



MIDDLE SCHOOL MARVELS

MORE XPRESSIONS ON 3D

Poetry from seventh-graders at Orange Grove Middle School Magnet for the Arts in Tampa:

I am thankful for the big oak trees
and the everlasting sky
I am thankful for the hummingbirds
and the flowers that make them hum
I am thankful for the crystalline
water that sparkles in the morning sun
I am thankful for the colors and
diversity of the world
I am thankful for the crying babies
and the laughing children.

I am thankful for the whistling
wind and the midnight glow
I am thankful for my mom and
dad, who have taught me all I
need to know
I am thankful for my pets, who in
many ways have helped me to
grow
I am thankful for the tall
mountains and the deep seas
And I am thankful for you and me.

By HANNAH FRAHER, 12

Nature's Orchestra

It was dark where I was.
I was in a pool of blackness.
My heart felt as though it was
pounding outside my body,
Its beat audible to my
surroundings as nature's
orchestra composed a
symphony to its rhythm.
The wind through the reeds
sounded like fifes or piccolos.
Owls sang tenor with their "hoo-
hoo-hoos,"
Crickets filling in with their
chirping songs.
Frogs croaked in the bass line.
Grasshoppers played violin on
their legs.
Splashing fish in the lake made
cymbals,
While the raindrops danced a
melody around them.
Mother Nature, the composer.
Father Time, the metronome.
And God, the heavenly conductor.
As the frogs stopped croaking and
the owls fell silent,
The thunder subsided.
The beautiful music ceased ...
And the first ray of morning sun
began to shine.
Then . . . I saw the forest.

By CALVIN J. MYNATT, 12

Through the Window

As I look through the window,
I see a ray of light,
Hope, happiness, freedom.

The sky outside turns black,
The ray of light is cut off,
Sadness, depression, turmoil.

I sit, hoping the sky will change,
The clouds start to clear,
Resolve, friendship, trust.

By MICHAEL HOLLOWELL, 13

Thoughts on peace from two of Nancy Cregan's sixth-grade social studies students at Westlake Christian School in Palm Harbor:

If I were talking to children in the Middle East and I had to explain peace to them, I would say that peace was going to bed without the fear that you might not wake up in the morning. Peace means not worrying if your mom or dad is going to come home from work that day. Peace means not worrying that while you are walking home from school a bomb might explode in a car that is parked next to you. To those children, peace would be great, and I hope the conflict in the Middle East will end soon.

By MAX DALLMAN, 11

What would I say to Middle Eastern children about peace? I would tell them that peace comes from each of us understanding the differences in religions and accepting them. Peace comes from sharing our environment, land and living together with people who have different needs. Each of us should follow the golden rule and do unto others as we would want them to do unto us. We should not fight one another, but give love to one another. Peace has to come from all of us. We can't do it alone.

By STEPHEN SCULLY, 11



By LINDSAY RAPP, 11, sixth grade, Skycrest Christian School, Clearwater



ABOVE: Photograph by ADAM CORMIER, 13, eighth grade, Palm Harbor Middle School

RIGHT: By KATE GRAY, 13, eighth grade, Orange Grove Middle School, Tampa



By CAMERON SOKOLIK, 12, seventh grade, Orange Grove Middle School, Tampa

How to Xpress yourself



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 theme: **NOTE: Deadline for NOVEMBER and DECEMBER has passed.** **JANUARY: WATER** — There are

as many ways to interpret this month's theme as there are raindrops. Dive right in and surprise us with your innovative, fluid expressions. Open to all grades. **Deadline: Postmark Jan. 13.** **FEBRUARY: OPEN THEME** — You choose! Art, writing, photography on any theme. **Deadline: Postmark Feb. 10.** 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. **NEW REQUIREMENT: PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS**