

Alchemist:

The Art of Transformation

THE LOST EDITION

February 2011

Volume 10

The Alchemist

The Art of Transformation

Editors:

Molly Springs ALC Staff

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Alternative Programs

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Introduction:

A "series of unfortunate events" has caused this volume of the Alchemist to be published a whole year later than expected.

Unfortunate event #1- the theft of a laptop had removed this volume and most of the entries.

Unfortunate event #2- The requests for resubmission did not produce what we had hoped for.

Unfortunate event #3- Although some pieces will be placed in this "Lost Edition", many pieces will be left anonymous because of the other previous unfortunate events.

This volume represents all the submissions that have been recovered.

GRANDPA

That loving man, father of five
He will fight till the end to stay alive
His goal is in stone, already set
A perilous duty to be met
The flag waving high
His soul full of pride
He fears what comes next
Brave, but for a moment it is put to rest
The explosions start to blast
The lights are flashing fast
His heart races like a car
As her sees this from afar
An instinct rises through
He must assist them too
Gun drawn, he sprints across the field
Too many bullets, he had to yield
The battle dragged and continued on
Until one side was completely gone
Still the thought lingered in his head
Why was he here, not bleeding and dead?
An American soldier standing up for that blue, white, and red
He was proud and it showed
Not a word was said
He fought for his country, completed his task
Now that his job was done, he could return home at last

Kaitlyn Wind

Grade:12

Prairie Center Alternative

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

Have you ever wondered?
What it would be like
To break free of the box
Of your daily life?
To keep on running
And don't look back?
To camp in the woods
And wake to the chirping of birds?
To walk through a meadow
Or to hitch hike a highway
And meet the strangers of the world
To tremble the heat of the desert
Or bathe in the river beds
And feel the waters of life
To climb the harsh terrain of the mountain side
Or feel the peace of the riverside
To break through the box
Of your boring daily life.

Greg McGannon
Grade:10

Ivan Sand Community School

HUNT OF THE DRAGON

Rearing in the darkness he sleeps.
Thirty by day, ten at night.
The talons forever shred not too light.
Morning brings the ill of the hunt.
Now he goes to the day's foundry.
None are too big or too small.
Gliding to the catch of food.
Elegant claws clamp and tear.
Brought back to the muddy pit.
The doppelganger stood in his way.
Those who fought weren't too gray.

Joshua Martindale
Grade:12

Grand Rapids ALC

HURT

I don't like what you do,
I don't like how you feel.
I'm trying to help, but you try yourself.
It hurts me what you do,
And it hurts others too.

Alicia Simonson
Grade:9
Ivan Sand Community School

UNTITLED

I can't let go not now not ever! I can't let go not now not ever. You helped me through the bad times and gave
me wings to fly.
You were like my angel who took off my disguise. You taught me right from wrong and helped me to be strong.
My love for you is like a wild weed it will grow every where just to be free. I miss you now more than ever. I
can't let go not now not ever.

Brittany Archer
Grade:10

Ivan Sand Community School

I'LL MISS YOU

In the early months of January,
is when everything took a turn for the worst.
This is the month my mom checked in,
as the doors closed and her eyes almost burst.

Mom I'll miss you,
hope to see you soon.
Whenever I wanna see you,
I'll just look at the moon.

Here my mom would sit for months and months,
till she met with the judge to determine her fate.
The judge told my mom 364 days in Shakopee,
so looks like my mom won't be going on that date.

Mom, I'll miss you,
hope to see you soon.
Whenever I wanna see you,
I'll just look at the moon.

They loaded her up in a big white van,
drove for two hours then she was there.
She got out of the van, tears streaming down her face,
to me and my two sisters, it didn't seem fair.

Mom, I'll miss you,
hope to see you soon.
Whenever I wanna see you,
I'll just look at the moon.

Jessica Neubarth
Grade:11

River Bend ALC

IN LOVING PAIN; IN PAINFUL LOVE

Pain comes from love,
Love comes from pain,

Without love one cannot know what pain is,
Without pain one can never know what love,
nor what true love,
Really is,

One in love will soon know pain,
One in pain has already been shown what love is,

One cannot feel love without being in pain,
One cannot feel pain without being loved,

Loving is painful,
Pain comes from loving.

Sean Cross
Gr 11

Molly Springs ALC

BAD MEMORY

He's a very dangerous character in your life. He will lie to you, cheat on you, use you, and hurt you. As you lie underneath his careless eyes, you think, "He must love me if were doing this, right?" You try to convince yourself that he cares, as he barely looks at you. Something about his eyes tell you to believe everything he says, yet they are so cold. He says "I love you." You know he's lying but you say it back, hoping he will learn to feel it because, unfortunately, you already do. You start actually believing him after he says it more and more. He tells you this for selfish reasons. To make you think it's safe to go just that one step closer to him. Once you do, he has taken all of you. All the little things are now gone from you. He barely looks at you afterwards, Every time it's like this, and you don't understand why. You don't want to believe he's like this, and you don't understand why. You don't want to believe he's like the others before him. But it's just a matter of time before he shows his true colors. And every suspicion is confirmed. You feel so powerless, like you don't have a voice. So much you want to say to him but you can not find the words. The last thing you say to him, as he walks away from you forever, is what he so cruelly lied about the whole time. "I love you." Three words that most people use too often when they don't mean it, and he definitely does not deserve it. When he walks out the door, it leaves a hole in you so big, that it still burns when the wind blows through, even months later. But when you find someone that closes that hole, you'll forget all about him. It will take time to forget him, but after that time has past you realize, "He was just a bad memory."

