
The door to freedom opens and I step through the door.

As I walk across the void of depression, I smile and laugh, like a child receiving a toy.
The bars that imprisoned me collapsed into heaps of ashes,
And the gust of the wind takes the ashes to where it came from.
My soul has ridden itself of its cuts and slashes of blandness,
And I shrine upon the simple tools that gave me hope, and ridded me of dread.
I feel free, and happier than ever.

Writing is what makes me happy!

When I First Got Sick

by Leslie Firgueroa

When I first got sick I didn't even believe I had cancer. I was so upset when they told me all of my hair was going to fall out. It's like a really bad nightmare having this sickness. No one ever wished this upon me it just happened. I don't know why it happened but it did. No one would believe how many times I have been poked with needles and how much chemo I have had.

I've gotten stronger and I am very brave. Soon all of this will be over and I hope very soon. Every week I go for a check up. I hate that I always have to get blood work but if it helps me to be cured faster then I don't care. I really don't care I just want all of this horrible nightmare to be over and over fast ...

Second Prize Grades 5 ~ 8

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Ferris Wheel Of Horrors

by Korinn Harris

I actually felt scared.

Really I did.

I had never done it before.

Maybe I should turn back around.

But I'm already up next.

What if it tips over too much.

What if fall out to my death?

But it's too high!

I felt a little the dizzy being buckled down to my seat.

I bet a couple of knives might come out any minute and stab me to death.

I reassure myself quickly.

This isn't the time to cry.

The operator of this death trap had no emotion in his eyes.

Just pure boredom and obedience.

I did not mind though.

The smell of cotton candy and shish kebab's rolling on the steamed grill, wafted through my senses.

Laughter, all around from other rides seemed joyous.

I smiled.

I was so deep in thought, that I did not notice that it

was at the top already.

The air so crisp.

The sky was a painted portrait of a dream.

I only wonder, when will I be this high up next time.

I may never get an answer.

Second Prize Grades 5 ~ 8

Bowling

by Tiara Hawkins

If there's one thing I enjoy,
It's bowling.

The pretty colors of the bowling ball brighten
your eyes.

I like getting more points than my mom.

The funniest part is when you go too far past
the line and fall.

You can slide in your rental shoes.

Sometimes the ball can be too heavy.

When I hit a strike, my name shows up on the
screen.

Look for me at the bowling alley!

Appealing Apples,

Organic Oranges,

Pretty Peaches,

It's going to keep growing until you
can't reach it.

No one will ever destroy ...

My garden, the only thing I enjoy.

When I sit there day after day, watering the
plants in pots of clay.

As they sit under the sun, blazing above,
I watch with care and love.

I wish I could sit there forever, leaving my
plants aside never,

For my plants bring me happiness.

Gardening

by Sauda Meah

Crystal clear water,

And the warmth of sunlight,

Come together to make a beautiful sight.

As the rose buds enter into full bloom,

My garden takes away all the gloom.

Whenever it shines, it'll start to glare.

As it moves slowly, you'll always stop to stare.

Dazzling Daisies,

Lavish Lavenders,

Red Roses becomes secluded as the rest of
the door closes.

In the night, there's a breeze,

Most petals fall so do the leaves ...

MY FIRST LOSS

by Davion Walker

My first loss was when my father died.

I was very sad.

I was very young.

I miss him very much.

He was very funny.

My first loss was when my father died.

He was important to me.

He helped me.

He was a smart man.

He was an athlete.

My first loss was when my father died.

He was as brave as a lion.

I saw my mom crying.

I went home and saw cops.

I felt really scared.

My first loss was when my father died.

He helped me with homework.

My family says we act alike.

He ran track.

He taught me things.

I love him. My Father.

Second Prize Grades 9 ~ 12

"Kindergarten Kiss"

by Diana Martinez

I was the quiet little white girl
With the bright blue eyes.
And he was the hyper cute little
Boy that made everyone
Laugh. It was time for our nap when
Chris laid his mat next to
Mine. I was nervous just having a boy
Next to me. When nap time
Was over it was play time. I was playing
Mother when Chris asked
To be the father. With a big smile, I said,
"Yes". We were playing and
Playing until we both reached out to get
The baby doll felt my heart
Stop when my hand touched his. He
Turned to face me and gave
Me the best kiss a bright blue-eyed
Kindergarten girl could ever
Get.

"My first but not my last"

by Elva Martinez

Finally for the first time I am going to see you.
But I wish that I could see
you in person not underground.
I told you so many times
that I would come and visit you.
And you said that you would be
waiting for my arrival with so much joy.
But now that I am here
none of these things came true.
For the first time I felt so depressed and angry
at the thought that you
weren't going to be waiting
for me at the airport.
I am here waiting to see you come, but you
never appeared and you never will.
It's as if you got tired of waiting
and just left without saying goodbye.
Then I realized that you didn't
choose to leave and that if it had been your
decision to make you never would have left.
But then again you never left because you will
always be by my side to guide
me and take care of me
like you said you would.
This would be my first time going to visit you
but not my last.

PORTRAITS OF OURSELVES

2010 PATERSON STUDENTS' POETRY CONTEST

Honorable Mention Grade 1

GRADE 1

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Angel Fabian	The First Day at School	29	1	Ms. Carlin
Destiny Garcia	I Enjoy Swimming	29	1	Mrs. Ali
Abraham Mena	My New Baby Sister	Norman S. Weir School	1	Mrs. Mathews
Travis Murray	Enjoying Grandpa	Norman S. Weir School	1	Mrs. Mathews

Honorable Mention Grade 1

THE FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL NO. 29

by Angel Fabian

Mommy dropped me off in the playground.
I found my line and went inside.
I felt scared.
I didn't know anyone.
Then we all went inside.
The room was big, but the school was even
bigger.
It had a library!
Until I found a friend named Alexis, r was
scared.
But then Alexis and I became friends
We played together.
Then the first day of school was not so scary.

I Enjoy Swimming

by Destiny Garcia

I enjoy swimming
I love the beautiful blue water
I put on my bathing suit and
relax in the hot sun.
Then I jump right into the pool!
I swim and swim, under and over the water.
I put on my goggles to see beneath
then I take a deep breath and go underneath!.

MY NEW BABY SISTER

by Abraham Mena

One day, my mom and dad said a surprise!
They made me open my eyes!
They said a new baby was
growing in her tummy,
Making kicks and making my
mommy want something yummy!
Her belly got big, bigger and biggest!
Mommy looked like her tummy
was a ball and she couldn't rest.
Then, the big day came!
Out of her belly came my new,
pink and cute baby sister!
Her cheeks were so big.
Her eyes were beautiful.
Her hair was short. Her cry was medium loud.
I held her in the hospital close to my chest
And I loved her so much because
she is the best!

Enjoying Grandpa

by Travis Murray

Fishing for fun,
Catching a bunch!
Throwing them back,
We don't keep even one!
We just do it for fun!
Fishing with Grandpa,
We enjoy the day.
Fishing with Grandpa
I love him all the way.

