

FIVE

THE 13TH



THE
SUPERSTITIOUS ISSUE
JUNE
2011



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FIVEY

THE LITERARY MAGAZINE OF THE 52ND STREET PROJECT

Smart Partners is the educational mentoring program of The 52nd Street Project. *Fivey* is the program's literary magazine.

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George Babiak

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue of *Fivey* magazine almost did not exist. Like the 13th floor in many buildings, we thought to ourselves, is it bad luck to create a 13th issue of *Fivey*? Should we just skip it this year, for fear of ruining this magazine's glowingly successful run over the past... gulp... 13 years? We even considered publishing this *Fivey* as the 14th issue, skipping that notoriously unlucky number. I mean, is anyone really counting? But it was Josh Moody, Development Associate of the Project, avid consumer of horror movies and ardent believer in countless superstitions, who convinced us to embrace the danger by coming up with the brilliant title gracing this cover, *Fivey the 13th: the Superstitious Issue*. It's kind of hard to say, right? Well, if you do so three times in rapid succession while holding an open umbrella indoors, simultaneously peering into a broken mirror, hopping on one foot back and forth over the back of a hissing black cat who is standing on a crack... well, just try it and you'll see what happens. We dare you.

And we dare you to read on. Turn the page to find even more silly superstitions specific to The 52nd Street Project, discovered by Smart Partners Michael Bannister and Jason Hare. Keep going for Tatiana Goode's painful, but ultimately inspiring true story of Legend, a friend whose bad luck on the playground left her with a "Bad Arm." On page 12, Edwin Rodriguez regales us with the tale of Steve-O, whose cursed Nike Jordans bring him face to face with an evil, smelly monkey. And if you're brave enough to make it to the very last page of this superstitious issue, Samantha Paduani's poem "Good Luck" will leave you feeling very fortunate, indeed.

— Liz Bell



DOUG NERVIK



VRV

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5 LITTLE-KNOWN 52ND STREET PROJECT SUPERSTITIONS

By Michael Bannister and Jason Hare



← 1) If you eat a Flyer Bar in the Five Angels Theater, your two front teeth will fall out. The only way to reverse this curse is to say Gus' name 40 times out loud before he makes his opening speech. If you eat the Flyer Bar in the theater after his opening speech, you have to come back the next day.

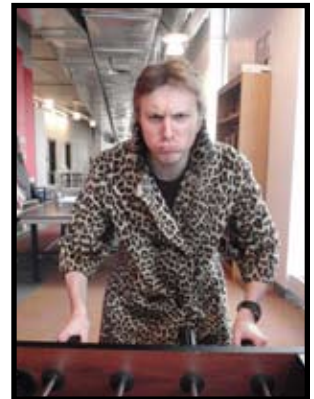


→ 2) While playing ping pong, if the score reaches 7-7 as a result of you spiking the ball, you will lose your next seven games. In order to avoid this horrible consequence, you must balance a ping pong paddle on your head until a staff member asks you what you're doing.



← 3) For a guaranteed standing ovation after a 52nd Street Project performance, walk in a circle around the center of the stage 16 times, and then do five jumping jacks.

→ 4) If you fill your cup of water with an uneven number of ice cubes in the 52nd Street Project kitchen, you will get frost-bite all over your body the next day it rains. To undo this chilly outcome, wear a fur coat during your next game of foosball.



← 5) If you eat the last apple in the bowl during Homework Help, and drink a cup of water to wash it down, an apple tree will grow in your stomach. There is only one solution to this dreadful punishment: you must eat a Flyer Bar in the Five Angels Theater.

DUN DUN DUNNNNNNNN!



GRB

BY
ENRIQUE
CABALLERO

One pickle ago and 3 hours, 8 minutes, and 5 seconds ago when I said one pickle ago, there was an ape and a monkey. Brothers at heart but still too cool for school.

"Hey, Monkey Boy, we got a mission to do," said Apeman.

"Okay," Monkey Boy said back.

IN SOME DUDE'S LAIR

The rain drops was falling down. "Hey it looks like it's raining," Monkey Boy said to Apeman.

"Duh, looks like any person without a brain can know that. So that means you have a brain. Well done, chum," Apeman said.

"Who go there? No, really, because I dropped my glasses and I can't see," said X-Dude. X-Dude is short and he has a mullet. Every time he talks he farts. He wears a ninja suit with a Z and no one knows why because his name is X-Dude. His super power is to run really, really fast and to leap over really tall buildings. His face is covered in pimples and he collects quarters.

"It's Apeman and Monkey boy," Apeman said.

"Ahhhh, a bomb, run!" X-Dude yelled.

"Look at that fat man running," Monkey Boy said.

"Stop making fun of me," X-Dude said. The lair blew up. X-Dude died. Apeman and Monkey Boy win for now...

Continued on next page...



BACK IN THE HERO'S LAIR

"Wow, that was easy," Monkey Boy said.

"Easy for you to say because I threw the grenade in there and you just stood there!" said Apeman.

"Hello, boys. How are you doing?" X-Dude said.

"X-Dude, I thought you were dead!" said Monkey Boy.

"No way, Jose. The bomb just flew me to Queens. But I took a bus here even though I could have run here with my super speed because I found a metro card on the floor and it worked," X-Dude said.

"Okay, cut the chit-chat!" said Apeman, "Let's fight."

X-Dude punches Apeman and his Spanish-to-English translator fell off. "Ayuda me por favor," said Apeman.

"Oh my God, you're speaking Spanish," said Monkey Boy. "That's it, you can run like a fat man away from a grenade that's about to blow up, and you can take a bus from Queens with a metro card that expires tomorrow, even though you can run and take 3 minutes to get to Manhattan, but you cannot punch my brother in the face and make him speak Spanish. Because now I got to go all the way to that hotdog stand that makes Spanish hotdogs in the Bronx so it's ON LIKE DONKEY KONG IN A THONG!!!!" Monkey Boy proclaimed to X-Dude as he started to pounce on him. While in the air he continued singing, "Y-M-C-A." Then Monkey Boy kicked him in the face with his hand-feet and then he punched him.

X-Dude said, "That's it." Then X-Dude punched Monkey Boy in the face.

And then some dude from the sidelines said, "Oh no, he punched him in the face," while eating nachos.

Then Monkey Boy grabbed him by the collar and for no reason ran to Florida and dropped him into a pool. Then he jumped on him and farted in his face. Then he grabbed a Nerf water gun and filled it with ice cream.

"Oh no, ice cream! It has too much sugar! I'm going to die because that's my weakness," X-Dude screamed.

"Oh no, that wasn't for you. The ice cream-filled Nerf gun was for me, but now that you told me that's your weakness I'm going to shoot you. And now since I said that I'll give you a 10-second head start," Monkey boy said. X-Dude started jogging and then Monkey Boy shot it and it hit X-Dude on the cheek then X-Dude melted like fudge on a really hot day. And all that remained was his clothes. Then Monkey Boy took X-Dude's wallet and grabbed \$150 and went to the nearest Spanish-to-English translator store and bought Apeman a new Spanish-to-English translator.

And then..

THE END!

ETERNAL LOVE

BY JASMINE HERNANDEZ

MY LOVE THAT I
CHERISHED, FOREVER.
I LOVED HIM,
HE LOVED ME.
WE ALWAYS HAVE BEEN THERE FOR
EACH OTHER.
BUT HE
BROKE MY
HEART LIKE A
BROKEN MIRROR.
IN DESPERATION
I CRY BY MYSELF
WITH NO ONE AROUND ME.
SEVERAL MONTHS WENT BY,
I HAVE THE DARKNESS IN
MY EYES AND IN MY HEART.
WATCHING MY TEARS DRIP FROM
MY FACE TO MY SKIN, FEELING LIKE ETERNAL
BLEEDING.
WEEKS HAVE GONE BY.
HE SPEAKS, HE SAYS SORRY.
I FORGIVE HIM.
HE LOOKS AT ME LIKE HE
WAS SCARED OF ME.
I STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM.