Shannon Read
Gr 12
Owatonna ALC

JUSTIFICATION

This is your final justification
Don't mess this up
We are the ones who will stand and fight our fears
We are the strength, we will overcome
We are the strength, we will overcome

The Challenges,
We will be victorious,
We will stand in this spurious world
With only help he will send
Relinquish your lies
Efface the truth
Deplete your sins
And life renewed

The truth will come,
We'll find our way,
the light guides us
This very day.

Now everything just stops!
Final justification
So hold your head up high and
Discern your path and commit this sin
To the earth, obviate destruction in this
Decrepit world before it crumbles!

Jesi Scott
Grade:11

Ivan Sand Community School

LETTING GO

How do you walk away from someone you love
And take the road to a friend;
Can you reroute the course you have taken
And start over once again?

I don't really want to let you go
But inside I know I must;
The times we loved... the times you've left
My heart says stay... but it's my mind
I must trust.

We have shared so much together
Laughter... Fun times... tears;
Yet sometimes we can't turn back time
We must walk away , and allow ourselves
To heal.

I know one day you will be happy
And your soul mate you'll find;
I know we each have one out there
Even if for now... only in our minds.

May life be gentle with you
May God's best come your way;
And on some quiet tomorrow
You realize things were better this way.

Unknown

LIFE WITHOUT YOU!

Life without you won't be the same. You made me safe once again. All I do is cry because I'm in so much pain. All you are now is dust blowing in the wind. But sometimes I hear you calling my name. I want you to be in my life once again. I can't live life without you; You're blood and my tears. I look at old pictures just to see your smile of cheer. At points I want to wish you back but then I think again. You were in too much pain and I saw that a lot , it was too painful to see you go through that. I think about after life to see if you'll come back but then again I don't believe in that. Each day gets harder and harder knowing that you're not here. But I have to be strong to show my mom the cheer.

Brittany Archer
Grade:10

Ivan Sand Community School

MY NAME

Amazing
Loving
You learn to love me
Sweet
Sociable
Awesome

Nice
Intelligent
Cuddly
Open-minded
Loud
Expressive

Helpful
Argumentative
Young
Excellent
Sassy

Alyssa Heyes
Grade:11

Ivan Sand Community School

SIMPLE HUMAN BEING

I fly like an angel in the sky,
Feel so free as a human can be,
With no worries I can finally see that
The whole world doesn't revolve around
Me.

Heather Curtis
Grade:10
Ivan Sand Community School

ONE PERSON

How is it possible that the one person who causes you heartache,
Is the only person that can bring you joy and put a smile on your face with everything that they say?

How can someone be so broken on the inside.
But be the strongest person someone would know?

How can someone who is so lost,
Be the one person who can help everyone find their way?

How can the person who seems to have it all together,
Be so torn apart?

How can someone you think is so happy,
Is the one person who is so depressed that they're almost completely devoured by their sorrows?

How can someone be so independent,
But seem to be completely dependent on love?

How can that one person be healed with music,
But also broken by music?

And how can this one person be me?

Janiece Olson
Grade:11

Grand Rapids ALC

Veteran's Day

Proud soldiers defend our country while we sleep, for fallen comrades they will weep. Yet, still fighting for our freedom, they will win battles, for the know we need them. Standing strong and brave, they give their lives to rest peacefully in their honored graves. Flags fly, eagles soar, rising above this unfortunate war. Terrorist attack our beautiful homeland, but we give up the fight for no man. From sea to shining sea America will always be; The home of the brave and the land of the free. From our highest mountain, to our lowest valley, up our streets and down our alleys, Citizens support out courageous soldiers, taking weight off their shoulders. Always grateful for their effort, we stand together and give up never. Proud Americans willing to fight, all the way through the day and into the night, Filled with courage and ambition, working hard to complete their mission. They use their hope as their guiding to give us what we want . Leaving their lives and families, just to sleep in lonely canopies. Thank you to our country's veterans, for trying to make America a better land.

Sharlita Conrad
Grade:11

Prairie Center Alternative

SEASONS

As the warm spring breeze fills their
The leaves on the trees sway to their own rhythm
The feeling of summertime just around the corner
Stepping out in the cool crisp air
Taking in a deep breath and smelling rain
Rain and water all around from the melting snow
Splat. Drip. Drizzle.

Birds sing in the distance as they come back from the south
The sun rising just above the horizon
Pink clouds drifting in the breeze
Fresh grass on the ground
Small drips of water drizzle onto my warm skin
As I walk the rain it's cold yet warm
The warm feeling you get in winter where you know
When you're done sledding you can curl
Up with a blanket and hot chocolate in front
Of a warm delicately burning fire, watching as
The flames flicker in different ways.
Crackle. Snap. Sizzle.

The feeling of knowing the seasons are changing
You live the first snowfall, the first 80 degree day
The first day when most of the snow goes away,
And it just rains and rains filling the ground with mud and
Wet grass. The feeling of the changing seasons is
All around us.