Paterson Kaleidoscope

2010 PATERSON STUDENTS' POETRY CONTEST

Honorable Mention Grade 2

GRADE 2

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Alexis Arrington	I like to play	Norman S. Weir School	2	Ms. Hepsen
Issac Davenport	What I enjoy	29	2	Mrs. Taliercio
Jacob Estevez	I Celebrate Christmas	29	2	Ms. Propersi
Licandro Garcia	New Tear's Eve	29	2	Ms. Propersi
Shani K. Gerald	First Time at School	Norman S. Weir School	2	Mrs. Hepsen
Sumaya Hossain	The First Day of School	19	2	Ms. Henderson
Osaretin Imarhia	What I Enjoy Most is Spending Time With My Parents	12	2	Mrs. Gagliardo
Gianna Noriega	Big Sister	1	2	Ms. Bauch
Natalie Placencio	Halloween	29	2	Mrs. O'Hare
Jacolby David Waker	Reading's Fun	Norman S. Weir School	2	Mrs. Hepsen

Honorable Mention Grade 2

Alexis Arrington

by Alexis Arrington

I like to play,
with my Buddy,
my rubber toy worm.

He likes me to
streeeech him

and what I like about him
is he lights up,

my Buddy, my Buddy!!

What I enjoy

by Issac Davenport

I enjoy playing football with
my godfather Angel
When we play football I always
get a touchdown

He taught me how to pass
the ball ta my brother

Each time the game is over, we play again
I enjoy playing football all day long

I Celebrate Christmas

by Jacob Estavez

My family and cousins celebrate
Christmas with me

For Christmas I always wear a snowman
sweater and a Christmas hat

On Christmas day I eat gingerbread
cookies with cold milk

Sometimes we drink hot chocolate
with marshmallows

When we wake up, we see what Santa brought
us and we play with the toys

Sometimes we make stuff out
of the wrapping paper

I am always so excited on Christmas!

News Years' Eve

by Licandro Garcia

I celebrate New Years with my mom,
my dad, and sister and brother
We wear cowboy hats and cowboy boots
just like they do in Mexico
We eat rice and chicken, dance
and play games
We take many pictures and cheer
Happy New Year at midnight

First Time at School

by Shani K. Gerald

The first time I, went to school I, was worried.
I was really shy.
But now I, am starting to know my classmates.
I have a lot of best buds. I have a hand shake
with my best bud Chrya.
I am so happy I know my friend now.

The First Day of School

by Sumaya Hossain

The first day of school made me cry.
When I was in class it was a blast.
I made new friends and they helped to get
ready
So I can read to Ms. Peady.
She liked my reading and gave me a sticker.
I learned about Math
Then I drew a path
With spelling words that were fun.
I then gave school a run

Honorable Mention Grade 2

**What I Enjoy Most is Spending
Time With My Parents**

by Osaretin Imarhia

Playing games with my mom is fun to do.
She likes Mario and I do too!
We sit in church and listen.
Our pastor speaks to us.
He tells us to help and to trust.

My dad lives far away.
When I visit I get to stay.
I wrestle play and laugh and sleep
Until the blow up bed is ready
For me to jump in bed and rest.

A visit with my dad and relatives
Swimming, bowling, out to eat.
My dad is a wonderful person
He really is the best!
These two people I love the most.
These special parents that I boast.

Big Sister

by Gianna Noriega

The first time I saw my baby sister I was so
happy that I hugged and kissed her.
And then I noticed there
was more than just one.
I thought to myself, boy this will be fun!
I have two babies to play with
and make messes.
And when it comes to big sisters
I'll be the bestest.
I'll watch them, feed them and always be there.
Tell them everyday that I'll always care.
I was always the small one of the bunch,
But now I'm a big sister and the twins love me
so much!!

HALLOWEEN

by Natalie Placencio

Halloween was great!
I celebrated with my family.
I wore a devil costume.
I went Trick or Treating.
I was so tired,
but I was just so excited
That I just couldn't sleep!

Reading's Fun

by Jacolby David Waker

I love to read, it's very fun.
I even read in the sun.
From chapter books to books
about nappers
I like it all.

So, Mr. Cappers Now that's done can I buy a
book, please just one.
See I was talking to old librarian Mr. Cappers
and his partner, Mrs. Happers.

Paterson Kaleidoscope

2010 PATERSON STUDENTS' POETRY CONTEST

Honorable Mention Grade 3

GRADE 3

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Syed Ahmed	Happy Eid!	19	3	Mrs. Hooyman
Nestor Cadenas	SOCCER	29	3	Ms. Pincus
Jy'llean Castillo	The Amazing School	29	3	Ms. Pincus
Itzel Garcia	This is My First Dog	19	3	Mrs. Hooyman
Justyn Hall	My first concert	Norman S. Weir	3	Mrs. Taylor
Mariana LaCotera	The Cool Blue Sea	Norman S. Weir	3	Mrs. Taylor
Tashica Phillips	My First Rainbow	New Roberto Clemente	3	Ms Ewan
Hipolito Santana	Speed Racing	29	3	Ms. Pincus
Tykera Williams	Winter	Paterson Academy for Urban Leadership	3	Mrs. Mulvaney

Honorable Mention Grade 3

Happy Eid!

by Syed Ahmed

I know it is
a special holiday.
When the sun comes
up.

It makes me happy.
It's like a crystal
of sunlight through
the mid-air.

It is
Eid!!

Soccer

by Nestor Cadenas

Soccer is the best.
I have to make a goal,
but every time I try I just hit it in the pole.
I compete every time.
I win and I lose.
But every time I play,
I end up with a bruise!
When I play goalie I feel like I'm the worst.
When the game is done, I line up first.
When I am at soccer I have to pass.
But Soccer is so much more fun than class!

The Amazing School

by Jy'lleean Castillo

As teachers write on the board
the markers streak
multiplication Is like the click and clatter
of water on The windowpane
Reading stories are like rhythms appearing
across my head
Don't get me started About cursive
the bumps Are like hills
school makes me happy

This is My First Dog

by Itzel Garcia

He is like a brother to me.
When I come back from school
He starts to bother me a lot.
He is a little brother to me now.
When we play soccer, he wants to play too.
But this is what he does
He takes the ball away from us.
My dog is still a bother -
But I still love the
Little bother

My First Concert

by Justyn Hall

My first concert I went to see,
My three sisters and me
We went by car,
Because it was far
And we saw the Jonas Brothers,
Play the guitar
I was surprised to see Jordin Sparks,
Some parts of the show were dark
I was so excited and was having so much fun,
I couldn't be quiet when the concert begun
I was dancing and singing,
I could hear people screaming
My sister bought me a glow stick and shirt
There were thousands of people but no one
got hurt
We took some Pictures so mommy could see,
Just how happy the concert made me.