Jasmine with her friend Haley

BUT WE STILL HANG OUT.
ALSO HAVING MY DARKNESS
INSIDE OF ME EVERY TIME
I SEE HIM.
THEN BAM,
FLASHBACKS START TO ENTER.
IT'S KILLING MY HEAD.
I REALLY THINK I'M OBSESSED
WITH HIM.
I'M A DIFFERENT PERSON AROUND
HIM IN SCHOOL,
BUT AT THE END I'M MYSELF.
WHEN HE CALLS ME I FEEL LIKE
MYSELF.
HE'S A SWEETHEART, HE WOULD ALWAYS
CARE ABOUT ME, HE'S MY BROTHER.

GRB

SUSHI ESCAPE: A LONG-FORM HAIKU

By Britney Trinidad and Flor De Liz Perez

THE ARRIVAL:

#1 -Dim, green, chic lighting.
Small room, Feng Shui'd all the way...
Bamboo 52.

MRS. HAPPY HOUR:

#2-Screaming, high-pitched
howls.....
Drunken lady-Friend stumbles.
It's happy hour:

GREEN BABIES:

#3-Thick, juicy, slimy
Yummy, yummy, in my tum(my)
Green Seaweed salad



#4-Chilled leaves, orange sauce
Organic green salad, tossed
Weird but delicious



THE LOVE/MAIN COURSE:

#5(Part A)-Bold, daring taste-buds.
Unbearable excitement.....
THE FANTASY ROLL.

(Part B) -Shrimp Tempura...CRUNCH!
Banana, Spicy Tuna.
(Wrapped in) Seaweed, sticky rice.

SAYONARA:

#6- Warm, Friendly chatter.
Drink up our beverages,
Pay and time to go...

This haiku details the experience of our culinary adventure in Hell's Kitchen. On Tuesday, October 5th, 2010, we went to Bamboo 52, located at 344 West 52nd Street, to try something new. As women of tropical descent-our families are both from Dominican Republic-we were surprised and delighted to be paired as Smart Partners because we'd met each other before on our August, 2010 Wareham One-on-One trip. This love of tropical flavors found its way into our New York version of Japan, where we found a sushi roll that had BANANA inside! Instead of being scared, we were spontaneous, especially Britney, as we discovered new ways of using chopsticks with this delicious treat. Five stars!



First Chairs[♫] Playlist: Spring 2011

by Melissa Rebolledo (with Smart Partner Joanna Parson)

1. “She” by Green Day

I thought I didn't really like Green Day, but I like the song, so there must be something about it. It's catchy. The music is heavy but accessible, with a fast beat. After listening to this song, I started paying more attention to Green Day, and I realized I do kind of like their music.

2. “Stir it Up” by Bob Marley

It's not like something you hear every day, and it makes you feel good. Repetitive, but you don't get bored of it—a good kind of repetitive. There's a laid-back guitar solo and a strong bass. I'm looking forward to learning how to play it on my ukulele!

3. “The Burlesque Movie Soundtrack” by Various Artists

I like it because it's kind of like ragtime type of music, but with more brass instruments. It's Christina Aguilera and Cher together, which is like the best female duo of the times. I haven't even watched the movie, but I listen to the soundtrack.

4. “Donna” by Ritchie Valens

It's by the guy who made the song “La Bamba” famous in the 1950s. Watching the movie, I was more attracted to his music, so I looked up more of his songs, and I really liked “Donna.” It's a nice song that he wrote to his girlfriend. I like the fact that it's kind of a ballad, but it still has that '50s rock feel.

5. “Isn't She Lovely” by Stevie Wonder

I've liked this song ever since we played a Stevie Wonder medley in band. There's a harmonica solo. Like the Bob Marley song, it puts you in a good mood. There's no way you could listen to either of those two songs and feel mad or aggressive.

6. “Sleepyhead” by Passion Pit

It's layered electronica, made with lots of synthesizers and computerized effects. When I first heard it, it was annoying. Then it grew on me, and now I listen to it constantly. It's kind of relaxing— maybe not for everyone, but if you like MGMT

or Vampire Weekend or maybe even Radiohead, you might like this.

7. “Barbra Streisand” by Duck Sauce

The song is two words – “Barbra Streisand”— with a cool beat behind it. Watch the video! The video shows different NY characters (including Kanye West and Pharrell) in different situations around the city. If you hear it, you might not like it at first, but you'll find yourself singing it the next day. If you watch *Glee*, you might have heard it this spring.

8. “That Joke Isn't Funny Anymore” by The Smiths

The Smiths are a British post-post-punk, alternative band from the '80s. It's kind of another ballad—definitely not as upbeat as some of the other songs on this list, but it has its own flow. It's the type of song that would play when you're looking out the windows of a train far from home, and it's sunny outside, but you're in your own dark and moody world.



Joanna and Melissa practice their instruments on the Project terrace.

9. “Somewhere in Brooklyn” by Bruno Mars

One of those songs that you think you've heard before, when you hear it. He's very unique – his voice is his own, and you know they haven't “fixed” it. Original and natural. A more upbeat melody than some of his other songs.

10. “With Your Friends (Long Drive)” by Skrillex

The music genre is called dubstep. It's becoming popular with other artists like Britney Spears and Lady Gaga, but artists like Skrillex and Deadmau5 are the real thing. Takes a while to get to the fun part. Not for everyone because the first half of the song is distorted and doesn't really make sense. It takes four minutes for it to be party material. Like the title says, I imagine listening to it on a road trip, in a convertible with the hood down with your friends.

♫In an orchestra, the First Chairs are considered the best players. That's why it is our team name! - M & J (Melissa plays trumpet in the school band. - Ed.)

"TRAPPED"

Watercolor painting by Jenisse Bouret

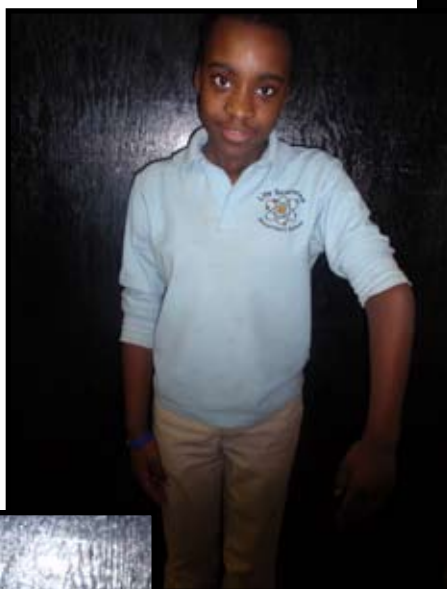


A BAD ARM

BY TATIANA GOODE



My friend can do pretty cool things with her arm and I was curious about her arm so I interviewed her. Her name is Leg-nd Wright and she is 12 years old in the 6th grade. She broke her arm when she was five, six, and seven years old. And she broke it two times in the same place and this is what happened. The first time she broke her arm is when she was bored and she jumped from her chair to the bed and she fell and broke her arm. The second time she broke her arm she went to the park with her mom, grandma, and aunt. She put her on the monkey bars and she left her and she was holding on real tight. She let go and she fell and broke it. Her whole family and friends know her arm can bend 360 degrees, like her dad, mom, sisters, brother, Tatiana, Julissa, Prince and Edward. Almost everybody in my class. She don't know anybody who can do tricks like her. She likes playing games, dancing, and drawing. She sometimes likes people to ask her "What happen to your arm?" She likes attention; she



said yes, but sometimes. Her favorite food is fried chicken and French fries. Her favorite subject is art, gym, and math.

I want to write this because the theme is about bad luck and good luck. Some people think 13 is a good number. And I pick my friend that could bend her arm 360 degrees. I think it is in

the middle, like it's bad and good. Because why it's good is because people could write about it, and why it's bad luck is people can make fun of it. This is my story and I will say to not make fun of people that can do cool things. I hope people read this and learn that even though people make fun, it doesn't mean that people would like you to make fun of them.