Trissa Herbst

Grade:12

St. Croix Valley ALC

TEST ANXIETY

Being in school hearing different
noises different sights. No matter what's going on
I hear banging. I hear voices I see people working
On school. I hear tap, tap, tap on the keyboards as
Students are hard at work. When you focus
It seems everything is going in slow motion
Voices being drained and slowed down stretched out
Banging in my ears getting louder and louder until
They're right next to me
Banging, making me deaf
I feel people are screaming in my ears
I can't focus. Things go blurry
I can't sit still. I get anxious in my seat
I can't stay sitting. My body gets warm
I feel nervous. Not knowing how much more I
can take of this feeling I get, I ask
To be excused and use the bathroom.
Splash the cold water on my face to calm myself
Down. Drown out the noises with my iPod
Go back to my seat. Just keep listening to my
Music. The anxiety goes away and things are
Going to be fine.

Trissa Herbst
Grade:12

St. Croix Valley ALC

Veterans Day Poem

To those who knew any moment could be their last breath.
To those who fought for their lives until death.
To those who never saw their spouse, kids, and the rest.
To those who shot the bullet through the Innocent's chest.
To those who knew real pain without a bulletproof vest.
To those we honor for doing their best.

Hanna Grimm
Grade:12

Prairie Center Alternative

THE SAD PITFUL THING THAT'S CALLED MY LIFE

I can't believe he is gone
Why did he have to go?
Why in my arms?
These answers no one knows.

This is my life sad but true
I have lived it all the way through

I have been homeless for about a year now
I have raised myself this is true
This is nothing new this is not the first time
This time number two

This is my life sad but true
I have lived it all the way through

This year was the worst
My grandma had a stroke or two
My stomach about to burst
But there was nothing I can do

This is my life sad but true
I have lived it all the way through

He did it again
He ripped it apart
Why did he do that to me?
He broke my heart

This is my life sad but true
I have lived it all the way through

Stacy Clark
Grade:11

River Bend ALC

A MILLION RAINDROPS

A million raindrops upon my face, a million raindrops without a trace
The come so quick and leave so fast
Where did the time go, it never lasts
I think of you when the skies turn blue
It's gonna be tuned like a sweet melody
I know you're OK, but then my skies turn gray
I don't know what to do, I'm so lost without you
Then I think about a million raindrops upon my face
A million raindrops without a trace
They come so quick and leave so fast
Where did the time go, it never lasts
I'm so confused, just help be through
I know you can
Lend me your hand
I want you to be here with me
My skies are turning gray
I don't know what to say
Someday you will see the good heart in me
Then those gray skies will turn away and fly
My skies will be bluer than can be
That's why you and me are in heaven, free to be
There is no more pain, nothing else to gain
Someday yo will see why I set myself free
I know you're sad but for once, I'm glad
Your skies may be gray, but just look up and pray
I will turn them blue just to see you get through
A million raindrops upon your face, a million raindrops without a trace
They come so quick and leave so fast
Where did the time go, it never lasts
Unknown

BEAUTY

All people are different
Some are smart some not
Some are cunning
Some are witty
Some need extra help
Some are beautiful in looks
Some are beautiful in the heart
No one person is the same as the other
Even twins they all have that one mole or
Freckle that's in a different spot or not even
On the other one everyone in their heart
Everyone is different, but for being different
Is what makes someone unique makes them beautiful
In so many ways.

Trissa Herbst
12th Grade
St. Croix Vally ALC

CANDLE LIGHT

Here I sit in candle light,
Once again to face my fight.
I want so much to hold you near,
And tell you that your love is dear.
I wish you felt the way I do,
And that I meant as much to you.
It hurts me when you go away,
And I love you more every day.
When you come in I feel I glow,
And always forget if I was feeling low.
You seem to bring out the best in me,
And now I wish this you could see.
So I sit alone in candle light,
To go though the battle I know is right
I hope one day you'll be right here,
So I won't need to wish to hold you near.

Janiece Olson
11th Grade
Grand Rapids ALC

I Am The Ocean

I am the ocean,
vast and open.
I engulf everything in the path,
full of life,
and brilliant with color,
but some times pure black,
I am the most vicious wave.
Other times I can be calm and soothing.
At times I am shy,
no wind, no waves, no movement,
other times I come right up to you, shallowing your feet,
but I am the most beautiful thing you'll ever see.

Carly Carbert
11th grade
River Bend ALC

COMPLETE SUBMISSION

Letting go of those feelings
Of pain, guilt and compulsion
Were a combination that awakened the old
Monster that had been sleeping inside for six months
The sudden need for me to release the blood
Which represented the pain leaving my body...
Just knowing some of the pain was escaping my raging flesh...
Then gone were the days of backwards cause this felt best
“ No two people look at the world with the same eyes”
Now look at this:
Fairy tales are, fiction is the untruth
The untruth is a lie
Now you have to instill this in yourself:
Make the unforgettable, forgivable
The unchangeable, changeable
And the unimaginable, imaginable...
I have been reminded to go for what I want
And learn to be willing and able
Meaning: Be happy and count on nothing small.
I once read that “ beauty is like armor, a pretty face gives
The impression that no harm has come to heart
And the smile it protects only shelters heartache!”

Tomara McCuiston
12th Grade
Grand Rapids Area Learning Center

FAITH

Like a fish in the ocean,
I am trying not to choke from this terrible potion,
I feel as if someone wants me gone,
Since I have done so many things wrong,
But yet there is faith,
That all mistakes will be
Forgotten .