Honorable Mention Grade 3

The Cool Blue Sea

by Mariana LaCotera

I see my reflection like a mirror
Excitement rushes through me
Like a wave on the ocean
I dive in
The water surrounds me
It is like nothing I have
Experienced before
I am in another world
With eyes closed I swim
Along with the dolphins
I feel so free

My First Rainbow

by Tashica Phillips

As colorful as crayons
As beautiful as a baby
As huge as the twin towers
I love rainbows

Speed Racing

by Hipolito Santana

Loud sounds roar like a tiger
when the engine starts.
When you crash
it makes a flash.
The cars go fast, at last.
You need the speed when you're going to race.
Maybe you will land in outer space!
In the pit stop they change the wheels and
move you with steel.

Winter

by Tykera Williams

Why is your icy breath freezing the air?
I like to play with my friends in your snow
Never melt away
Teeth chatter in mouth
Everyone loves to romp in your blanket of cold
Rain turns into snow

WHAT YOU DREAM

2010 PATERSON STUDENTS' POETRY CONTEST

Honorable Mention Grade 4

GRADE 4

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Julian Caceres	I Enjoy	29	4	Mrs. Karcher
Zahkeir Carter	My Dog	19	4	Ms. Regina
Khayla Flemmings	I Enjoy Spending Time With My Mom	29	4	Mrs. Karcher
Jason Gutierrez	The First Time I Met My Cousins	27	4	Ms. Leslie
Franciel Jimenez	Mothers Day	New Roberto Clemente	4	Ms. Hodges
Ayah Omar	Eid	9	4	Mrs.Fodi
Reinaldo Rivera	The Snake for Christmas	New Roberto Clemente	4	Ms. Hodges
Amonte Simmons	The Basketball Game	Renaissance One	4	Ms. Raywood
Savanah Suarez	My First Time	14	4	Ms. Gerry
Thamena Sultan	One Night as a Princess	27	4	Mrs. Santana

Honorable Mention Grade 4

I Enjoy

by Julian Caceres

I enjoy spending time with my father ...
He went to Las Vegas for two years.
I really missed him.
Although, he called, that really did not do it.
He came back in October.
I was really happy.
We went outside first thing and played soccer.
Then we went home and had a delicious BBQ.
We finished and watch a movie.
On that day, I was the happiest.
It was the happiest day of my life.
I really enjoy being with my father.

My Dog

by Zahkeir Carter

He isn't young anymore
Brown and black fur with brown eyes
Listens, sleeps, and annoys me a lot
I love that dog!
He eats, sleeps and plays all the time
I just want to snuggle with him all day
Sometimes he's my favorite dog.
I love that dog
He comes in my room day and night
To eat, sleep, and to get my attention
Sometimes I think he's jealous of my sister
But, I love that dog!
He thinks he's the baby all the time
But he isn't
I still love that dog!

I Enjoy Spending Time With My Mom

by Khayla Flemmings

I enjoy spending time with my mom
She is the one, who really understands me,
even more than my friends.
I love being with her
reading our books in the bed
or watching sad movies with her.
She is the one who fills
the black hole in my heart.
The love we share goes through everything;
scary or beautiful.
We stick up for each other through
thick or thin.
I love my mom.

The First Time I Met My Cousins

by Jason Gutierrez

It was raining cats and dogs
I got in a red car
And headed to the airport
I was excited to finally meet them
My cousins from Oregon!
Tall, friendly and well mannered
They spoke about their state
And how quiet and safe it is
My dad had not seen them
For fifteen years
But we have so much in common

Mothers Day

by Franciel Jimenez

As I look in the mirror
what do I see?
The face of my mother looking at me
The same freckled face looking at me
My mother and I have hair so curly
that even I think it is so girly
But Mother's Day is here
So give up a cheer
Embrace your mother and let
her know
How much you love her so
Yes, I see my face like my mothers
looking back at me
It's like my mother
I want to be

Honorable Mention Grade 4

Eid

by Ayah Omar

Fasting is over, good deeds are done

Its time to celebrate a day of fun

People go to the mosque to pray

People are fortunate it's a special day

Everyone is wearing their new fancy clothes

Cars are flashing on the roads

Families end their day and say

Thank you for an unforgettable, sacred day!

The Basketball Game

by Amonte Simmons

When I'm running down the court
The crowd is roaring, as the sweat
rolls down my cheek,

I grab with my left and push
with my right, and swoosh ... it's in!

The beat of my heart thumps
to the sound of the dribbling ball,

I gasp, taking my last breath,
hoping it's before the referee calls

I pass to my teammate and he scores!
The smell of the leather on the ball is nice

How it feels bouncing,
up and down the court
Oh how I love basket ball,
Oh, how I love it all!

The Snake for Christmas

by Reinaldo Rivera

I got a snake for Christmas

All the snake does is hiss.

It was striped black and white

All it does is bite and fight

It was a monster

And that was for sure

His name is Jake

And he gave me a headache

I got a snake for Christmas

All the snake does is hiss

Honorable Mention Grade 4

My First Time

by Savannah Suarez

Oh! Wow! I remember,
I remember the first time
Tying my shoes was very hard
At the beginning, I started to whine.
"Mommy, Mommy!" I screamed out loud,
"I tied my shoes and now she's proud.
I've never tied double bunny ears,
This has been going on for seven years.
That was the first time,
The first time I tied my shoes
Until this day I made a vow
I can tie my shoes
Now, I will take a bow.

One Night as a Princess

by Thamena Sultan

Everyone is staring ...
One night to be something I want to be
It won't last long
But I am enjoying it!
I feel like I am in a fairy tale
A minute later
Someone asks me to dance
My very first dance
But it just comes to me
Like a flash from the past
It is like a dream ...
Morning came
The magic remains!

WHAT YOU DREAM

2010 PATERSON STUDENTS' POETRY CONTEST

Honorable Mention Grade 5

GRADE 5

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Ivana Gavrilovic	What Is That Falling From The Sky	27	5	Mrs. Alia
Salma Kurury	The Thing I Most Enjoy	C.J.R 9	5	Mrs. Moreno
D'ijah Mottley	Last Christmas	12	5	Mrs, Osback
Andrew Ocasio	My First Dog	27	5	Ms. Medina
Katherine Rosario	I Enjoy the Grande River	Renaissance One	5	Mrs. McCaffrey
Amani Shamroukh	Nature...	C.J.R. 9	5	Mrs. Enyart
Kadian Smith	Papa; Why'd You Leave Me?	Renaissance One	5	Mrs. McCaffrey
Qian Zhang	Chinese New Year	27	5	Mrs. Alia

Honorable Mention Grade 5

What Is That Falling From The Sky

by Ivana Gavrilovic

When I was a child
I saw something white
It looked really funny,
It looked like ice
I didn't know what it was
I thought it was a flower
It fell from the sky
I didn't know what it was,
I was really happy
I snuck out of the house,
I stuck out my tongue
I tasted the white flowers
They fell from the sky
They tasted funny,
They tasted like strawberries,
Sweet and soft
I thought, "what is this?"
It was snow!