I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream For Ice Cream

By Leah Kiara Macuilt and Tasha Gordon-Solmon

Leah and Tasha are Smart Partners who chose to go on an ice cream journey in Hell's Kitchen. We went to 4 different ice cream places and we tasted different ice creams and we rated the ice cream and rated the environment. We took notes as we went to the different ice cream shops. You will find more about our ice cream journey as you read along.

#1: Cold Stone Creamery

Ice cream: 7.5 out of 10



Environment: The good thing about Cold Stone, is it's clean, and the bad thing about Cold Stone is their music is too loud, the walls are dirty and there's a lot of brown.



Flavors: Leah got cotton candy with rainbow sprinkles and little marshmallows. Recommended. Tasha got vanilla with milk chocolate chips and white chocolate chips. Not recommended.



Recommended. Tasha got vanilla with milk chocolate chips and white chocolate chips. Not recommended.

#2: Holy Cream

Ice cream: 8 out of 10



Environment: The good thing about it is the walls are colorful, and a nice guy gives a lot of samples. The bad thing about it is it's small.

(continued on next page)



Flavors: Leah got chocolate chip cookie doughnut sandwich with vanilla icing and rainbow sprinkles. Recommended, but if you're that hungry you should eat it. Tasha got chocolate peanut butter ice cream. Recommended, but small.



#3: Pinkberry

Ice cream: 9 out of 10 

Environment: The good thing about Pinkberry is the music's good, it's clean and colorful, and a nicer place to sit 'cause there's space and they're good with samples. They're creative because their chairs are like spoons.



Flavors: Leah got mango with raspberries, blueberries, strawberries. Recommended. Tasha got vanilla with raspberries, blueberries, strawberries and chocolate chips. Recommended.



#4: Baskin Robbins

Ice cream: 7 out of 10 



Environment: The thing about Baskin Robbins is it's clean, colorful, and has a TV. The bad thing about Baskin Robbins is they got the wrong ice cream flavor for Tasha and they got for the wrong cone for Leah.

Flavors: Leah's ice cream was Very Berry Strawberry. Recommended. Tasha got White Chocolate Caramel. Not recommended.

STEVE-O THE MONKEYDOG

By Edwin Rodriguez



Edwin

It was a sunny day. There was this monkeydog whose name was Steve-O and he lived in a treehouse. It was made out of wood. It had a little bed in it. It had a bathroom and a closet. And it had Spongebob Squarepants toys because Steve-O watched Spongebob at the Monkey Bar. He goes to the Monkey Bar every Wednesday and he drinks cactus water that gets him to act weird and to be dizzy. On Wednesday, Steve-O walked back to his treehouse from the Monkey Bar and he was about to go to sleep. He felt dizzy and tired. So he put his Jordan Sevens under his bed. After 5 minutes, a strange, weird monkey sprinted from the closet to the bed and he dragged Steve-O in the closet.

“Aaaaah! Help me! A weird monkey!” said Steve-O. The monkey, whose name was Monstratamus, smelled like feet and butt. He was furry and brown and he made squeaks. And then the monkey was farting over and over. It smelled like dead salmon fish. Steve-O was punching Monstratamus and trying to push him off. But he couldn’t. Monstratamus was too strong. He had a six-pack. Then Steve-O fainted.

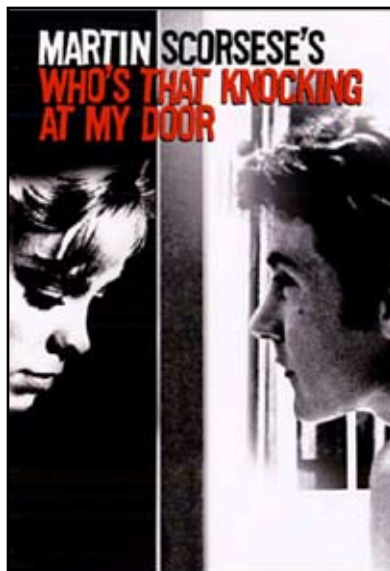
Steve-O woke up the next morning in his bed. His hair was messed up. His eyes were red. Then he went to work at the monkey version of State Farm. Then he told everybody what happened, but they didn’t believe him. His buds smelled him and said he smelled like salmon. They asked him if he was rolling in salmon fish. Steve-O told them that he got attacked and got farted on by an evil monkey. Then his buds started laughing at him and said, “What a weirdo.” And then they wrote on their Facebook homepages that there was this crazy monkeydog who was saying that an evil monkey attacked him and was farting on him, and if you see him, laugh at him and throw food at him and don’t talk to him because he’s a weirdo and crazy and needs a psychologist.

Steve-O started crying and went to the bathroom and then smelled himself and fainted again. Then after two hours some janitors were screaming at him to get out. Then he left the building and walked to his house. So the same thing happened that night. Then the next day he came back from work and washed his face in the bathroom. He sat down on his bed. He put his Sevens under the bed again, but then he thought, “Maybe my Sevens are the ones that make the Evil Monkey come.” So he took the shoes to the fireplace and threw them into the fire. He started to cry because he loved those sneakers. But he knew he had to do the right thing of burning the cursed sneakers. He believed in bad luck. He felt proud of himself by doing the right thing. Then he made himself some banana milkshake. Then he walked to his bed and went to sleep, and then no monkey came to take him into the closet and fart on him.

THE END.

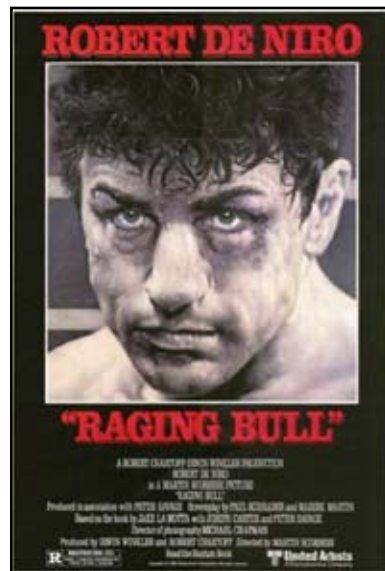


Steve-O



THE PEZ MUSEUM CINEMA PRESENTS

TINO & PHIL REACT!



***Tino and Phil: The Iron Man and The Old Man, lucky to be us.
Our reactions to two Martin Scorsese movies.***

WHO'S THAT KNOCKING AT MY DOOR? (1967)

Scorsese's first film that he made as a student at NYU, which Phil was lucky enough to be in - which is how we saw it because he had a copy.

RAGING BULL (1980)

We were lucky enough to see this together because it was playing at Film Forum. Phil thinks this is Scorsese's masterpiece. Tino thinks otherwise.

Phil: *Tino, what did you think of "Who's That Knocking At My Door?"*

Tino: *I thought it was a good movie. It's about a young man who is in a gang trying to move up. He falls for a regular American woman and every time he is with her, their love starts to grow stronger by the hour. But when she tells him a secret about her life in the past, he starts to resent her, causing their love to start to fall apart.*

Watching this movie, you might like it but you might also get confused because there are parts in the movie that have hidden messages that are not explained until near the end. But what can you expect for a student who was getting started for his career?

What did you think about "Raging Bull"?

Phil: *I loved it. Nothing about it seemed dated although it is a pretty old movie. It was very raw emotionally and I was worried about it upsetting you but, hell, it was upsetting me. Part of life is getting*

upset, I guess. Scorsese certainly seems to think so. I thought DeNiro was extraordinary and probably the least impressive part of his performance was the huge amount of weight he gained for the role. I can't believe Cathy Moriarty was only 19.

I was really struck by something you said at the end of "Who's That Knocking At My Door?". You said, "It's just like 'Raging Bull'. The hero winds up with nothing." Could you talk about what you meant by that?

