I remember in the morning driving to Washington Street to get to the synagogue. I remember all of the days seeing the Star of David on top of the red bricks. I remember the turquoise carpeted Bimah and the brown wooden Ark. And above the Ark a Ner Tamid hanged by golden poles. I remember sitting in the blue padded and grey metal seats. And I always liked to sing the last song because it was always so happy. I remember our red brick synagogue.
Grandpa
Quinn Dawson
Age: 15, West High School, Grade: 9

Pine trees surviving
The icy winds of winter
Standing tall all year
My Universe is You
Sonia Jeon
Age: 14, West High School, Grade: 9

I remember lying on the grass next to you every summer night
looking up into the night’s sky
listening to the cricket’s grand symphony
the stars would fly by and the moon winked down at us
my eyes creeping towards you
your eyes like fireflies caught my eyes and grinned
And I felt like a feather
That Kind of Love
Andrea Morgan
Age: 15, West High School, Grade: 9

Yesterday you kept playing with my hair
our fingers refusing to let go of each other,
Today we’re like the moon when both of its halves
are there,
elated,
shining.
Birds
Adeline Jane Goeken
Age: 6, Penn Elementary, Grade: Kindergarten

Birds are like snow falling bright, in the sun's warm daylight...
Nestled in trees, like stars in the night...
They stretch their wings and take flight...
A Unicorn Day
Josephine Fullenkamp
Age: 6, Hoover Elementary, Grade: 1

Unicorns work, work work picking apples, build homes. Never stop, never stop, work, work.
Take care of their world. Making maple trees. Making apple juice. Next day still working!
Unicorns eating grass to make them healthy.
Sleep, sleep during night and work, work, work at day.
Unicorns work, work, work, boring watching them.
But today Unicorns play! Never stop playing, never stop playing.
Uh-oh, here it goes again, Unicorns play every day!
I know a family that hangs underpants on walls, and pop bottles in the halls. They also have two pet deers, that know how to drive and steer. They have 2 Tv's and they're both surrounded by bees! They also have one more pet and he's a bat' and he' has a crazy looking hat. Huh? What's that you say? Oh yeah this family is mine
Falling Fall
Zayetzy Luna
Age: 13, Northwest Jr. High, Grade: 8

The leaves are all gone
The birds don't sing their song
You give a sigh
And say good-bye
The wood starts to splinter
And the world belongs to Winter
A Bear Can Dance Even For Gorillas Hungary In Japan. Kelly Lou, Monkey, Now Oversees Pretty Queens Riding Stallions Through Undiscovered Valleys With Xylophones Yelling Zap!
Water
Sam Callahan
Age: 9, Weber Elementary, Grade: 3

Giant waves crashing down
Hot Sand all over the ground
Wind howling
Splashing water all around
And trees falling down
The breeze sweeps over the vast fields of corn
the sun sets over rolling hills turning
the clouds into streaks of paint
and fire burns across the sky
that only the darkness of night can tame
and as the moon shows its shining face
I’m proud to call Iowa my home.
A History of Chickens
Jacob Aji
Age: 7, Hoover Elementary, Grade: 1

Once there was a chicken.
Before that, a chickenosaurus.
Before that, a chick-trilobite.
And before that, a chicken cell from a chicken asteroid
That crashed to earth after a chicken rock exploded
From a chicken fireball that once clucked its way
Out of a galaxy of crowing chicken suns.
Sunshine
Margalit Frank
Age: 7, Montessori School, Grade: 1

Sunshine bunshine early in the morning before the rooster calls its first call. Wake up sleepy head and put on your chef hat.
Valentine
Amara Ballantyne
Age: 5, Willowwind Elem., Grade: Kindergarten

You are sweeter than a popsicle
as fun as jump rope
more beautiful than the world
I love you.
Winter

Naya Abu Rajab
Age: 5, Willowwind Elem, Grade: Kindergarten

Snowmen
White
Backyard
Stacking
Snowmen are fun.
Lizards
Alex Spies
Age: 9, Willowwind Elem, Grade: 3

Scampering lizards in the dark
Lurking and creeping in the park
Running and climbing all about
Orange eyes gleaming from a clear lookout
Making weird noises from a tree
Lizards sleeping worry free.
Swimming
Andrea Belding
Age: 9, Van Allen Elem., Grade: 3