Unknown

SOMETIMES

Sometimes I feel like my hearts is Breaking

Sometimes I feel like a nobody

Sometimes I fell no good

Sometimes I feel kinda misunderstood

Sometimes I just don't know what to do

Sometimes I wanna be a better person

Sometimes I think it's tough

Sometimes I wanna give up because I have hag enough

Please tell that some times I am a good person

I wanna change

Sometimes I just need help

Sometimes I just wanna go and never come back

Please can you just let me go please just let me be!

Gina Kulhmann

Dove

A DOVE ISN'T JUST A BIRD
IT'S A SYMBOL OF LOVE,
IT'S AS BEAUTIFAL AS A KISS,
A DOVE IS REALLY SOULFUL,
IT CAN ALSO BE A LOVE MESSANGER,
A FLYING DOVE IS LIKE FLYING LOVE,
A DOVE IS A LOVE OF ONE AND NOT A FLOCK

BY: Jennifer Moreno

11th Grade

River Bend ALC, New Ulm



Unknown

MUSIC IS OUR HERO!

Music is your life,
Well mine is too,
Guitars can be played,
To sings the blues,
Music can teach you much,
Life how to make a tune,
Can you believe that sound,
I'm in in a singing mood,
Can you believe that song,
It makes me so confused,
I can't believe I listened,
To that crazy loon,
Music is your life,
Well mine is too,
I can't believe we played,
That long, crazy tune.

Unknown

My Walls

When I first met you I wasn't afraid.
I laughed, and dreamed, and did silly things.
But now I'm a wounded child,
Lost, vulnerable, and weak.
My heart and soul used to thrive
It was passionate and solicitous.
Now, with blood exuding from he very
thing you broke,
my is lost, my spirit torn.
I was so young and blithe.
You, never on my mind.
But now I'm a wanderer,
lost in my own book,
Me, ignoring pedagogy,
there's no place to go.

Jacquelyn Peterson

Grade 11

River Bend Area Learning Center

MY NIGHTMARE MY LIFE

I was fifteen and I had just lost the love of my life, my girlfriend. I remember the doctor coming towards me saying, "I'm sorry. She's gone. We lost her."

As soon as the words come out of his mouth I wanted more than anything for him to take them back, for him to say it's not true. I couldn't breathe. It felt like someone had ripped my heart out of my chest and stomped on it until there was nothing left. Two years later I seen her walking down the street heading towards the school I was attending. She saw me and went to put her arms around me but I wouldn't let her instead I turned and started walking away then changed my mind and ran back over toward her and started yelling at her. "How could you have hurt me like that?! Why did you put me through all that pain? Sarah I needed you more than I have ever needed anyone in my life. I just want to know why you hurt me the way that you did."

She looked into my eyes and saw the pain that I had been feeling for years and said, "Boo, I never meant to hurt you. I had to do it but I don't know how to explain why I had to do it. It was never meant to hurt you though. I love you. I don't want to lose you again. I will do anything to just get one more chance to be with you; to hold you the way that I used to and for things to be as good as they used to be. I will find a way to explain all this to you. To help you understand why things had to happen the way they did." I looked at her and said, "I don't think that things will ever be the same between us but I will give you one more shot if you can earn both my trust and respect because you lost them both after what you did." After that she gave me a big hug then turned and left. I walked back to school my heart and thoughts both racing. I couldn't believe that she was still alive. That she was here. It felt like a dream and a nightmare combined. I wanted to hate her for how bad she hurt me but at the same time I knew that I would never stop loving her. As much as I wanted to hate her and to just forget about her I knew that it was not that easy and that it never would be. I was confused and I knew I had to make a decision. She showed up a couple weeks later and threw her arms around me. I moved her arms and said "No. I can't give you another change after the way you hurt me. You know that I love you more than I have ever loved anyone but I can't forgive you for what you did. I'm sorry Sarah." She looking into my painful eyes and that was when I saw all the pain in her eyes. She then said, "Don't do this baby. I love you with all my hear and soul. I I know I screwed up but I will find a way to make it up to you. To show you that things can go back to the way they used to be." She went to wrap her arms around me but I backed away. She turned to leave but I grabbed her by her waist and kissed her for the first time. She smiled and kissed me back and stayed in my arms for a little while. It felt so good to hold her again. To know that she still loved me she still wanted a chance with me. She looked at me and said, "I'm going to walk out of your life for good. I don't want to hurt you anymore. You know now how I feel about you and how much you mean to me but I think it's best if I go. I faked my death because I didn't know what else to do." She wouldn't look at me as she let go of me and left. As soon as she left I sat and cried my eyes out.

I thought that she was the girl for me but I also knew that I had been very hurt by her. I never saw her again after that day. Sometimes I still wonder if we had gotten back together. What would have happened? Would we still be together? No one know the answers to these questions and no one ever will.

But I do know now that you can fall in love at any age and that you always have the potential to have someone that care for you. The day that I lost her was one of thee worst days of my life. I still often dream about her. One quote I now live by is this- "It takes a minute to like someone, and hour to love someone. But to forget someone it takes a lifetime."



C. Witherspoon

SIMPLE HUMAN BEING

I fly like an angel in the sky,
Feel so free as a human can be,
With no worries I can finally see that
The whole world doesn't revolve around
Me .