Tino: *I mean that the main characters are like role models when you start getting into their life story. Sometimes you expect the characters to learn from their actions instead of not learning and getting bad karma like in "Raging Bull" and "Who's That Knocking At My Door?" Usually when the suspense keeps on building, the life of the characters keeps on building. In these movies, you are clueless about the ending.*

Phil: *And yet you still enjoyed them. That's interesting. Do you have a favorite Scorsese movie?*

Tino: *I like "Casino". That's like my favorite.*

Phil: *Why?*

Tino: *It is about the Mafia family getting involved with the casinos in Las Vegas taking money and buying power. I liked this movie because it was cool how they showed how the Mafia family was making money. Plus it showed another style to*



any Mafia movies because not only did it get involved with the Mafia life, but also the casino life. Also Robert DeNiro's character was unlike any other character in a movie where you just see him as a violent person. Instead, Robert was more like a businessman who avoided

trouble and liked making money.

What do you like about Martin Scorsese, Phil?

Phil: He always surprises me and he never bores me. I remember even when I was in my 20's and did that student movie with him, he was always so filled with controlled energy and everyone on the set felt it. And that comes through on the screen.

Are there other actors you like who change their entire personalities from movie to movie?

Tino: Robert Downey Jr. is an actor who always changes his personality. At one point he could be a rich playboy, at another point he could be a British detective, and then he could be another race and have another accent. This is one of my favorite actors because he could convince the audience that he was the character without being stiff. At one point I didn't think he would pull off acting like Ironman but when I had seen the movie, he surprised me and gave me another perspective.

Tell me, Phil, what do you look for in a movie?

Phil: I want to care about the people and be interested in what is going to happen to them. Recently, when I went to "The Fighter" I thought I would probably enjoy it but I turned out to feel completely committed to the characters and I cared deeply where the story would take them. I really liked all those people, except for the mother-- but I loved hating her.

So, I guess we're big movie fans, Tino. Why do you think we like them so much?

Tino: I think that we love movies so much because they take us on an adventure into someone else's life. Movies could sometimes give you hope, other times it can give you sorrow. Mostly what interests

you is the story and how the character can act, but the only thing that could bring the characters or story to life is if we believe. Because if we don't, then all hope is lost and we no longer care – like in "True Grit".

Phil: Sounds like you didn't like "True Grit" too much. I wasn't crazy for it either. What bothered you?

Tino: The story is about this young girl who is trying to avenge her father's murder. But she needs help and it takes her forever to get it together. So much happens that is off-track before she finally is ready to go after the killer.

Phil: I love the expression "off-track." You mean we have to sit through stuff that doesn't really move the story along?

Tino: Yes. I mean, she has to get money for a hotel and that takes a lot of time. We can figure out her mother would have given her money for a hotel. Come on.

Phil: Anything else you didn't like?

Tino: Jeff Bridges was wrong. It should have been Harrison Ford. He wouldn't have waited around so long.

Phil: Harrison is a man of action.

Tino: You got that right. I like Jeff Bridges. He just wasn't right for this. You know what you should see is "Limitless". That's a great movie.

Phil: What about "The Adjustment Bureau"?

Tino: That's good, too.

Phil: You see everything. If I could just see one, which should it be?

Tino: Well, you know "Limitless" has DeNiro.

Phil: So that's the one?

Tino: That's the one.

Phil: Thank God for movies, Tino. We are lucky to have them.



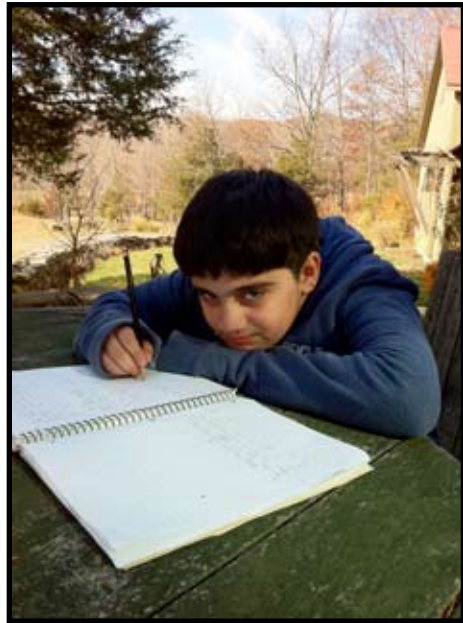
MY GRANDMOTHER

By Rene Paul Santiago

Mita, the one who cares
if you cry and will hold
you tight.
Who is filled with
love.
A melody you
could never get out of your
head.
Whose hate she will
never show.
Is too sick to come home.
Who tells me "I love you"
before I go and who tells
me I don't need nobody
else but you.

Who knows if you lie.
Who gets nervous
If you yell.
Who will cry if
she sees her grandson
sick.
Sleeps in her room
all night and day.

I love you Mita and she loves me too.



WHEN THEY'RE GONE

By Faisal Afridi

When somebody is about to die,
your parents lie
that they're going to be fine.
But they're not fine.
They pass away like a
castaway
who is trying to run away
on a runaway train.
You can't stop death.
It's impossible.
So despicable,
all the memories
you shared with them.
You didn't get a chance
to tell them
how much you cared for them.
And how much you loved them.
Tear drops everywhere
like a cold rainy day.
They are gone and forever gone.
But you still have a place for them
in your heart.





ITALIAN Restaurant

By Faisal Afridi with Matthew Jellison



I think Puttanesca is awesome because there's a lot of chandeliers and the entertainment there's good. There's a TV and music. There was good food and if you're a vegetarian, try the macaroni and cheese because it's awesome. The mac and cheese was way different from the mac and cheese from the box because it wasn't gooey. The mac from the restaurant was amazing because the cheese was not from powder and it was real. If you go there don't try the garlic bread with olive oil cause your tongue will die of bitterness. But



my partner Matthew Jellison, a.k.a. Jelly, loves it, which I don't get. The service was good because they were nice. I expected people dancing like in festivals a long time ago, like in *Assassin's Creed 2* and *Assassin's Creed Brotherhood*, but instead it was fancy. *Assassin's Creed* is a game that took place in Italy. The dessert was good. The chocolate soufflé was a chocolate cake



with chocolate lava. It was warm and it would have been better with milk. My buddy Jelly had cheese cake that was horrible because it tasted funny. It didn't taste like cheesecake; it was also toasted at the top. So that's my review.

NOW TIME FOR JELLY'S INTERVIEW

Faisal: Why do you like garlic bread with olive oil?

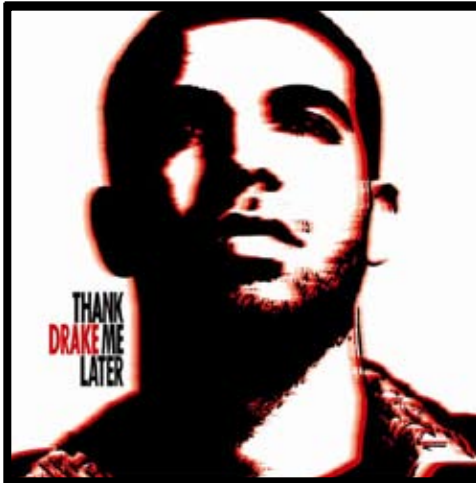
Jelly: 'Cause it reminds me of going out to restaurants with my parents when I was young.





RENE PAUL'S TOP TUNES

By Rene Paul Santiago



THANK ME
LATER
BY DRAKE

&

DOO-WOPS AND
HOOLIGANS
BY BRUNO MARS



DRAKE

Believe it or Not - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Not special, beat drop.

Fireworks (feat. Alicia Keys) - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
He raps fast and is a good singer. I like when he raps.
Ends every verse with "fireworks."

Karaoke - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧 and 1/2 🎧
Beat is nice. Better rapper than singer. Uses auto tune
when he sings. Tells a story.

The Resistance - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
He was 23 when he debuted this album. It tells a story
and has catchy hooks.

Over - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Single on the radio. A club, party song with a catchy
hook.

Show Me A Good Time - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Awesome beat. Nightclub, party song.

Up All Night - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Knows when to drop. Club party song. Radio friendly.

BRUNO MARS

Grenade - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Train ride song. Sing-along and a good melody.

Just The Way You Are - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Valentine's Day Song. Sweet with nice vocals.
Radio Hit. Suave, talks about girls.

Our First Time - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Sounds like Drake. Good vocals. Party song.

Runaway Baby - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Awesome beat with 50's vocals.

Lazy Song - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Laid back, relaxing song. Country.

Marry You - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Funny, rock song. Different from others.

Talking to the Moon - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Relaxed. Talking about a girl. A song to the ladies.

Liquor Store Blues - 🎧🎧🎧🎧🎧
Reggae, iPod song.

DRAKE (continued)

Fancy (feat. Swizz Beats, T.I.) - 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧
Beat is good for a workout.

Shut It Down - 🎧 🎧
Puts you to sleep, 7 minutes of pain.

Unforgettable (feat. Young Jeezy) - 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧
Story telling song. I like the slow, party beat.

Light Up (feat. Jay-Z) - 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧
Drake is a storyteller. Has a cold melody.

Miss Me (feat. Lil Wayne) - 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧
Party song with a good rap. Cool, Gangsta style.

Find Your Love - 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧
Sings with Auto-Tune. Nice melody and style.

Thank Me Now - 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧
This song is about taking shots. Confident and cocky.

REVIEW:

I think Drake's album is very unique because his style of rapping is different because he knows how to tell a story. Not as good as Eminem, but still tells a story. Overall I give his album a 10 out of 10 headphones.



Thank you and see ya.

TOP 3 SONGS

I recommend:

1. "Miss Me,"
2. "Up All Night,"
3. "Over"

BRUNO MARS (continued)

Count On Me - 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧
Sounds like an indie band. Good subway train song.

The Other Side (feat. Cee-Lo Green and B.O.B.) -
🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧
Funky, workout song.

Somewhere in Brooklyn - 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧 🎧
Listen to the words. Slow song about girl and finding love.

REVIEW:

I thought it was interesting because it was very diverse. It had many different types of music like Reggae, Rock, Soul, Slow, R&B, Radio Hits. Overall I think this album deserves a 9 out of 10 headphones.



TOP 3 SONGS

I recommend:

1. "Lazy Song",
2. "Just The Way You Are",
3. "Our First Time"



Did you know...

Aubrey Drake Graham is his real name.

Drake's mother is Jewish and he got a Bar mitzvah at 13.

He was also an actor and he played a crippled high school student on the hit show "Degrassi".

Did you know...

That Bruno Mars' real name is Peter Gene Hernandez.

Bruno Mars was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii.

His background is Puerto Rican and Filipino.

THE ROBBER By Richard Brea



Kenny was in the living room reading a book. He heard a loud noise. "What the heck was that?" thought Kenny. Kenny kept hearing someone trying to break in his house. "I want you to come in right now or I'll come after you," said Kenny in a brave way.

Kenny got a bat and called out again, "I have a bat and am not afraid to use it." Kenny realized that he had video cams all over the place. They see who breaks in.

Kenny ran to his video tech room and saw who was coming in. "It's a robber, he's trying to take all my stuff and I got that on my birthday two days ago," said Kenny. Kenny had video cameras and gadgets that he got on his birthday. He would be sad if they got stolen. Kenny didn't know what to do so he was making a plan but he forgot something before. He forgot he wasn't home by himself, he was with his brother. Kenny ran to Mitch's room and was checking on him. "Mitch, are you all right?" asked Kenny. "Yes, what's going on?" asked Mitch. "There's a robber in the house, and he's going after us so I want you to stay somewhere safe," said Kenny. Mitch ran to hide and Kenny ran to his room to do what he was doing before.

Kenny had the greatest trap ever. He put traps in each room. They were lasers and mouse traps. "I hope my plans work or me and Mitch would get taken away," thought Kenny. Boom, boom, and ching ching! Ching kabob! "I think my plan worked and I got the bad guy," said Kenny. "No, you didn't. I am right next to you," said the robber. "But I put hard traps that can hurt you," cried Kenny. "You forgot to put a trap in your parents' room," said the robber.

"Well you've fallen in



my hardest trap ever. Here!" yelled Kenny. Boom! Punch! Kenny punched him very hard right in the stomach. "Well, this trap didn't work too, and there is only part of my body that is not strong," said the robber. "I know were I should hit you-- in the kisser," yelled Kenny. "Noooooooooooo!" yelled the robber. Boom! "Mommy, help me," said the robber.

"Now I remember how my plan works. I push this button and my project blows up," said Kenny. Kenny was talking about his project from science class that can hurt anybody. "No don't do it! I'll do what ever you want!" cried the robber. "No, I am not falling for your trap," yelled Kenny. Boom, Boom, Boom! "When you leave, you should take a shower," said Kenny. Kenny grabbed his cell-phone from the table and called the cops. "Nine one one, please, I need help. My house is at 734 West 130th between 11th and 12th ave," said Kenny to the cops. "We will send you cops," said the woman. When Kenny was calling the cops, the robber left. When the cops came, the robber was already gone. They asked Kenny how the robber looked and if he had any pictures. "I have one picture. Right before he left, I took one," said Kenny. "Thanks, we will call you and tell you if we find him," said the cops.

The next day...

"Kenny I want you to come down to the police station. We have found the robber," said the cop. Kenny ran to the police station and saw the robber. He felt so excited that the robber was going to jail. "Thank you for helping us find this robber. We were looking for him everywhere," said one of the cops. "Thank you for helping me find that guy," said Kenny. Kenny never saw that robber ever again.

The End



WORDPLAY: "POETRY IN PERFORMANCE"

This past fall, 10 project kids participated in the *Wordplay: Poetry In Performance* program. This special section contains original poems by each poet, written during the workshop and publicly read at the Five Angels Theater on November 21, 2010.



Alvin

MY SONG

by Alvin Garcia

Here is my song.
I know it's so cool.
I worked so hard on it.
I did it after school.
I wrote it for you
because you're my inspiration.
If I mess up
on the chords
it's only temptation.
I love you more than
I love myself,
and your love
is the richest wealth.
I love you, mom.

HEY LOOK MOM

by Alvin Garcia

Hey look mom, I'm walking.
Hey look mom, I'm writing.
Hey look mom, I'm winning.
Her look mom, I'm passing.
Hey look mom, I'm graduating.
Hey look mom, I'm going to college.
Hey look mom, I'm getting a job.
Hey look mom, I'm getting married.
Hey look mom, your grandson.

UNTITLED

By Alvin Garcia

The sun looks at it like it's God.
It lays next to the water like a blanket.
The shadows of the trees look like a Sasquatch.
I hear the wind talking to the birds,
but they feel alienated upon the sound.
So when it comes to being heard,
guess they gotta wait.

BOMBS ON 55TH STREET

By Deborah Welch

Bombs. I hid behind my sister's jacket.
Bombs, I thought again.
I bumped into my sister.
SISSSSSS went the can
the bomb was in.
Before Naomi could push me, I went zooming down
the sidewalk.
I couldn't help it.
I was scared
and I still am.

MY PRECIOUS CHILD

By Deborah Welch

Welcome to the world, my daughter.
You are as beautiful as butterflies' wings.
When you are older, I'll take you wherever you
want to go.
The whole sun, moon, and stars can't explain
how much I love you.
You're my precious child.

WHAT THE HECK?

By Deborah Welch

I was about to water the flowers
when I noticed a baby.
You may think I'm a little weird but right there,
right there in a huge metal basket with
a blanket.
I rubbed my eyes and said, "I'm in a dream,
I'm in a dream."
I felt relieved.
I opened my eyes and stared at the window.
"I'm not in a dream," I thought.
I reached out and gently grabbed the baby
and picked him up.

BEEP

By Deborah Welch

Beep went that car.
Beep went this car.
I hate the sound of beeping.
Beep!
"C'mon," I asked. "Beep?
What the...?"
You know why
you're annoying?
It's because you are
so dang loud.



Deborah



THE DARK EYES

By Edison Sibri

Everyone sees
the darkness in my eyes.
The pitch black night inside.
The lifeless texture of them.

People ask.
“Are your eyes black?”
“Are you alive?”
“Have you seen unspeakable things that the
color just drained out!”

Friends ask as well.
“What happened to you?”
“What is wrong with you?”
“Are you evil?”

But the truth is
I’m not evil.
I’m not dead.
I haven’t seen unspeakable things.

But only true friends and family see it.
The light inside the darkness.
The living inside the dead look.
The good inside the evil appearance.

But when strangers meet me,
they’ll only see the evil appearance.
But then comes a time
when they see the true message inside.

The darkness of my eyes.

THE WAY OUT

By Edison Sibri

Which way to go?

Right? Left?
Up there?
Down there?

But the exit is nowhere to be found.
Why is it that every turn I take
is a big mistake?
Why did it lead to this?

For the exit,
you can’t jump fences or pick locks.
You must take your own course in life.

There is no cheating,
there is no pushing,
there is no skipping,
there is only one way out.

There is no shoving,
no cramming, no squishing,
There is only one way out.

But that way is not easily found.
It takes time, years to locate it.
But patience will lead the way,
it always leads to the exit.

Though you must travel alone,
friends are there to guide you,
families are there to help you,
enemies are there to put you on
the right track.

So now you see
that you need everyone’s help
to determine your destiny,
to locate the unmarked exit.

THE BOY ACROSS THE STREET

By Kimberly Zenteno

There he is smiling.
I wonder what he's thinking, what he's gonna do,
go left... or right.
I remember the day I went up to you.
Hi.
That's what I said and the conversation
took off and grew from there.
You're the boy across the street.
You're the one who's really sweet.
The one who I hung out with
you made me laugh so many times.
I wonder how you feel?
I wonder if you notice me?
I wonder if you remember me?
You're the boy across the street.
You told me you were leaving
to a place far, far away.
But now you're back after 3 years.
You could be across the ocean or over the stars,
I'd recognize you no matter what
'cause you're my boy across the street.
Ding! the sidewalk says and I start to walk over.
I guess you do remember me
because you met me half way
and simply smiled and said,
Hi.



Kimberly

I STEP INTO THIS ROOM

By Kimberly Zenteno

I step into this room with no one
besides me.
The girls give me this look that brings the
chills inside me.
We're all the same, in our lines,
getting ready to put on a show.
I have my hair in a bun just like all of them
beside me.
But the room, the room seems so gross,
worse than before.
Filled with black and gray
and no colors at all.
I feel outta place, like the sore thumb.
Like I'm the only weird one.
My head is not held high like the rest.
And I love to dance,
It's who I am
When I get on that stage
and the music is on,
I come to life.
With music there is color in the world again
and I really shine.

I SEE

By Michael Bannister

I see you. I see me.
I see mostly everything.
I see the sky. I see colors.
I see lights. I see black hair. I see brown eyes.
I see shoes and I see pants.
Did I say I see me? I see so much.
What do you see?
Do you see the same thing like me?
Or do you see a different way than me.
I just want to know what you see.
If you are like me
or different than me.



Michael

WHAT IS THIS THING?

By Michael Bannister

It's cold.
It is beautiful, white and soft.
It is surrounding me all over
like thousands and thousands
of little army men.
It is everywhere you go.
What is this thing?
What is this cold thing on my nose?
It makes me shiver, it makes me cold,
I feel like I got frostbite
or Jack Frost is nibbly on my nose.
Is... is it just me
or is this like some feeling?
I want to say something,
but I don't know if what I see
I can call snow.

LIGHT AND DARK

By Michael Bannister

Dark as a gloomy day.
Black as a dark night.
Has no feeling, cares about no one.
No feeling at all.
Cold hearted, has no soul.
Light is the thing that brightens up my day.
Light is the thing that is always coming my way.
Light is the source that creates my smile
and I hope it will stay for awhile.
Darkness is cold and bitter
and it really gives me the shivers.
But this is what keeps them together.
No matter what they will be together.
They are bonded together
and always will be forever.
They remind me of yin and yang
and it will stay that way every day.

THE DAY I SAW A BIG BUG

By Tatiana Goode

Whoa! I said.
That lady has a big bug on her face.
It's the biggest bug I've ever seen.
It is the size of my shoe!
When is that bug going to leave?
In May, June or July?
Is that the end of her bug?
Yes, "Squish."
Wait. It's not squishing.
Oh, that was just a huge mole.

TIMES SQUARE GAVE ME LOVE

By Tatiana Goode

Yeah! New Year's Eve!
I can't wait to kiss a girl.
Because I looked up in the Internet that in Times
Square
when they say, "Happy New Year's Eve!"
you get to kiss a person next to you.
I am going to stand by the cute girl.
But I need to tell my mom that I am going to go some-
where.
But when I look at the person next to me,
she was so pretty and cute,
and good thing she had an ugly boy next to her.
But everyone said, "5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Happy New Year!"
And when I kissed that girl she liked my kiss.
But the ugly boy farted
and me and her moved away.
Ever since that she gives me her phone number
and I give her mine.
Today I am 24, and I married her
and we had a beautiful family.
All just for one kiss.
Look how far I came.

MYSELF

By Tatiana Goode

My skin color is black, my hair is short
and it's brown in the sun.
And when it is dark, it is black.
I am Spanish.
It does not look like I am Spanish.
Because my dad is Spanish,
and my mom,
but my dad's skin color is black and
my mom's skin color is black, too.
I am a shy and nice person.
My eyes are confident.
Every time someone looks at me,
They said I am beautiful.



Tatiana

N.Y.C., FALL TIME

By Chanel Rodney

Trees shaking off leaves.
The trees just shake off the noise below.
Little kids yelling and screaming.
Taxis zooming by, honking.
Hot dog vendors making the street smell.
The hot dog vendor is making endless
amounts of money.
Soccer players kicking and running, looking
for good passes.
Helicopters flying above
while cops stay below.
The cops look around the neighborhood
for bad behavior.
Luxury cars stay in stores.
Sports cars drive by nonchalantly.
Horses gallop down the streets
and into traffic.
N.Y.C., Fall time.

THE AMERICAN

By Chanel Rodney

I am dangerous.
I am the most brave out of any other
American.
I trained for this, I am ready.
I am scared out of my life.
I miss my family, home, children,
and wife.
I am in a totally different country.



Chanel

FEARLESS

By Chanel Rodney

The whole world is watching,
waiting for my next move.
I feel alive and I want to let loose.
I jump and the world stops.

DULL STREET

By Jasmine Hernandez

The quiet street that no one goes to.
Not a soul, just peace and quiet.
The peace and quiet I love to hear.
No one, just silence.
The place I'm talking about is my
kind place that I want to live in.
But the one problem is that there is
no darkness. But
it's ok with me because I love
the dull street I stand on,
and live on forever.

SITTING AT A DINNER TABLE EATING PIZZA

By Jasmine Hernandez

Sitting at a dinner table eating pizza.
Your third slice,
a pepperoni with sausage.
Showing it off to the world.
Who cares... I do, I want that slice.
Why can't you give it to me?
What did I do?
That slice doesn't want you,
it wants me.
I snatched it out of your hands,
and I ate your very last slice
of pizza.
You get mad and walk away.
Then I hear you say,
"I'll pay you some day."



Jasmine

SUN REFLECTIONS

By Jasmine Hernandez

Underwater looking up
Seeing the sun from your point of view
The reflections of the sun
hitting the icy cold water
are sweet and warm
like a nice, hot brownie
coming out of the oven
The water waves as the sun hits
It's bumpy and rocky
It's interesting how
two elements combine
and become as one
I love the sun because
it's the biggest star
And water is the greatest
element ever made
Sun reflections is the
key to my heart
What is the key to your heart?



Venecia

SO BRIGHT

By Venecia Escamilla

It shines in the light.
So bright
like a star it shines.
Just hanging around my neck
like an apple hanging on a tree.
It shines in the light.
So bright.

WHO AM I?

By Venecia Escamilla

They say I'm tall.
They say I have long black hair.
They say I have glasses.
They say I have brown eyes.
But who am I really?
Well I say I'm shy.
I say I'm nice.
I say I'm smart.
That is who I think I am

I'M TRAPPED

By Venecia Escamilla

I'm trapped in the train.
People are squishing me.
People are staring at me.
What are they going to do to me?
I wish I can just get off.
Help me.

UNTITLED

By Venecia Escamilla

Why am I out here?
Do you hate me?
Did you abandon me
or do you love me?
What did I ever do to you?
I'm just a baby.
Let me out of here.

AS I WALK DOWN THE STREET

By Samantha Caldon

Lap, splish, lap
goes the waves.
Rustle, step, rustle
go the leaves as a person passes by.
Chirp, beep, chirp
sings a bird.
These are the things I hear as I walk
down the street.

ALONE

By Samantha Caldon

This tree is me, it speaks my story.
This tree bears my scars, it bears my hopes.
It shared a lot of moments, some good,
some bad.
I carved my name within the tree.
I even carved my girl's name in it.
I scratched that part out though.
She ruined my love.
She ruined my hopes.
So it's me and this tree.
I've shed my tears
And I've cried out my joys.
The branches of this tree tell my story.
It's been in my life for most of my time,
it's grown tall and bright.
No one has come to see my story.
It's mine to tell.
This tree tells my story...



Samantha

YOU SEE WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE

By Samantha Caldon

The warmth from your hand
Flows into mine
As our fingers intertwine.
Slowly I start to realize
That the warmth that I'm feeling
Isn't only from your hands.
It's from your eyes.
I see it as you stare down at me
With such care.
Like I'm a crystal ornament and
The wrong gesture would shatter me.
Some part of me inside wonders
If you look at my hair or at the color of my nails.
I also wonder if you noticed
I put make up on.
Or if you noticed my hair a different way.
As I begin to worry and fret over these things,
I realize that none of these matter.
You don't see what's on the outside.
You see what's on the inside.



Restaurant Review

By Adnan Ahmed



Hello, my name is Adnan Ahmed. I'm writing a review about Red Lobster because I never tasted a lobster, so I just go try it. Mmm, the food taste good. The restaurant has fancy music and artwork. I know I'm coming here for my graduation. The waiter in Red Lobster is very respectful and fast. I really like Red Lobster, especially



PHOTOS BY JOSH MOODY

the lobster meat. It is good and you get to break it and eat the inside. OMG! So I think you should go there. But the first meat I ate was not so good until I got used to it while I was eating. It was fun breaking the shell because it was my first time doing it, and I keep on tryng and I didn't do it, but then it break. The salad taste o.d. good and the bread was soft like a baby bottom. I'm telling you it's o.d. good, yummy like my tummy.

A waiter showed a customer to a table and another customer came over and said, "I came here first." So they argue not so long, then the other customer that complained left and waited for her turn, and I think the waiter handled it well because she made it stop.

Fancy fishes, live lobster, and a guy saying, "Don't ever eat at Red Lobster, it's gross." No it's not. He wrong.



Forbidden Love

By Samantha Caldonga



Chapter I: Catherine

"Do you see it?" I ask.

"See what?"

"The game!"

"What game?" shouts Isabella.

"Oh c'mon," I say as I pull her towards the water gun game.

"Seriously?" she whines.

"Yes," I say. We both take our seats and this boy comes with some really long eyelashes. He was tall, and well he's not that muscular but he's not that skinny either. He has a cute face with a real shy smile.

"Wow, your eyelashes are long," I say before I catch myself. "I'm sorry," I say.

"It's fine... you have really pretty hair."

"Oh... thank you." His voice is so soothing and comforting.

"Catherine's blushing!" shouts Isabella.

"I'm not!" I shout back.

"You're blushing. Admit it." She teases.

"So?"

"Look," whispers Isabella.

"At what?" says Isabella.

"Him." I look out the corner of my eye and he's staring at me. "He's staring," I say.

"I know he is."

"What, do I...?"

"Smile." She says, so I smile.

"Not like that. Like a princess."

"I'm not a princess," I say.

"Well try."

"Woah you're pretty," he whispers.

"Thank you," I say and I start combing my hair with my fingers.

"Sooo... you work here?"

"Of course he does, he wouldn't be behind the counter if he didn't," says Isabella.

"Shh, I'm asking him," I say.

"Yeah. My parents own it," he says.

"Wow... it must be fun running a game like this."

"It has it's moments," he says.

"Is this one of those moments?" I ask.

"It's far better," he says.

"Manny, you're not working!" shouts a little girl.

"I am. I'm just making sure these customers are comfortable."

"All they do is sit, pay, play, win or lose, and leave. They don't have to be comfortable," says the little girl. She's shorter than me. She has a nice tan, long black hair, and her eyelashes are long as well.

"Well I'm just making sure they have a good time."

"Your name's Manny?" I interrupt.

"And yours is Catherine," he says back.

"Don't tell me," his sister says.

"Nina, go away," he says.

"She's pretty," says Nina.

"Thanks," I say.



"Nina, leave," says Manny.

"Okay fine, you can work my shift for me," she says.

"No, no, work," and Manny hops over the counter and he hands over the keys to Nina.

"Thought so," Nina says as she walks into the game booth, "Nice meeting you." I smile back and wave at her.

"Hello, I'm Manuel Martinez. Nice to finally meet you," he extends his hand towards me. I extend my hand out. "I'm Catherine Puzio."

"Would you like to come with me to lunch?"

I look at Isabella and she nods her head yes.

"I would love to," I say.

Manny

"Where are you from?" I ask. Wow she's pretty, like really pretty.

"Italy," she says. Her voice is so delicate like every word she says is a song.

"Really... that's interesting."

"Yup, my grandparents immigrated from Italy a while ago and my parents were born here," she says.

"How about you Ms. Isabella?" I say. Isabella is a tall, slim girl with light brown hair.

"I'm from Italy too," she says.

We arrive at Nathan's and the waiter gives me a funny look. Catherine and Isabella take their seats and the waiter comes up to me. "What are you doing with her?" the waiter asks.

"Enrique, look at her," I say.

"I am! She's Italian."

"I know, she's gorgeous."

"That will never happen," he says.

"What do you mean?"

"She's Italian you're not."

"What are trying to say?"

"You're Guatemalan, she's Italian... it can never work," he points out.

"Don't ruin my happiness," I say and I walk away. It's going to work.

"Sorry for the wait. I had to talk to the waiter," I say.

Enrique passes by. "What can I get for you?" he asks. He's taking down Catherine's order while giving me a sly look.



"What about you?"

"Just water," I say.

"You're not hungry?" questions Catherine.

"My mom is cooking dinner tonight," I answer.

"So where are you from?" asks Catherine as she gingerly picks at her fries.

"My parents are from Guatemala. My sister and I were born here."

"I've heard it's really pretty."

"So have I," I answer. "How old are you?"

"I'm 19 going on 20 in March," she says, "That little girl, how old is she?"

"Nina?" I question. Why does she want to talk about my sister?

"Yeah, her."

"She's 15."

"So Manny, that game, is that all you do all day?" says Isabella.

"No... sometimes. My sister takes my shifts sometimes," I admit.

"So you don't go to school?" asks Catherine.

"Nope."

"Oh... that's interesting."

"It really is," I sigh.

"Yeah, 'cause, well, most people go to school."

"I'm not like most people," I say.

Chapter II: Catherine

"But, Mom!" I wail.

"I don't care what you have to say, you're not going to see him anymore."

"But I like him."

"And I like your father happy," she admits.

"I don't care about my father's happiness. I care about my own," I say.