The Thing I Most Enjoy

by Salma Kurury

The thing I most enjoy is drawing.
I enjoy it because I can draw so many things. I can
draw the waves softly crashing on the shore
or I can draw an intense storm cloud coming
from the east.
I watch as it grows and expands on the page.
Sometimes, I paint my drawing.
I like to watch in amazement as the paint
spreads itself almost immediately
across my drawing,
blooming with vibrant colors,
a swimming sea of oranges, yellows, reds,
purples, and blues.
It captures my attention, and I focus
on it more than anything else, as I should. I
wonder, constantly,
about how I can bring my drawing to life. I try
to think of things to add to my drawing.
Most thoughts are queer indeed, but the rest
make sense. When my picture is finished,
I look at it with excitement and I am thinking:
A new picture is bom!

Last Christmas

by D'ijah Mottley

Last Christmas, I remember when I got my
first Hannah Montana doll
I loved it so much it was like my own child,
She wore a purple shirt, blue shoes, blue jeans
and she has a button on her belly button,
She sings "You Can Have the Best of Both
Worlds",
I loved that doll and I even tried to wear the
same shirt, shoes, and jeans,
Tried to make a microphone
and attach it to my ear, too,
She was the music I'll my ears that I have
always wanted to hear.
I still remember this from my last Christmas.

Honorable Mention Grade 5

My First Dog

by Andrew Ocasio

My first dog is special to me
He is so adorable and funny
When I got him in June, I was so excited.
I got him in shape by running
in the hall for exercise
I gave him his first bath
It was hard, he wouldn't stop moving
I tried to train him but it was really hard
Jake Never Listened!!
I was never bored when I played with Jake
We would play fetch
We ran around the house
He would always try to bite
me but he was too slow
I treated Jake like my brother
We watched TV together
I always wanted a little brother,
Jake was my brother.
When Jake wanted to go outside for a walk, we
jogged around the block 2 times
When he got his first shot he didn't feel it
I like playing with Jake he is so much fun
I will always protect Jake
When I sleep on my bed he jumps
up and sleeps beside me
I will never forget Jake
I will always love him

I Enjoy the Grande River

by Katherine Rosario

Grande River, so green and cool
It sparkles at night like stars in the sky.

Grande River, your currents so strong.
They blow me away to my secret place,
Near your rocks, covered with leaves.

Grande River, your fish swim as fast as horses.
They hide from the fishermen
in your dark caves,
and your bright seaweed.

I love the Grande River in the DR
My home place,
My home star.
I enjoy the Grande River!

Nature

by Amani Shamroukh

I enjoy everything in Nature
From tiny purple lilacs
To towering redwood trees
From ducks splashing in ponds
To swarming bumble bees
I enjoy wildflowers growing in fields
And running rivers and streams
I enjoy all Nature's yields
From enormous snowy mountains
To small grassy hills
To powerful winds
Used to generate mills
I really enjoy everything in Nature

Honorable Mention Grade 5

Papa, Why'd You Leave Me?

by Kadian Smith

This ain't the first time I've been depressed.

Papa, why'd you leave me?

What'd I ever do wrong that displeased you?

Papa, why'd you leave me?

I feel like a baby lying
helplessly on the ground.

Papa, why'd you leave me?

I miss you so much.

I never got to see your face close up.

Papa, why'd you leave me?

Someday, I am going to find
you for the first time.

Papa, why'd you leave me

Chinese New Year

by Qian Zhang

Happiness fills the air

Everyone comes together to be friends

I wear red for good luck

Red as a rose

We give money to family members

The joy spreads

Firecrackers POP! POP! POP! POP!

Lions dance

We laugh We play

Joy fills the whole day

Foods on the table

Yummm.

Lobsters, shrimps, soups

All different kinds of foods

We clean the house

Sparkles fill the ground

We dance, We eat

Then watch parades

People give out toys and books

We are wished good luck

The Year Of The Tiger

It's a new year!

Full of joy

Memories of 4706

Plans for 4707

This is my new year!

WHAT YOU DREAM

2010 PATERSON STUDENTS' POETRY CONTEST

Honorable Mention Grade 6

GRADE 6

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL	GRADE	TEACHER
Masuma Begum	The Queens Seasons	2	6	Ms. Andretta
Sydney Cheron	My First Dog	B.U.I.L.D. Academy	6	Mrs. Lape
Nahid Chowdhury	My first day in school	2	6	Ms. Andretta
Sergio Dejesus	First Day	Norman. S. Weir	6	Mrs.Aquart
Jahvon DeVine-Jones	Apples	Nonnan S. Weir	6	Ms.Aquart
Segundo Garcia	Food	2	6	Ms. Andretta
Anel Melo	Shopping	B.U.I.L.D. Academy	6	Mrs. Lape
Arielmy Morel	What I Enjoy Most	B.U.I.L.D. Academy	6	Mrs. Lape
Luis Murga	"My First Time in America"	B.U.I.L.D. Academy	6	Mrs. Lape

Honorable Mention Grade 6

The Queens Seasons

by Masuma Begum

Brighter than light,
whiter than sheets,
colder than fire,
beautiful than anything.

When the first shining crystal hits the floor,
all of it will come to your door.
The diamond sheet covers every street.

This is work of art,
with snowman sculptures
and the icy streets.

This is nature,
with it's snow flake,
and a little cupcake.

The queen of winter,
rules every snow,
also the crystal cove.

The first step into the,
then a tasty treat in the stove.

This is what I enjoy,
but not playing with toys,
but with hot chocolate,
marshmallows and warmth,
this winter is a start.

"My First Dog".

by Sydney Cheron

He was small, furry, and oh so cute,
I love the way he looked at me,
With his big brown eyes that light up the sky,
It made my heart sing,
Like a sweet lullaby.
He jumped up when you said his name,
And liked to play the game called fetch,
All day long at the park, my pup
was such a sweetheart,
But now he's gone and I am oh so sad,
I want my small furry best friend
and cute dog back.

My First Day in School

by Nahid Chowdhury

My first day in school remembered clear,
Yet I am still here,
It was 8:21,

I remembered half of my
summer homework wasn't done,

Fear was my first emotion,
I still had to put on lotion,
I found out it was ninety-three degrees,
Hopefully I won't freeze,

I had a strange feeling I didn't know why,
Oh yeah my mom forgot to say goodbye,
Well I already took off,

All of a sudden I felt to cough,
I finally got to school,
I thought that was cool.

I went in,

To my right I saw a recycling bin.
Then the security guard startled me,

I said don't do that again please,
She was like why this late,

I was like what do you mean, no reason to debate.
She asked me "Who are you?"

I told her I wasn't new,

My name is Nahid,
You never saw me?

I just ran, That was my plan.

I went to the third floor,
Walking up the stairs made me tired more.