Unknown

Sister

When I first met you, I use to think you were adorable,
Cooing at all my silly faces,
Playing with my face and fingers.
But now you scream and whine all day,
Begging for every little thing.
I missed when you were just a few days old.

I am a penguin

Back in the day, I use to slip and slide.
Enjoying my days with all the seals,
Laughing and chattering with all my friends
Now I must find a mate, to spend my winters with,
And this precious egg.
I am a parent now, time to watch him play.

I wrote a song

During the school year, I tried to pay attention.
But my desire to write A song was was too strong.
I wanted it to be sad, no, happy?
Eventually, I wrote that song.
It was really for that one girl,
But sadly, she did not enjoy it.
Maybe Ill try again... when she's not ignoring me.

Illiana Vela

Grade 11

River Bend Education District

Time Travels

What I Had, Is Now What I Got
I use to like all the attention
I could get.
But now I stay away
From the spotlight
I use to think
Life was just great.
But now I realize
Its not
with all this hate in this world
I use to cry over
my feelings getting hurt.
But now I tell them
This is my life so back off!
I use to hope my dreams
will come true.
But I realize life is NOT a fairy tale,
you deal with you got

Savannah Weller
12th Grade
River Bend Area Learning Center

Wild Animals

School is a jungle
Full of wild animals
Some students in my school
Are snails creeping around
Class to class, others are bigging the teachers
Like pesty insects
When the bells rings at the end of the day
The animals are like freed pack of
Cheetahs
Free to go about where they please
Ravenous with hunger.

