

# Summer as it sets



MONDAY  
AUGUST 26, 2002

St. Petersburg Times

Work on this page also appears on the St. Petersburg Times Web site, www.sptimes.com.

Welcome back to school, and welcome to Xpressions, our monthly showcase of creativity by young artists and writers. Summer's open theme continues this month with, among other artistic work and words, replicas of an unusual technique: bark painting, using collage and drawing. Check out the submission instructions and themes for coming Xpressions, below, and be part of the fun.

— NANCY GREEN, Xpressions editor

## Sitting on the Dock

Feel the breeze, look at the leaves floating in the river.  
Watch the mullet jump up and down, hear their splash in the water.  
Look at the crabs, crawling around in the dark mud by the river.  
Fish in the clouds, wind in their tails, swimming towards the sunset.

## Sunken Treasure

Deep down in the ocean  
Where the fish and turtles play  
Upon the sandy surface  
Is something kind of gray.  
If you look very closely  
You may just see a hole.  
Put your hand in very carefully  
You might pull out some gold!

— Two poems by ANNIE L. CAUSEY, 9, third grade, Tarpon Springs Elementary

## Dreaming

I can't make the sun shine,  
or make the wind blow.  
I can't read your mind,  
so your thoughts I'll never know.  
I can't tell you the truth,  
without telling you a lie,  
about how my heart pounds when I see you,  
how I feel and why.  
And I can't be perfect,  
that is far from what I'll be,  
but love isn't perfect,  
you'll learn that, wait and see.  
I will ride your trail of thought,  
as if an endless blue sea,  
and cradle your emotions,  
as if a fragile baby.  
But maybe I'm just dreaming,  
and this may never come true,  
because as of now  
there is no me and you.  
But until then I'll keep dreaming,  
on my fluffy clouds of blue,  
until then I'll keep dreaming,  
of just me and you.

— By AMANDA THOMPSON, 13, eighth grade, Tarpon Springs Middle School

There once was a boy named Spence,  
Who tried to jump a high fence.  
He broke his left knee,  
Then fell on a bee,  
That boy just had no common sense!

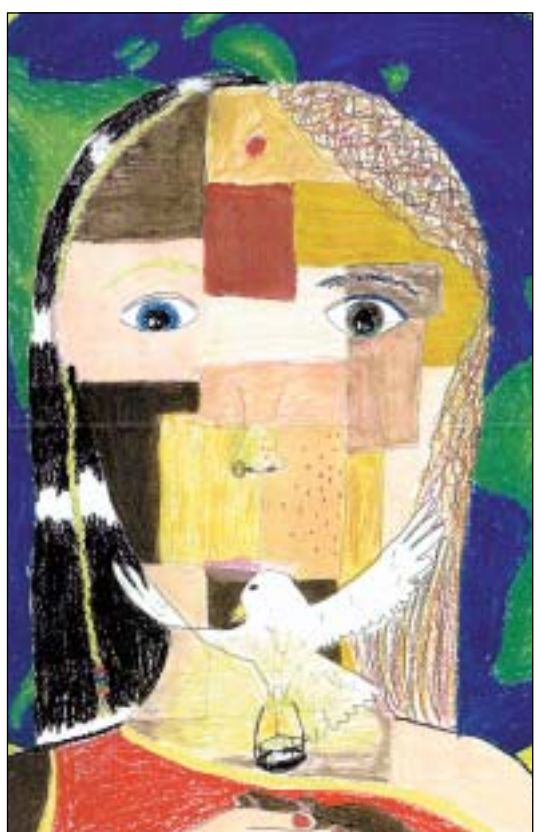
— By ELEFTERIA GAROS, 11, fifth grade, Palm Harbor Elementary School

## Fragments of My Self

I look in the mirror and all that I see  
Are a thousand broken pieces staring at me  
Putting my hand out, I lightly touch the  
Broken shreds that make up my face  
I search for happiness but I don't find a trace  
Gazing back at me is a mosaic of my life  
With a penetrating stare that  
Stabs me like a knife.  
But wait! Peeling back the layers  
I can clearly view  
A tiny life waiting anew.  
Yes! It is hope and it is beautiful  
Stepping back I now can plainly see  
The broken pieces do not form a figure  
Of sadness, but one of defiance and  
Determination  
Perhaps this is not a splintered mosaic . . .

