

Poetry Behind the Walls

Summer 2009
Volume 2, Issue 1

PBW is a collaborative project between
Save the Kids, Le Moyne College,
Sunny Cortland, American Friends Service Committee, and Hillbrook Youth Detention
Center.

The goal of PBW is to provide space for youth to
express themselves nonviolently.
By youth being published it supports and encourages them.

Editor:

Danielle M. Hayes
Save the Kids and Le Moyne College

and

Anthony J. Nocella, II
SUNY Cortland

Acknowledgements

We very much want to thank all the kids, staff, and administration at Hillbrook Youth Detention Center for supporting this project. Hillbrook is truly a place where caring for children and their future is the number one priority.

You are my other half, You make me whole

By: Alisha

First I thought that I was whole

I walked around like I owned the world

Then I found you and I finally realized

I wasn't whole; I was only half of that

You complete me; you are everything I'm not

You make me strong, you make me happy

You know just what to say when I am down

You are everything I wish I could be

You make me smile when I am sad

You make me happy when I am mad

You are my other half, you make me whole

If you ever left me, I would lose a part of me

Now that I am whole, I can't bear to be half again

I want to be a whole, never leave me a half

Love

By: Alisha

Sometimes I wonder

How can I feel this way?

I feel like love is taking me under

How is it that someone, just one person, can make me feel this way?

So good and so new

I feel this way when I am with you

And when I am away from you,

I feel so wrong because you make me whole

And just for that reason, I love you

Hillbrook

By: Alisha

Hillbrook, Hillbrook: It will break up your soul

Hillbrook, Hillbrook: You won't be able to stand it

Hillbrook, Hillbrook: You don't want to be there

Hillbrook, Hillbrook: You'll miss the outside

Hillbrook, Hillbrook: Going there will break you.

Pain

By: Alisha

I have a lot of heart. I have a lot of pain

I have thought about it in my mind

I hope this will end, I hope this will stop

Everyone says I need help, but I don't need it

I don't want it; I feel I don't need any help

I have a lot of pain

I live with "it" everyday

"It" haunts me in my dreams

"It" touches me during the day

"It" tortures me during the day

"It" never leaves me alone

I feel so trapped, I feel trapped in my own house

I feel like it's never going to stop

I feel like I am so small and so unwanted

I never thought something like that could ever happen to me, of all people

Pain, pain, pain, all I feel every second of the day is pain

Pain, pain, pain is all I feel.

Be a man

By: Alisha

Can you step up and be a man?

Take care of your responsibility

You have something that belongs to you

You have an obligation to uphold

You are running around like its all good,
acting like you don't care about anything

You use to say you loved me,

You use to say you cared

I use to say I loved you; I used to say I cared

Yes, I do have love for you, I always will

But since you went and pulled that stunt,

I cannot love you anymore.

You went and left me with all this hurt,

And with something and someone that's yours

I've grown to live with this heartache

I've learned to love what is yours,

because not only is it yours, it is mine too

I still have loved you, but you need to be a man.

My little man

By: Alisha

I hold you in my arms

When you were so small

I loved you at first sight

When you're away I feel like a part of me is gone

Only because you are a part of me

I get scared when you fall,

I got happy when you first spoke, also when you walked

I am happy to say you are mine,

I'm so happy I got to see your face

At first I could not believe it,

But then I realized it's true,

You got me and I got you.

Hickory, Dickory, Dock

By: Anthony

My life fell off the clock

Now that I am here

I'm trying to put the pieces back into the watch

Times are feeling rough,

But now it's time to get tough

It feels like my mind is about to pop,

Because my life fell off the clock

But now that I'm here,

I'm writing hickory, dickory, dock.

Friends

By: Chelsea

Once I had so many, Now I wonder if I have any

They were mine, I was their's.

We stuck together and we promised it would last forever.

I remember good times, I remember bad times

Now I'm living during hard times.

They might be many, they might be glad

I hope they know I'm missing them like mad.

Hillbrook

By: Chelsea

I got locked up.

I can't find any way out.

Everyday is the very same,

It's so hard to take the blame

When I see my mom, all I see is shame

I really hope one day I find my way

And get some spotlight and fame.

Family

By: Tiree

Family is pure love

I can talk when I have a problem

I can chill when I am bored

I get fed when I am hungry,

And when I'm cold, they make me warm.

They put me back together when my heart is torn

My family will be with me, from one night to the morning.

Black History

By: Tiree

Black is history

Black is beautiful

Black is proud

Black is president

Black is hip hop

Black is rap

Black is on top

Black is that

Black is 09'

Black is so fine

Black is all mine.

Hillbrook

By: Tiree

I am in detention

I'm locked up, they won't let me out

I want to go home, need to get on the phone

because they stress me out.

They tell me what I eat,

They tell me what to wear,

Seriously, I need to get up out of here.

My Future

By: Tiree

I don't know what my future holds

For I am holding my future

I really don't know where I'm going

I think I am going to change, for the better

I want to be a pediatrician

I want to help kids,

because kids make me smile.

High Standards (Boys)

By: Tiree

What looks good on the outside,
may not be good on the inside.

Boys that don't even know you,
try to bag you because you look right.

Their only intentions are to get in them tights.

But, don't let them do it,

You better say goodnight.

Bi-Sexual

By: Tiree

It's okay to like girls.

It's okay to like boys.

As long as you don't go overboard,
and start playing with toys.

I like girls, I like boys,

I guess that means I don't have a hard choice

I'm not easy, I am hard,

So make sure you come correct, and play your part.

Come to me with an open heart,

Don't be a hater, and respect sexuality,

as everyone says, "I can be what I want to be."

Love

By: Rameher

Love is special, love is fine.

Every time we touch, I get a tingle in my spine

I feel in love, I think I lost my mind.

But now I found it, in the back of the kitchen where I lost it.

Hillbrook

By: Kara

Here I am learning, my lesson in Hillbrook

The wrong place to be, it's not easy to see

Who would want to be here?

I want to go home.

Sometimes I get scared, I cry because I'm shy.

I want to go home.

This is no place for me to be alone.

How I feel about Hillbrook

By: Dean

Going up the hill to Hillbrook, finally we are here.

The drive in handcuffs and shackles:

“Welcome to your new home, here is your green and blue outfit”

Now we are dressed up and it is time to meet your unit mates and go to your room and make your bed.

Everyone talks but they're only coming at your head.

Some want you dead but the judge doesn't.

He just wants you away from home, now you're stuck in this zone.

Long away from home and you're all alone...waiting for that day you can go back home.

Pain is a feeling; Not a thought

By: Amound

Pain is more than hate

Pain is more than just making it through another day

Pain is more than struggles, and wanting to kill

Pain is something you have and something you feel

So they say, "You don't live for the effect and for the cause,"

Because- pain is a feeling, not an impression.

The Pregnant Belly

By: Alexis

Mom and the little pregnant belly

It's a belly, soft and chocolate.

Little ugly baby asleep in the womb

The long process to develop this child

9 months.

Pop, screams, swearing, and tears

Then the little ugly bundle of joy.

A Love with no answers

By: Alexis

To sit there and lie; why to someone who is truthful to you?

Did I really deserve that?

Thinking you were a good one only led to the pain.

Why did you deceive me so?

I hated you for that.

A loud and obnoxious person.

When I met you, you were sweet, but now I only see the worst.

I was the one who put you on the map,

Without me, you would be like an island with no people

A baby, with no mother

Or a needle, with no thread.

I was the one there from the beginning,

So what do you think about a love with no answers?

You didn't care: What did you care about?

These are the questions I ask you today,

as you begged for my forgiveness.

You say you didn't know what you had,

Did that really matter to you? I think not!

You say you are sorry!

I don't believe that's true.

You say think to the future, I cannot see that far in time.

You say let's make a baby, that would only make things a living hell.

You say, how come? Why won't a baby work?

"Because of the fact that a child would only mean seeing you more."

You ask, do I still love you?

I can't bear to speak a lie, so I say I do!

That's what I mean- how and why do you care?

You don't know; do you have any answers for me?

The only response from you is "I don't know."

What comes next and the only thing he says he knows is that he wants it to work...

This is what makes me think,

What if we were together?

Would things be different?

Are we going to be a good couple?

Should I give him another chance at love?

But still, and all I don't want to trust it after the pain you put me through.

If you kept it real from the start

You ended our relationship for nothing.

The question you now ask is,

"How long are you going to hold this grudge?"

The question I ask myself is, am I going to hold this grudge for long?

Why should I let this go?

Most important, what do I do next?

The thing is: you lied.

So still and all, we will always have a love with no answers!

Always and forever.

Please figure out the answers to my questions.