"Look. He's not for you. Move on," my mother says with a lot of force.

"But I'm happy."

"You're not dating this boy!"

I look at my mother, thinking carefully about my words, "You're ruining my happiness, and you don't seem to care." I leave it like that and walk out the door.

"Hi," I say.

"Hi."

I can't do this. I can't. He's just perfect.

"What's up?" he asks.

He knows it's coming, you can see it in his eyes. Eyes that have seen pain. Eyes that have seen love. I reach up to him and wrap my arms around his neck as he wraps his arms around my waist.

"Whispering the words, 'I'm sorry' can never express how I feel."

His arms go tighter around my waist, "Don't go," he murmurs. All you hear is the lapping of the waves against the rocks at the pier. The silence whispers of all our troubles, all our fights for this.

"I can't let you go," he whispers.

This sweet boy is crying for me. The boy who fought for me, the boy who took me in with open arms. "You know what?" I say, "This isn't over."

"Explain."

"I don't care what my mother says. I'm going to stay with you."

"But she doesn't like me."

"And she doesn't like my happiness but she'll have

to deal with it."

"What are you trying to say?"

"I'm trying to say, 'Dry your tears and smile 'cause I'm not leaving.'"

Chapter III: Catherine

"What are you trying to say?" my father says.

"I'm moving out."

"I married her," says Manny.

"You did what!?" my parents shout.

"Exactly that."

"Wait, you're married?" my father exclaims.

"We're moving out," says Manny.

"Just....shhh," my mother says to Manny.

"You know what?" my dad says, "Do whatever you want. Leave. Move out. I don't care."

"This means you're allowing me?" I ask.

"Yes."

I kiss my parents goodbye and Manny shakes my father's hand. "Take care of my daughter," he says.

"Don't worry, sir. I will."

"Catherine," my mother says, "I care about your happiness. I was just protecting you." With that, she kisses my forehead and opens the door for my life to begin.



MAX BRENNER: CHOCOLATE BY THE BALD MAN

By Elizabeth Vazquez

"I invite you to watch, smell, taste, and feel my love story."-Max Brenner

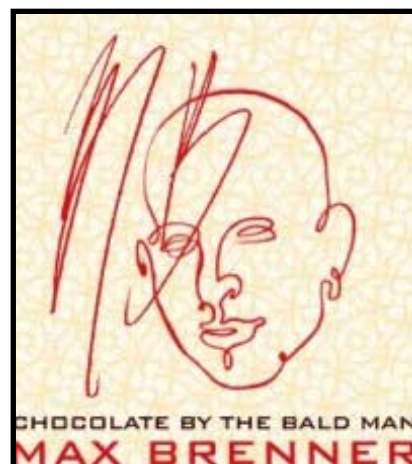


JESSICA PROVENZ

BON APPETIT: "Hey, can I have an oven roasted tomato pizza?" I ordered. "Sure indeed!" Jeff responded delightfully. Minutes passed very quickly to find the waiter back with our food. It was HUMONGOUS! It was like breakfast, lunch, and dinner in one whole pizza. Very thin crust, toasted brown, with a ton of melted cheese and soft tomato chunks. Crazy messy. It was no ordinary pizza, I can tell you that for sure. I would totally get it again but in one condition, I have to be starving to death! I would rate this pizza 3 and a half stars. It was delicious and all, but there was better stuff to eat.

SWEETZERLAND: Pearl Sugar Chocolate Waffle. Doesn't that sound delightful, to die for? Imagine having it in front of you. The food may have been delicious, but there is no word on earth that can describe the goodness in the dessert. It was very creative. It was a waffle with a sugar-coated banana, with small chocolate balls and a bottle of chocolate syrup, with ice cream to top everything off. I would give the dessert 5 STARS!!!! I mean who wouldn't?! So if you go to Max Brenner's go for the dessert. The greatest thing on planet earth.

SIP IT UP: My Smart Partner Jessica and I did a small experiment with the drinks. She ordered a chocolate drink and I got a fruit smoothie. The drinks arrived in a horse carriage (they didn't) with a very special cup. Now this part is true, our straws were metal built into a cup that had a design that said: DRINK ME! To our intellectual taste buds, it ended up that MY fruity and healthy drink was better than the chocolate, not-so-healthy drink. It was a marvelous trip to a healthy universe. I would give my drink 5 STARS and Jessica's drink 3 stars. But overall I would give the drinks 4 stars.



LOOK AROUND: You walk in and smell chocolate everywhere, you melt into the environment you have stepped in. You are surrounded by chocolate. It was like a Willy Wonka chocolate factory only much prettier. It convinces you to want everything and to yell at your parents to buy you the place! I had one complaint. The tables were too close! Like, dude, what if you are claustrophobic?

DIRECT: It is pretty fast to get to. The best way to get to the place is by train. My Smart Partner and I went to the one on Union Square which was the closest to us. We took the C train to the L. You can also take the A and E...just saying. We got onto the L train and got off on Union Square. Great, I think that's good!

CHECK PLEASE: The price is expensive, so tell your mom to take out the money! The way the checks came in was very creative. It was never seen before and so it came in pretty little Santa Claus boxes. And that's all I have to say... but really, it's expensive.

BEHIND THE SCENES: The waiters are so cool. Like they are no orthodontist people, they are mad chill! But we were special because we got a very nice waiter. His name was Jeff. He is about 6'3. He is an actor, graduated 4 years ago at Quintan University. And he's trying to find a job at Broadway. SO YEAH! TAHH DAHHH!!!!!!



GOOD LUCK

By Samantha Paduani

All the doors are open.

Everything you ever dreamed of is pulling you
in 100 different directions.

It's like an octopus, it has legs coming out in every single direction.

But wherever you want to go, the legs follow.

It's when you have gotten the fullest of what you have chosen as a direction
to lead you to where you want to be when you grow up.

It's when you get what's most adored to you and the most fascinating.

It's when everything good happens to you,

like when a dog is going into a new home from his mom.

That dog wishes for the best home and family that it can possibly dream of.

It's when you know you can succeed in anything.

It's like New Yorkers, we can do anything we set our minds to because we live in
the busiest city in the world.

As long as we succeed here, we can succeed anywhere.



FRONT COVER SUPERSTITIONS AND MODELS

- “There’s a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.” - Amanda Rosa
- “Snap a wishbone in two and the bigger side gets the wish.” - Miguel Angel Vazquez and Elizabeth Vazquez
- “The number 13 is unlucky.” - Brandon Leon
- “The Magic 8-Ball knows all.” - Jasmine Hernandez
- “Break a mirror and get 7 years of bad luck.” - Richard Brea
- “Rub a rabbit’s foot for good luck.” - Jade Cuevas
- “Opening an umbrella indoors is bad luck.” - Ruby Zamora
- “Horseshoes are lucky.” - Edwin Rodriguez
- “A black cat crossing your path is bad luck.” - Alex Malan and Tatiana Goode
- “Walking under a ladder is bad luck.” - Edelys Guerrero

BACK COVER SUPERSTITIONS AND MODELS

- “You can tell your future with a crystal ball.” - Valeria Oliva
- “Roll a lucky 7.” - Enrique Caballero
- “Find a penny heads-up for good luck.” - Nathaly Trinidad
- “Step on a crack, break your mother’s back.” - Amber Ureña
- “Cross your fingers for good luck.” - Kaitlin Feliciano
- “Whistling in a dressing room is bad luck.” - Melissa Rebolledo
- “Saying ‘MacBeth’ in a theater is very bad luck.” - Michael Bannister
- “Knock on wood for good luck.” - Daniel Martinez
- “Putting a hat on a bed is bad luck.” - Britney Trinidad
- “Four-leaf clovers are rare and lucky.” - Lambert Whitney
- “Spilling salt is unlucky, but you can cancel it out by throwing some over your shoulder.”
- Faisal Afridi
- “Kissing the Blarney Stone is good luck.” - Ashley Melón

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www.52project.org





DRESSING ROOM

MACBETH!