Perhaps  
This  
Is  
Me!

— By NATALIE JABBAR, 15, 10th grade, Berkeley Preparatory School, Tampa



"Peace" by STEPHANIE MCKEE, 13, John Hopkins Middle School, St. Petersburg

## X-ray Style Bark Painting (Inspired by the Gagudju artists of Australia)

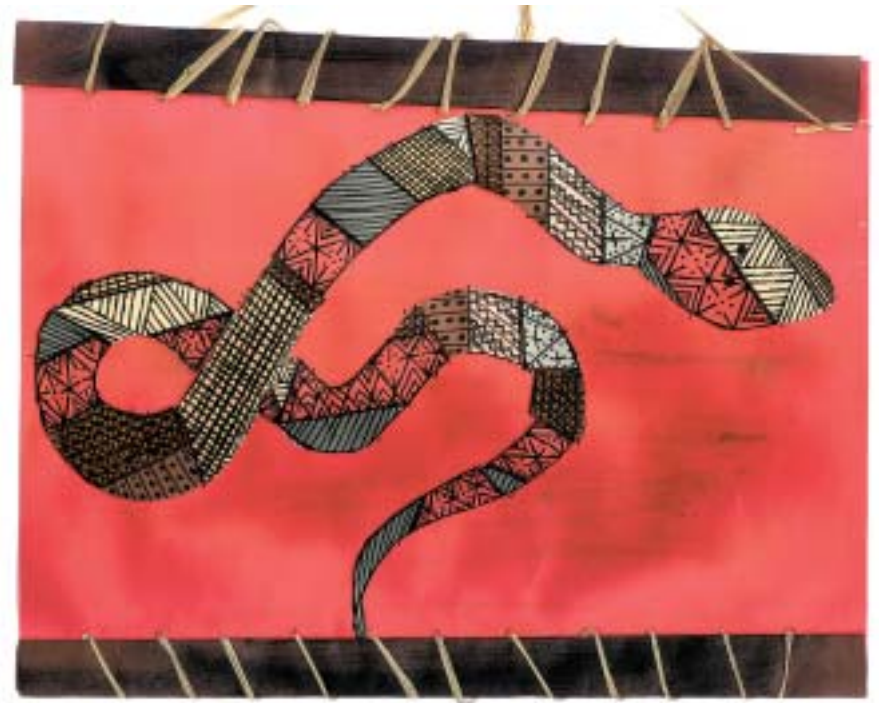
From teacher Cathy Battle's art students at Progress Village Middle School, Tampa



By JESSICA SZCZECH, seventh grade



By BRIANA ANTEZANA, seventh grade



By LAUREN BOSEMAN, sixth grade



By IVAN MANCHERO, seventh grade



By TRACY THOMPSON, eighth grade

## See your work in lights (or at least in print)

Xpressions, our monthly showcase for the art, writing and photography of students through the 12th grade, is looking for your work! Xpressions appears the last Monday of each month inside Floridian. Please read the following instructions before submitting your work, which must be based on the designated themes. Here

are some upcoming themes and deadlines: **SEPTEMBER: WHAT DIFFERENCE HAVE I MADE IN THE WORLD?** This is an appropriate month to reflect on your place in the world, and how you have made a difference in the lives of others. **Postmark deadline: Sept. 9.** **OCTOBER: OPEN THEME** — Think

autumn, think anything you wish for this unthemed edition. **Postmark deadline: Oct. 7.** Work may be edited for length and content. Please send your work, theme suggestions and comments to: Xpressions, c/o Nancy Green, St. Petersburg Times, 1000 N Ashley Drive, Tampa, FL 33602. All work must follow the designated theme and be your own creation. Artwork must be on white, unlined paper,

with the medium stated on the back (oil, pastel, crayon, etc.). Be sure to include your name, age, school, grade, address, ZIP code and phone number, with area code. **IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR WORK WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE INFORMATION ABOVE.** Stories must be no longer than 150 words. We can return only artwork, and only if you indicate that you want it back.

MORE XPRESSIONS ON 4D