Everything looked the same,
Hopefully no one forgot my name.

I went to my class,

Alii heard was squeaking rats.

No one was at the school except the guard,
I know I remembered to bring my school card,
Where was everyone!

I thought this day would be fun,
Wait I remembered something,

I remembered everything.
I remembered that we were going to a trip on the
first day,

The whole school, Yay!;
The school is all mine! No one worry I'll be fine.

I was late to school,

Yes I am a fool,

Me being late on the first day of school,
Caused me to have fun without any rules.

Earlier I felt weird.

I knew it I wasn't near.

I had my fun,

There is so much to come,
A new school year has begun.

Honorable Mention Grade 6

First Day

by Sergio Dejesus

First day of school scary,
Everyone is shy and not close by,
The teachers are like officers steady and nice.
They're making sure you're in order,
Looking at your every move,
Better watch out or you will lose.
After a while you feel safe,
You realize it isn't a bad place.
All of your emotions are set in place.
Then it become an exciting and interesting
place,
You make friends; meet and greet.
Now it is fun to be here.
You work all day but it's still fun,
The best place is next to the window,
Where the shine comes from the sun,
It gets better and better every minute,
You never know what will come next!

Apples

by Jahvon DeVine-Jones

Apples, apples, a marvelous fruit.
Its taste is like sweet hannony,
It never goes away.
The first bite is delightful.
The second even more.
The more you eat the more you will adore!
You notice as you eat,
the apple starts to shrink
Then ,you start to ignore what you think.
Continuing to eat is something
you would ponder.
The minute apple is starting to disappear.
You're too stuck in the taste to even care.
You are oblivious to the change.
All of sudden, the seeds rush in.
There's no more sweet goodness.
You feel very melancholy.
It's okay because ...
You can still remember the sweet taste.
You'll never forget it.
It will stay with you forever.

Honorable Mention Grade 6

FOOD

by Segundo Garcia

Yummy, yummy! I crave and crave!
Crunch, mmmm, burgers, fries,
drinks and 2 more sides of fries.
Medium is my size
Line line, go, go! I want my food,
so I can go, go!
Milkshake, any flavor, chocolate
bars on me, with peanuts.
In my mouth crunchy ...
Hot dogs, yellow mustard,
I got my burgers!
Bye! but, before I leave
give me some fries!

"Shopping"

by Anel Melo

Everybody loves, Shopping loves you,
and you shop
Everyday and you see something new.
You see the sparkle,
You see the shoes,
You see something you would like,
But there's much more too.
You see Aeropostale
And Rave Girl too,
You want a sweater that would,
Make your shoes wanna be you!

"What I Enjoy Most"

by Arielmy Morel

I adore his poems,
From the poet Robert Frost.
I'd love to read them ali,
No matter the cost!

My favorite poem of his,
Fire and Ice
I can't explain why,
But it is just so nice.

I read them when I'm sad,
And they get me through it all.
When I read them I don't feel bad,
I feel strength like being 10 feet tall.

I adore his poems,
From the poet Robert Frost,
I'd love to read them ali,
No matter the cost!

"My First Time in America"

by Luis Murga

When you see the rising sun light,
You remember that you are
feeling what's right,
You get down off the plane,
You see all the lanes off the highway.
You get in the car and see a maze of bridges,
You can't believe your eyes.
Seeing skyscrapers taller than the sky itself,
You know it's all going to be a beautiful sight.
By taking this adventurous flight!

WHAT YOU DREAM

2010 PATERSON STUDENTS' POETRY CONTEST

Honorable Mention Grade 7

GRADE 7

NAME	POEM	SCHOOL GRADE		TEACHER
Marufa Aktar	Baby Sister	5	7	Mr. Gerson
Avery R. Flynn	I Left Today, But	5	7	Mr. Gerson
Idalix Granados	My First Rollercoaster Ride.	Norman S.Weir	7	Mrs. Aquart
Jesus Salazar	My First Fight	7	7	Ms. Polo

Honorable Mention Grade 7

Baby Sister

by Marufa Aktar

the first day I saw those chocolate brown eyes
 those sweet cherry lips
tiny hands that are trying to reach mine
echo of that little cry which made me knew
 my dreams are fulfilled
the first day I saw those tiny legs crawling
 around the house
 voice, quiet as a mouse
 hands that are trying to reach the couch
 legs bending up and down
those sweet cherry lips wide with laughter
the first day I saw her packing her book bag
 ready to go
 ready to learn
 ready to grow
laces on her shoes tied like a love knot
bright belt on her hips tight as my mother's hugs
those sweet cherry lips wide with answers
the first day I saw her
i knew that she was going to
be the best baby sister anyone can have

I Left Today, But

by Avery r. Flynn

I left today but
Tomorrow never came
I did sky diving, eating
 Types of food
 Meeting new friends.

I left today but
Tomorrow never came
My hair was red-orange and brown
 Stacks, stacks, and stacks
 Of goodies in my backpack
 I was too good to act
 So I was smacked down waiting
 To wake upon this dream
It had almost gave me a nightmare?

I said ride play you
Yeah. But in a happy way
 Hey, hey, hey, hey
Wait a minute 2 minutes 3 minutes
 4 minutes 5 minutes but
 Wait a minute.
I got to go back into my house. Forgot
 To eat my spinach. My
 Day is now
 Finished!

Honorable Mention Grade 7

My First Fight

by Jesus Salazar

Living in the bad street called River St
There are always fights in
the middle of the night.
I had never been in a fight little did
I know today would be the
day that all of that of that
Would change.
Before the fight I felt scared,
nervous angry and unprepared.
During the fight I thought to myself, Don't give up don't give up
Don't give up don't fall down.
Hit him hard this is not a fair
fight but I refuse to give up tonight.
When the fist started to fling there
was no denying this was stupid ..

"My First Rollercoaster Ride."

by Idalix Granados

There I look up high way up in the sky. To see standing still, up tall, right in front of me. Just
looking at it gave me the chills running along my back and on my arms.
My first rollercoaster ride.

"Boom, boom, boom, boom!" My heart is beating, can't you just hear it. Eyes pop out, wide
open and all I hear was the scream of those who are terrified. But I was not afraid,
I guess. My first rollercoaster ride.

As I trembled on waiting in line, I suddenly felt small. Icky sweat dripping off my face and the
walls closing up on me, even though there are none. Air, getting harder and harder to breathe.
Wait! I'm suppose to be brave, I guess. I'm not waiting any more. My first rollercoaster ride.

Muscles in my body getting tense as the ride begins. They start to loosen as I feel the warm
fresh air, blowing my hair everywhere. Now I know the scream is not for terror but for laughter
and joy. All the energy in the world with a rush in my soul. But a good rush, you know. There's
something in common. Up and Down my heart and rollercoaster go.

This is my first rollercoaster ride!

Paterson Kaleidoscope

2010 PATERSON STUDENTS' POETRY CONTEST

Honorable Mention Grade 8

GRADE 8

Samuel Aljun	First Poem of Perfection	5	8	Mrs. Pabst
Ohidur Choudhury	My Girl	5	8	Mrs. Benicaso
Luzlenny De La Cruz	The Beginning of a New Life	5	8	Mrs. Pabst
Emmanuel Geraldino	My Fastball	18	8	Mrs. Mulvihill
Karen Goldsmith	First Accomplishment	5	8	Ms. Prevosti
Jahnee Hiller	The Brother	5	8	MS. Prevosti
Mohammad Hoque	The first time.	Dr. Frank Napier Jr. School	8	Ms. Capers
Tamara Joseph	My First Basketball Game	Dr. Frank Napier Jr. School of Technology	8	Ms. Capers
Nicole Lopez	The First Time I Saw My Baby Sister	Dr. Prank Napier Jr. School of Technology	8	Ms. Capers
Luzmairy Ortiz	The New Student	5	8	Mrs. Pabst
Farzana Uddin	Photography	5	8	Mrs. Pabst

Honorable Mention Grade 8

First Poem of Perfection

by Samuel Arjun

I remember when it happened
It was a bright sunny afternoon
I was very nervous, I had the sweats
My sweat glands opened up like an empty hole in space like the black hole
My teacher was looking for a poem of perfection
I was hesitant to do so,
So I sat in my seat
Gazing at the sheet of paper before me
The thought appeared in my head once again
My teacher was looking for a poem of perfection
My mind went blank
I quickly looked at the clock
Time was passing by faster than the speed of light
I thought that time itself had despised me
I had yet to begin to write a poem of perfection
I thought to myself, "How will I ever begin this poem?
How long have I been sulking in my seat?
How long has the wretched teacher been looking at me?
How long will I suffer?
How will I write this poem of perfection?"
I began to look around my classroom
I saw that my peers were nearly done
I also sighted the white empty walls
This reminded me of my white blank sheet of paper
Oh how, oh how, how would I make this imperfect paper, into a poem of perfection?
I finally began to think of my topic
I began to think of my family
Then I began to think of my friends
Then my stomach growled
Then, I began to think of a poem of perfection ...
All of sudden, something came to my mind
Light bulbs lit up in my head
My pencil began to race upon the sheet of paper
I finished with the closing of my name
At last I had finished the poem of perfection

Honorable Mention Grade 8

My Girl

by Ohidur Choudhury

A "first" is something
we will always remember
It stays in our minds, at times forever
It is a large foot forward
Not one backward
Oh how surreal!
People will go as far as to say,
"Oh, for real?"
It seems as if it only were yesterday when I
met my true love
This is how I met my beloved
As I followed my way,
I walked through what seemed to be haze
Until I saw a bright light,
This all seemed very right.
So I began to chase this wretched light
I walked forward with all
my courageous might
And into the clearing I seemed to come
Stood before me a girl more beautiful than
the sun. And to her, I chose to run
She was my only one
I was filled by her grace
As I took gaze upon her face,
I soon realized that my
heart had begun to race
Was I pleased?
Or was I displeased?
I hoped it was the first,
For this was what I dearly thirst
I wished to bear her in my arms
Take her away from the world's harms

To be there when she's sad,
Even when she may be mad
But, most certainly when she's glad
Are these words enough to say?
One cannot describe her in merely a day.
To describe such an exquisite
thing is impossible,
Though I hope through my words it may
become indeed possible
Then came her soul,
Separate from the whole.
Soft and much delicate
Sweet and really elegant
She expressed her care
Her heart was but a flair,
And to her I did not wish to bring any pain
For she is my only gain
She deserved only love,
For she was as beautiful as a dove
That had convinced me that she was truly an
angel sent from above
So to her I only wished to bring love
For if anyone were to harm her,
I would strike them down
Strike them down, right
into the unholy ground
She overall seemed so divine,
I wanted her to be mine
I truly desired for her to touch me with her
angelic palm,
No sooner did I realize, she was my Mom!

Honorable Mention Grade 8

The Beginning of a New Life

by Luzlenny De La Cruz

It was October thirteenth
The stars were as shiny as could be
I gazed over her pink tiny crib
She was beautiful
She yawned and giggled
As she opened her huge, sparkling, brown
eyes
Her skin was so soft and smooth
I was scared to hold her, but when I did
My life changed in one instance
It was the birth of my little sister
Who would have thought
that such a small thing
Could grow to be such a wonderful gift

My Fastball

by Emmanuel Geraldino

I throw my fastball with all my speed
I don't worry because I have all I need
I throw it down the middle and you hear a pop!
Was that a missile or a rock?
The batter misses and the crowd chants
I'm staying strong in my pitching stance

I concentrate and throw the ball
The batter tips it and that's all
I throw the ball so hard my arm rattles
I'm trying so hard to win this battle
I strike him out with a blazing pitch
He didn't know what he swung at what a miss

The other team got furious and began to scream
I kept my cool and balance like I'm on
a balance beam
It didn't affect me so I kept cool
In my mind I said what a bunch offools
My father was happy to see me succeed
I was very happy inside oh yes indeed

"Strike three you're out"
And I heard the crowd yell
That's what I'm capable of
Only two innings left so I better do well

I want to strike these guys out and that's for good
Just one more out that's all I need
So I can rest and be in peace
I throw the ball with all my might
I'm staying strong, no need to fight

I really want to win this game
Then suddenly I felt some pain
My arm and shoulder were very tired
But boy, did I have that winning desire
I forgot there was someone on first base
I was trying to win this game like a race
The batter is one strike away
I'm going to take him out and make my day
Pop! Strike three the batter is out
I told you that's what I'm all about
We won the baseball game
I was tired and felt a little bit of pain
I patted myself on the back
So how about that~
I went home and rested my arm
I feel like a medallion, a good luck charm

Honorable Mention Grade 8

First Accomplishment

by Karen Goldsmith

Accomplishment, a fourteen letter word that means a lot
Accomplishment is different from everything else
To some, accomplishment means to try something new if you wish
To others it means watching your parents full of happiness
as they watch you get your diploma
To me, accomplishment means to pursue your passion
My first accomplishment wasn't getting my very first diploma
Nor the excitement of winning anything in life
Nor having some of my crazy wishes coming true
My first accomplishment was an opportunity to audition for an acting company
When I got the casting e-mail, I was very excited and astonished
Acting is one of my passions in life
Life would be lifeless like a cemetery '
Without acting, life would be monotonous
I practiced and practiced my script until my brain began to ache
On the day of my audition, I was anxious
I was very cautious of how I looked, as usual .
The people there were as nervous and excited as I was
All were hoping to be accepted
I waited patiently until my turn came up
When it was my turn, I fixed my brown hair with pink highlights and said ...
"This is it; your undiscovered talent will now be revealed".
When I went in front of the camera, and the casting director said go,
I recited my script fluently and lively, until I stumbled upon a word.
I was shaking and panicking
Until I decided to continue with no dismay
The casting director gave me a serious look
When I saw the look on his face I was furious with myself
Until he broke the serious look and said, "Good job!"
I became flattered
I never found out if I was accepted or not
but I was proud of my accomplishment!

Honorable Mention Grade 8

The Brother

by Jahnee Hiller

The first time I met my big brother
I was only five years old
I was so anxious, and he was frightened
When I met him I felt like
I was not alone anymore
The first time I met my big brother people
said, "You met your big
brother at five years old?"
I said,
"Yes"
They responded with "How can that be?"
My big brother was six years old. He was so
frightened that he ran
from me.
Something inside me made
me so comfortable.
I was impressed by his appearance;
he looked familiar.
He was a spitting image of my Dad.
The first hug made me feel warm and tight.
The first time I met my big brother
At five years old, he made
me feel like a big girl.
The name of my big brother is Tyus Jackson,
And he still makes me feel all warm inside..

The First Time.

by Mohammad Hoque

The first time I had an F on my report card.
The first time I had an F on my report card I
was sad and disappointed.
I was as paranoid as the old man
in the Tell Tale Heart.
My heart raced as I worried that I would get a
million more of F's on my
report card just because of one.
The first time I had an F on my report card.

The first time.
The first time I had A's and B's
on my report card.
The first time I had A's and B's on my report
card I felt like I was on top of the world.
I felt as free as an eagle that
soars above the mountain side.
Then I began to worry that all my A's and B's
could turn into F's and D's.
The first time I had A's and B's
on my report card.

Honorable Mention Grade 8

My First Basketball Game

by Tamara Joseph

Arriving at Public School # 9 for my first basketball game coming in from the cold made me nervous and

I felt butterflies from my stomach to my toes.

I heard the crowd roaring and cheering as the other team transitioned in line.

My team went to the locker room and quickly put on our black and orange.

We all ran up the stairs to join the excitement as our basketball shorts bounced in the air.

While the teams were being introduced, I still felt my nerve endings obtrude.

After the introduction, my team played first. We glided onto the court as the referee threw the ball into midair. Two girls jumped for the ball.

And to my dismay, my teammate received the ball, dribbled, and passed me the play.

I dribbled down the court and shot the ball. The crowd began to cheer as I recall.

The butterflies I felt no more remained as ignored the crowd and did the best I could during the game.

For the rest of the game, I made lay ups and jump shots. Time was running out and my teammate had the ball as the coaches scream and shout.

Since there was only ten minutes left in the game my teammate faked and swerved
Up the ball went SWOOSH!

Defending our orange and black, our joy and pride, we played as hard as we could and took it all it stride.

The count down began and the whistles blew. Time was up. The winners prevailed with fame. It didn't matter because I played and had fun with the rest of my team in my first basketball game.

The First Time I Saw My Baby Sister

by Nicole Lopez

The first time I saw my baby sister,
Emotions trailed throughout my mind.

Misty eyed I appeared as I hugged her.

She almost awoke, but fell
back into a deep sleep.

The first time I saw my baby sister,
I asked my mother, jokingly, why she hadn't
made me as beautiful.

As she awoke, I saw her big hazel eyes.

It made me happy to know
she knew she was a prize.

The first time I saw my baby sister,

I held her tight.

Her brownish blonde hair gently slipped
between my fingers

as she rested on my hand.

Her petite head was so small.

It felt as if I was holding
a soft cuddly teddy bear.

The first time I saw my baby sister.

Honorable Mention Grade 8

The New Student

by Luzmairy Ortiz

A tingling sensation when
I walked right through that door
Hoping that the children wouldn't
make fun of my clothes
Being introduced was nothing like
I have ever felt before
Coming to my new school
was something new for all
I sat next to a girl who always
made me laugh
And listened to my teacher as
she taught the morning class
I never felt so welcomed being new and all
But being in School #5, I felt the love of all
I didn't feel left out and
got to know people well
There were many different students
with many different cultures
The students and the teachers
treated me with kindness
And showed me that they'd be there
whenever I'm in trouble
I was talking to my new friends
one sunny afternoon
And getting to know them and the
things they like to do
When I went outside, I saw
the children play games
A group of girls approached me
and asked if I wanted to play
Thrilled, I said, "yes"
Sadly, recess had to come to an end
The clock struck three o'clock
Our teacher dismissed us one by one
My Mom picked me up
And she asked me how my day went
And with a smile I said, "Fabulous!"

Honorable Mention Grade 8

Photography

by Farzana Uddin

Photography isn't just taking pictures
It's about finding the beauty
that was once concealed
In the most frayed and explicit things
photography is feeling rhapsody
and adrenaline through your veins
When you capture the presence of something full of grace and reverence
Photography can alter the most vacant areas
And make you full of serenity
when you're alone.
Photography can do many things,
It can make one feel melancholy
or lighthearted
Photography can take the most aberrant things
And make them feel substantial
It doesn't mean to. just take pictures
I believe, it is a passionate hobby.

Paterson Kaleidoscope

2010 PATERSON STUDENTS' POETRY CONTEST

Honorable Mention Grade 9-12

GRADE 9

Glenn Belle	Judging a Book by its Cover	Eastside	9	Mrs. Van Houten
Yessenia Ruiz	Since You Left	Rosa Parks High School	9	Ms. Goch

GRADE 10

Luis De La Oz	America	Garrett Morgan	10	Mr. DiSebastian
Jasmine Eaton	My Dearest Beloved	JFK	10	Mrs. Wojcik
Michael A. Fotos	Family of First	Panther	10	Mrs. White
Shilah Harris	Sky of Dreams	JFK	10	Mrs. Wojcik
Erlene Nunez	Christmas Eve	Eastside	10	Mrs. Palzer/ Ms. Vitiello
Demetrey Rountree	Music	JFK	10	Mrs. Wojcik
Idati Santos	A White Memory	JFK	10	Mrs. Wojcik
Shilah Harris	Sky of Dreams	JFK	10	Mrs. Wojcik

GRADE 12

Satasia Barrett	My First Christmas	Garrett Morgan	12	Mrs. Cope
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Honorable Mention Grade 9

Judging a Book by its Cover

by Glenn Belle

I never thought I would see this coming.
Maybe if I read the 1st chapter, I would have
tasted what you were about.
On the outside you look as sweet as candy,
On the inside you were as sour as a lemon.
No hard feelings toward you at all,
but you left a hole in my heart and soul.
Deep as the abyss.
Maybe if I just read the conclusion first
to the story of my life
I would have done things differently
I thank you for the gift you gave me
That was the sweetest chapter
of the book of hard life

Since You Left

by Yessenia Ruiz

A home video was on
When I heard your voice.
It took a big toll
The day the angels took you back.
I can't keep my emotions under control.
Your image is burned inside my head.
I sigh with relief
That you haven't completely gone away.
I'm glad that part of you can stay,
And the pain can slowly go away.
When I saw your empty room
It reminded me of all
the things I should of said,
Before it was too late.
I tried to call out your name,
But the words can't escape.
All the pain can now subside.
I won't let the memories fade.
I just want you to know
That you were my Grandpa,
And I never wanted to see you go.

