

Hometown Poetry

Poems selected in 2022



Bloomington To Galawe

The community of my mind
Streets and sidewalks of my heart;
Beauty in the city from sunrise to dark;
Part of my story that'll never depart.
The song we sing that isn't harmony
But always truly works.

- Galawe Alcenat

Bird in a Storm

You are strong like a bird in a storm.
You can fly even if the wind pushes you back.
The storm will darken,
but a blue sky awaits you on the other side.
For you are a bird whose wings can't be stopped.

- Adison Baumgartner

From One Breath to the Next

I've been living
From one breath to the next;
So I started giving
Myself broader context.
I learned that freedom
Is not halfway achieved;
Not until we all can breathe
Will any of us be relieved.

- Isabel Blackwood

Look Up

It's time that I dispose
of this feeling.
A fear of things that
flitter and fly;
Nature's greatest gifts
are often found in the sky.

- Makayla Buckman

A Dance Unnoticed

Leaves are my favorite ballet dancers.

When they prepare

They switch into exquisite costumes of green silk

And perform.

Our eyes straight ahead unnoticed,

How we missed the show once again.

- Filsan Cise

No Screens Needed

You don't need a start button to play.

You're smart. You have creativity and heart.

Believe in yourself—you can do anything!

Imagine. Jump off this square to start!

- Colleen Klos

Believe

When you feel the shadow eclipsing the heart,
breathe deep, face the dark.

Focus on your strength for you are strong.

You have it in you, you have all along. Believe.

- Kerry Kollodge

Bloomington

I came here a stranger,

And you welcomed me.

You took me in,

And now I call you "home."

- Ann McFall

Wonder

It's an unknown thing,
It will make you dream of fun.
It's the joy of life.

- Frederick Mueller

Happiness or Sorrow/شادی و غم

شادی و غم هر دو با دعوت توست
هر چه را خواهی همان عادت توست
عالم و آدم همه منتظرند
طاعت از ایشان بود فرمان ز توست

English translation:

Happiness or sadness is always your choice.
Whichever you choose becomes your way of life.
The Whole Universe's obligation is to grant your wish.

- Mohammad Noori

YOU SEE ME I SEE YOU

Despite our race, color, ethnicity, age, and gender identity

Porque unidos somos mas fuertes.

So see me the way you WANT me to see you

and let's unify this corrupt society together as one.

English translation:

Porque unidos somos mas fuertes

(because united we are stronger)

- Britney Vega Quintanilla

Changes

Colors are not just colors

they fill the room with positive feelings,

feelings that make you feel free and strive

for a change that brings us together.

- Edwin Vega Quintanilla

Motion

My smile may hide the pain inside, and yet I rise.

My arms may ache, my feet are tired, and still I stride.

My song might be as yet unsung, but the music is playing,
and I dance on.

- Deb Rash

Friendship

Friendship is like a seed you plant

Everyone can see it grow, but only you can feel its true kindness

Strong

-Mario Vega-Escobar

Echoes

Where we stand
is Dakota homeland.

So hold a hand
and listen near.

To the stories of a People
who are still here.

- Kristi Wobbema

My Covered Skin

Her skin is white and holds privilege;

Your skin is brown but holds riches.

Her skin has stories of her own;

Your skin writes novels unknown.

But don't you cry brown girl;

One day they will realize.

- Weemon Yeakehson

Best of Wishes

The best of wishes don't always come in threes,
Nor voyage on the back of shooting stars.
Because I caught pieces of it once,
In the first of sunrises,
The last of sunsets,
And the kindest seas with boundless dreams.

- Irene Zheng

Encouragement

Pursue your passions
Don't give up on your vision
Make your dreams come true

- Anonymous