Teleah Stoll
Grade:12
River Bend ALC

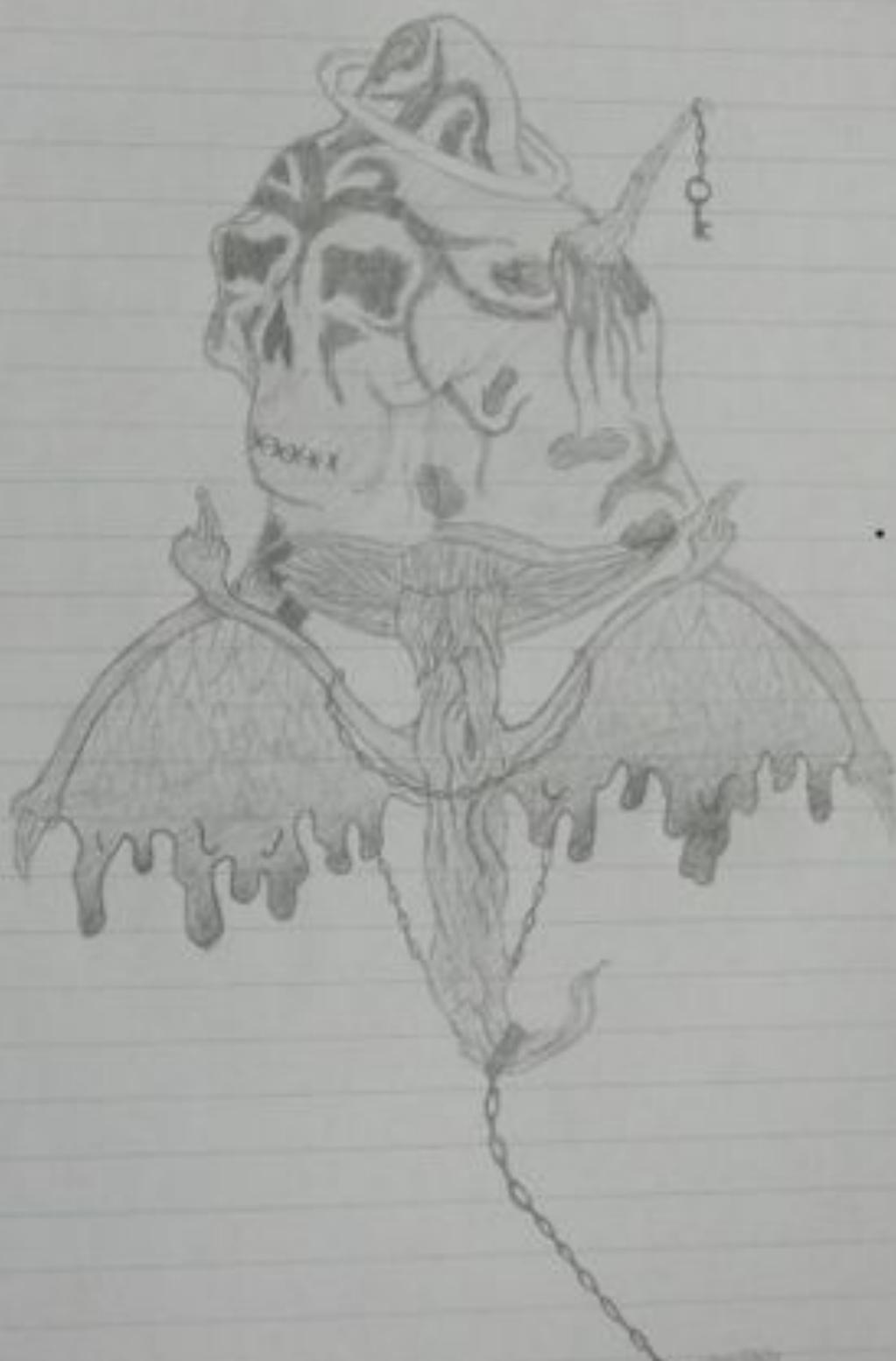


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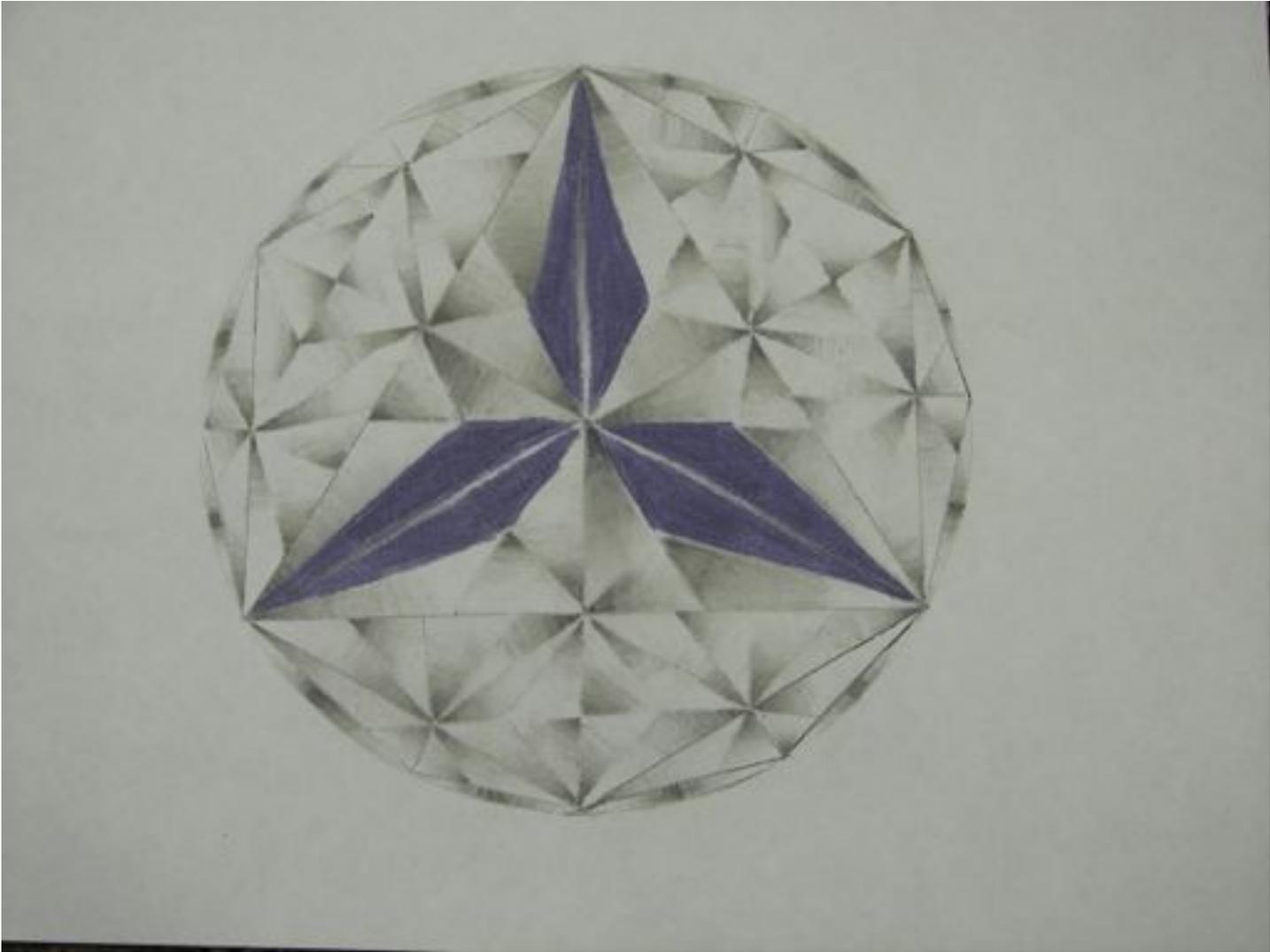


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I Don't Want a
Broken Heart
Cuz I'll Lose the
Pieces...
- Lil Wayne