Honorable Mention Grade 10

America

by Luis De La Oz

My first day in America
I was happier then Godzilla
When he destroyed Tokyo.

Once I got to the air port
I went to immigration to
Put my finger print in a
Computer where all my info would be on.

Tic toc tic toc the clock
Move slower and slower.

Time passed and I left
the department of immigration
I got my suitcase and
Walked to the door and stopped.

I took a deep breath and walked
Slowly towards the door with
My mom and brother.

Siiiiii the door opened and the smell
Of fries was the first thing I smelled
And my mouth turned into water.

Someone called my name
'Luis, over here, Luis'
I stopped and looked around
and saw my father I cried like
I was as a puppy that got a home.

My Dearest Beloved

by Jasmine Eaton

Blue, black, silver and gray
The metallic beauty only
comes in a certain way

Certain colors, certain shapes, certain size
Its beautiful aura will have you mesmerized

My dearest beloved

Pearl black window tints

With an elusive set of braces

Silver chrome trimmings

With an elegant and classic

Form of dimming

My dearest beloved

Its style is like an oasis in a desert

Rain in a drought

In the mist of a famine, an appetizer

My dearest beloved

A 300 Hemi C Chrysler.

Honorable Mention Grade 10

Family of First
by Michael A. Fotos

That place felt like home,
Though I was a thousand miles away,
I began to feel safe and warm,
At least that's what I wanted to say,
What was the only truth?
I asked myself one day,
The answer was quite simple,
My life ... I hated it this way,
You see, being cooped up in a house,
Where your only friend is a mouse,
Isn't a life at all,
Going through seasons, summer, winter, fall,
It messes with your mind,
Splishing and splashing and brainwashing,
You wind up insane,
With emotional viruses deteriorating your
cellular membrane,
Until one glorious day arrives,
And you're a candidate for the pick,
You get so excited and you want to jump and
kick,
And when you're the one they want,
You're with a family, brother,
sister, mother, aunt,

You have them all,
But the first family I had,
Wasn't very careful,
But not at all bad,
They clothed and fed me,
Treated me like one of their own,
But in a vision an accident was foreshown,
Raining and dark as ever,
The crash was witty and clever,
It snuck up on us without warning,
No more brother, sister, mother, aunt,
It was back to the house old yet taunt,
But I reminisce about my
family a thousand miles up high,
And play pretend no matter how much I lie,
I dream of their bitter sweet song,
The way they sang, danced and played along,
All their smooth delicate skin,
Felt like heaven away from sin,
A family now long lost,
I'd give a fortune no matter the cost,
Even a rope to my neck or razor to my wrist,
I want to be with my first family and their bliss

Honorable Mention Grade 10

Sky of Dreams

by Shilah Harris

I've dreamed of the moonlight
closing in on her heart,

Her feeling of desire etching
through the ink colored sky.

Her coldness then being
replaced with warmth with the sky's sun.

Such a beautiful thing that I
myself have discovered on my own.

Everyday, there is always a new picture to see
in the sky, with clouds that looked whipped
with the most

expensive cream, and the forever
blue painted by the finest artist.

My dreams always consist of wings
being drawn on my back

The feeling of having flight at your grasp.
I fly the skies of the world all in one night.

I want to write about it's beauty
and feeling in someone else's mind.

I want other people to just look up at the sky
one day and its vast void of dreams.

One touch of it's alluring beauty and sinless
feel, may drive anyone to change
to a whole different person.

Once on a winter's day, snow fell beautifully on
to the cold ground. The sky looked it's finest,
as if going to an fancy ball or evening party.

The elegance of encrusted
jewels falling to eternity.

Silk ribbons flow freely in my hair,
showing my true feelings,

May the world withstand the very
essence of *it's existence*.

Christmas Eve

by Erlene Nunez

The long, boring bus ride was worth it.

The look on my mother's face,
the hugs, the kisses, the tears.

I missed it all. It was like an
empty hole in my heart.

Glad to be back! I smiled and said, "Hi!"

The family was waiting for me

Expecting the one they left.

Food was on the table, drinks in the fridge,

The speaker ready to be
blasted and the presents

Under the tree.

The house was lit up and the heat was on.

I stepped through the door;

They jumped on me all laughs and smiles.

I was finally happy!

Midnight arrived.

The kids couldn't wait anymore.

They wanted to see what Santa had blessed
them with.

I was home.

Honorable Mention Grade 10

Music

by Demetrey Rountree

I like the feel of the microphone in my hand
and the bass of the drums
is so loud the bass is pumping; the party is
jumping when you start hyping the crowd.

It's like an adrenaline rush
when you perform on stage
and you have the crowd chanting your name I
don't do it for the Danes,
I don't do it for the fame I just
do it for the love of the game.

Produce hits like Pharell, run empires like Hova
Have a band like Sean "Diddy" Combs When I
put those headphones over my ears Anything's
possible when I'm in my zone.

Own a label like Lil Wayne, endorsements like
50 Cent with my album sales over the top or
break records with my concerts, having dollar
bills, same level as the "King of Pop".

So if you dream you achieve
what you want to become you have a talent
don't be scared to use it
me I rap, dance, and sing so yea I do my thing
when I make beats and write my music.

A White Memory

by Idali Santos

I wake up.

I hear people yelling.

Snow! Was all I heard.

As I look out snowflakes fall down slowly.
Reminding me of flower petals on a spring
day.

They are majestic and beautiful.

Watching as they cover the ground.

Making it seem as if someone laid a blanket
upon it.

I walk out and feel the cold air pushing me
forward.

Icicles hanging from roof gutters.

Seeing them and hearing the
water droplets drip.

I build a snowman.

With time and precision I imagine every detail.

In time I finish it.

Perfect, was the word that came to mind.

When I walk in, I look back at every step I
took.

My steps formed prints.

Prints that will always be in my memory of a
perfect snow day

Honorable Mention Grade 12

My First Christmas

by Satasia Barrett

I was ten years old,
And we were celebrating Christmas.
The gifts made me feel good inside.
The wrapping paper,
Was colorful and shiny.
My family had so much fun together.
I enjoyed seeing them all around me.
I smelled the good food.
Everyone opened their gifts with excitement.
My aunt and uncle were singing Christmas carols.
My cousin, Nas, was crying.
He didn't like his plastic, robot toy.
But, when he got ready to go home,
He was happy.
He knew that his other, special gifts,
Were waiting for him at his house.
Everyone started to feel sad.
The feelings of excitement and happiness began to wear off.
Everyone was preparing to leave soon.
Then, they all put their sadness aside.
They knew there would be many more
Christmases to celebrate