Swimming is fun in the sun
Feel the windy air as you stop and stare
At the medalist inside you

Five years later when you’re praying to
Your savior for the race
And your heart starts to pace
BONG — Now the race is on!
yellow dog
Lila Panek
Age: 10, Penn Elementary, Grade: 5

bounding around, the yellow dog
sounds like an earthquake,
shaking the ground.
chasing a chipmunk,
and a skunk that stunk
like bad cheese,
in the summer months.
Tater Tot Dreamland
Benjamin Houselog
Age: 11, Penn Elementary, Grade: 5

There are tater tots all over the place.
Tater tot nose, tater tot face.
Tater tot streets, great to walk through,
My tater tot feet in the tater tot goo.
There’s a lot to do in Tater Tot Land.
Oops! Just bit off my tater tot hand!
The Ocean
Ethan D’Alessandro
Age: 11, Lincoln Elementary, Grade: 5

The ocean is blue, a deep aqua hue
but when the sun sets, the blue lets the red come through

In the dark night, the ocean’s a fright
no people around, or boats to be found, in the dark ocean night

Now the ocean is red, a deep crimson hue, but when the sun rises, the blue comes through

In the blue day, the ocean’s a fray
lots of people around, and boats to be found, in the blue ocean bay
My Big Friend
Julian Fender
Age: 11, Weber Elementary, Grade: 5

Once a big dragon was lying in the park.
When I walked by he gave me a bark.
Then I imagined what I could do with a dragon.
So I said, “Come with me.” And he rode in my wagon.
Now we are best friends and I ride on his back.
He sometimes burns things but I cut him some slack.
Mustache
Anna Carmen
Age: 10, Weber Elementary, Grade: 5

Fussy, Long,
It’s the mustache’s song
Handlebar, too
And the Fu Manchu!
Mustaches are lots of fun
From the artic,
To the land of sun!
Celestial
Darra Stuart
Age: 17, West High School, Grade: 12

Moons traverse black velvet galaxies
A pantomime of painted faces masquerade
From the depths of dream, clawing through evanescent gloom
The mirror cracks
Spider lines stretch across alabaster faces locked in slumber
Awake awake to siren song
Waxen skies and forgotten melody
In the Winter
Anish
Age: 8, Wickham Elementary, Grade: 2

Where there is snow,
The grass can’t grow.
The sun can’t glow.
Let’s drink cocoa.
A Beautiful Ocean
Mohamed Ali
Age: 9, Weber Elementary, Grade: 3

The pebbles in the water,
The wind blowing,
The sea surface,
The fresh water,
The light breeze.
This Pen
Abby

This pen is running out of ink,
This pen is running out of pink ink
This pen is out of i
Popcorn
Jack Keating
Age: 10, Regina Elementary, Grade: 4

Peter made some popcorn
His mom said “not too much”
POP POP POP! It popped
Out of the pot then out of the kitchen
It flooded the house!
Peter yelled “is that too much?”
Rainforest
Abbie McCormick
Age: 10, Regina Elementary, Grade: 4

Pretty rainforest
Some dew drops land on a vine
I admire this
I tried to write a poem but it was more hard than fun
I tried to write a poem but I couldn’t get anything done
I tried to write a poem but I had to go to school
I tried to write a poem but I fell off my stool
I tried to write a poem but my mom kept distracting me
I tried to write a poem but it was dark and I couldn’t see
Books
Spencer Knight
Age: 9, Regina Elementary, Grade: 4

Book books books
So many kinds of books!
Fairytales, fiction
Novels, non-fiction
Picture, mystery,
Chapter, poetry
So many kinds of books!
Penguin
Jackson Mills
Age: 9, Regina Elementary, Grade: 4

Funny, fluffy
Lives in Antarctica
Flightless bird, tobogganing, swim
Waddle
Toast Busters
(To the tune of “Ghost Busters”)

Mason Irving
Age: 10, Regina Elementary, Grade: 4

If there is bread
Hiding under your bed
Who you gotta call?
TOAST BUSTERS!

If there’s floating grilled cheese
Make it go away please!
Who you gotta call? TOAST BUSTERS!
That kid who Doesn’t have a friend
Who is convinced the loneliness has no end
He wanders home, late each night
Knowing his Parents Are in a Fight
He lurks up to his room
Locks his door
And begs to God, “please no more”. 
The Hungry Lion
Tori Cooper
Age: 8, Weber Elementary, Grade: 3

I see a hungry lion that likes to roar at people.
I touch the lion’s fur it roar’s at me so I back away from the lion.
His breath smells like rotten meat.
I feel really nervous
I have him a big roar and I scared it off
Flood.
Linnea Rietz
Age: 9, Weber Elementary, Grade: 3

A horrible flood is coming,
The earsplitting roar of water ringing through my ears,
My Mom’s, strong hand grabbing mine,
The stink of the salty water going up my nose,
The freezing water underneath my feet.
Nature!
Shae
Age: 8, Weber Elementary, Grade: 3

Lots and lots of maple trees,
The birds are chirping with the breeze.
The very bumpy tree bark,
The smell of an old, wooden Ark in my path.
I wish I could stay in the wilderness forever,
If I could stay there, I would never leave there,
EVER!!!!!!
Sap
Caroline
Age: 9, Weber Elementary, Grade: 3

Something oozing out of that tree.
Oozing noises. I hope I don't see.
Golden Brown sap. Sounds yucky to me.
I taste it and…
Tasty sap!!! I have glee!
Happiness. All that sap belongs to ME!!!
As I walk home from school
An ocean of dark clouds washes over the earth
The sun peeks out from behind the gray tinged clouds
And unexpectedly, this beam of light
Sends a wave of nostalgia through me,
For what, I do not know.
Just Three Lefts
Austin Geasland
Age: 13, North Central Junior High, Grade: 7

Just three lefts, that’s all I need
Just three lefts, I will succeed
Just three lefts, I will not fuss
Just three lefts, I can, I must
Hit each base, 1, 2, 3, 4
Bring me home, I have to score
Just three lefts that’s all I need, I will get home, I will succeed
Blink
Cat Rudolph
Age: 17, Regina High School, Grade: 11

Have you ever wondered what might have changed?
If matters had gone another way?
A moment that simply rearranged
A life so far from the one today
An interesting thought to make one think
That all could be altered in just one…
Blink.
Who?
Kathryn Tvedte
Age: 17, Regina High School, Grade: 11

Who will walk me down the aisle,
And give me away
To a boy who will love me
Like you did everyday
Who will take me shopping
For a big white dress to wear
It was supposed to be you, but now I don't know who
The Artist's Muse
Ioana
Age: 15, West High School, Grade: 9

A flower's bloom,
a flautist's tune
I see in my reflection
A pencil scrapes,
makes definitive shapes
and draws in the inflection
Summer on Dapple Ct.
Madelyn Hix
Age: 12, South East Junior High, Grade: 7

Barefoot kids running across yards,
Yards covered with prickly thistles,
Thistles sitting in the grass,
Grass hiding tiny bugs,
Bugs buzzing around your head,
Head filled with the mourning doves song,
Song of morning
Untitled
Max Widitz
Age: 8, Horace Mann Elem., Grade: 2

One time I planted a tree.
I loved that tree like it was my father.
But one day, a monstrous storm came.
And with a flash and a boom, the storm was over.
The next day when I went outside my tree was dead.
I vowed vengeance, and even today I'm still mad at that storm.
Paris
Ginger McCartney
Age: 7, Willowwind Elem., Grade: 1

Dreamy like I’m in another world.
The tastes in my mouth are magical and creamy.
I’m at the airport where my journey ends.
Emma
Stella McCullough
Age: 6, Willowwind Elementary, Grade: 1

Emma is nice.

Emma is a great friend.

Eyes like diamonds.

Hair like magic.

Earrings like flowers.
Meerkat Yoga
Caroline House
Age: 7, Willowwind Elem., Grade: 2

Meerkats are like yoga.
Trying to be calm and loving.
My Sled Poem
Aubrey Ballantyne
Age: 5, Willowwind Elem., Grade: Kindergarten

My sled
Pink
My mama
Falling over
My sled is fun with me and mama!
Changed the World
Tai Caputo
Age: 5, Willowwind Elementary, Grade: Kindergarten

Martin Luther King Jr.
Said no to “White Only” signs
Everywhere
A long time ago
He wanted the world to be fair
Aghast at Midnight
Kenzie Greiner
Age: 14, West High School, Grade: 9

Scared out of your head
Monsters are under your bed
Clenching onto your sheets
You’re forced to throw on your beats
Pray to god and wish upon a star
The monsters will be on the getaway car