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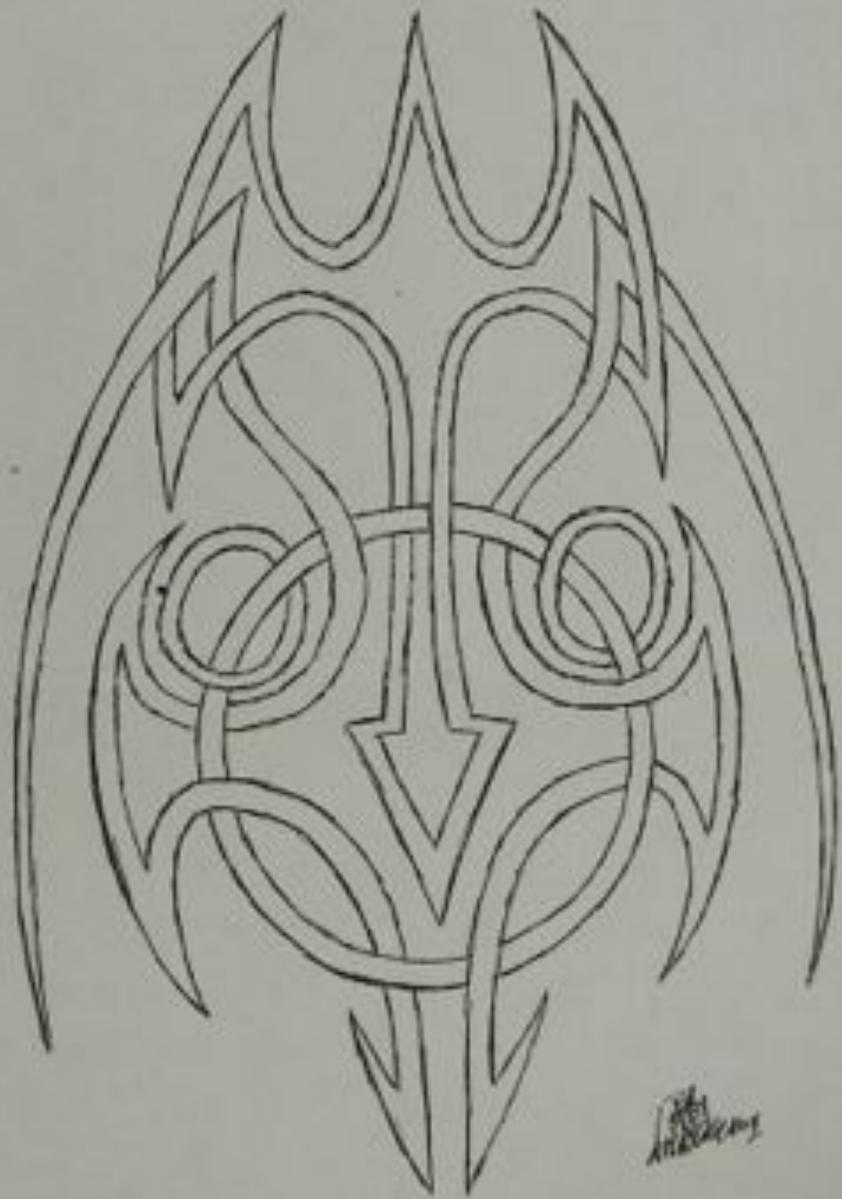
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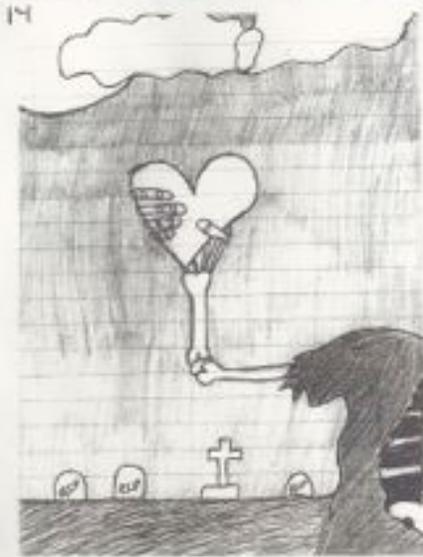


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Left to Right:
B. Nelson, J. Elletson, M. Trenhaile,
M. Trenhaile, B. Nelson, N. Gonzalez,
J. Rodriguez, H. Lindahl, K. Martin



Left to right:
A. Ristrom, A. Ristrom, E. Alejo
E. Sloniker, E. Sloniker, K. Homola



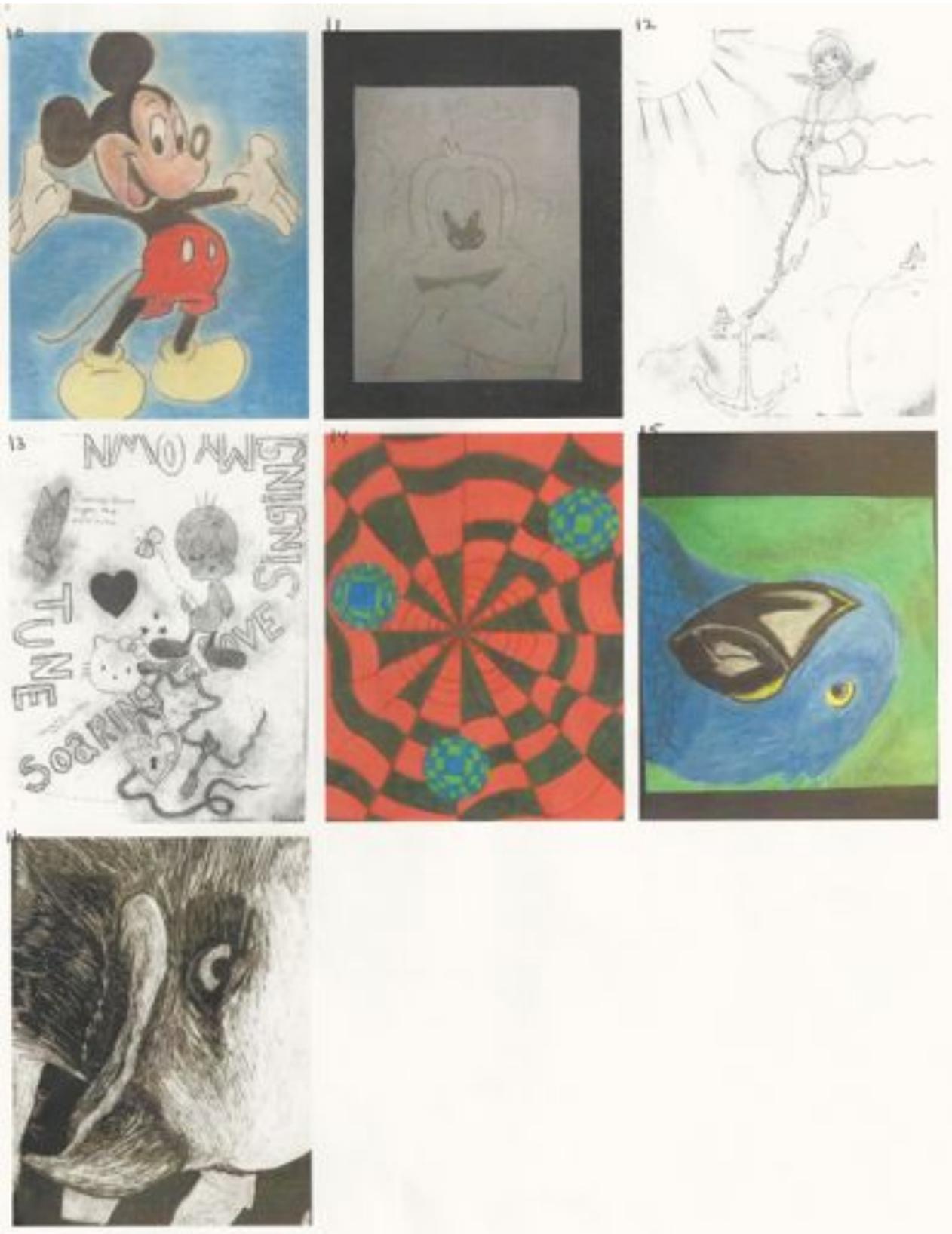
Left to right:
 B. Brown, A. Tran, M. Trenhaile,
 K. Martin, A. Rosa, B. Brown,
 J. Kue, T. McCuiston, N. Gonzalez



Left to right:
A. Book, B. Nelson, K. Nelson,
Trenhaile, R. Downwind, C. Yang,
A. Johnson



Left to right:
 A. Rosa, S. Laway, J. Weber,
 A. Book, B. Thompson, A. Rosa,
 T. McCuiston, B. Nelson, R. Mottl



Left to right:
N. Gonzalez, M. Trenhaile, T. McCuiston,
T. McCuiston, N. Stoffels, J. Rodriguez,
C. Witherspoon



Left to right:

S. Stewart, H. Roylth, M. Branstner,
 K. Martin, K. Nasby, S. Yang,
 B. Brown, K. Martin, T. McCuiston

10



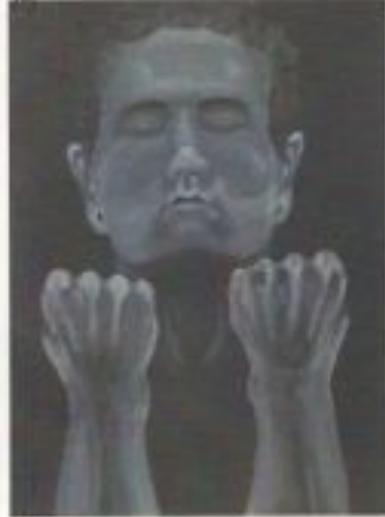
11



12



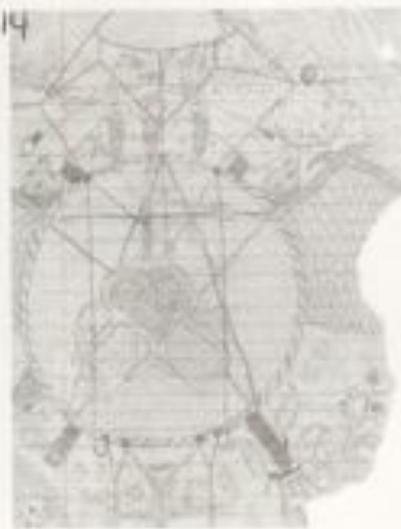
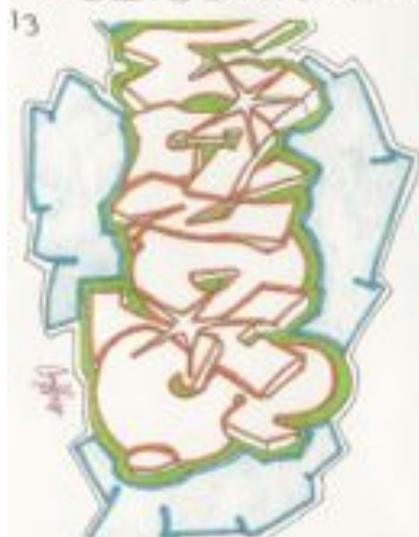
13



Left to right:
J. Benjamin, Z. Hemann, R. Ciseros,
R. Pine, A. Martinez, B. Nelson



Left to right:
 S. Parker, C. Milhausen, B. Brown,
 C. Milhausen, B. Brown, A. Rosa,
 B. Lund, J. Benjamin, M. Johnson



Left to right:
M. Paine, R. Pine, Z. Hemann,
A. Rosa, K. Martin