

POETRY

Eagle Pass, Texas

by Catelynn

I'm going out to Eagle Pass Texas,
To visit all the beautiful monuments,
And to visit my grandparents tonight.
I'm going next time. You come, too.

I'm going out to Eagle Pass Texas,
To visit all my relatives today,
To say I love you or Te Amo Abuela.
I'm going next time. You come, too.

Escape

by Alicia

OUT OF THE WINDOW AND ONTO THE ROOF,
THIS IS THE FLIGHT, OF THIS YOUNG FELLOW.

OVER THE HOUSETOPS WITHOUT A SLIP,
BATES IS IN THE CLOSET, THE POLICE AT THE DOOR,
SIKES HAS SOME TIME SO HE MIGHT AS WELL SKIP.

FINDS A ROPE AND TIES A KNOT,
MIGHT NOT HOLD
HE'LL HAVE TO HOPE.

HE SLIPS THE ROPE AROUND HIS HEAD
WITH NO INTENTION OF WHAT'S AHEAD,
HE SEES HIS VICTIM'S EYES INSIDE
AND WISHES HE WAS STILL IN BED.

DOWN, DOWN ALL THE WAY,
THE ROPE THEN TIGHTENED 'ROUND HIS NECK,
HIS WEARY WORLD WENT BLACK THAT DAY
AND NOW THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO SAY.

A Girl

by Deanna

A girl is full of mysteries no one understands
She has friends and family and that one special man.

A girl has feelings bottled up inside
She'll need to scream them aloud just to keep her alive.

A girl may yell and she may begin fights
But without saying sorry she never feels alright.

A girl doesn't understand herself all the time
So you don't wanna confuse her more, keep that in mind.

A girl will figure out her life when the time comes
But right now you need to let her have some fun.

A girl will grow up and become a beautiful soul
So as she's progressing let her set her own goals.

A girl will conclude her mysteries are solved
Just as soon as everyone and this world let her evolve.

Lifeless Eyes

by Abigail

A shot rings out in the hot night air
Down you fall to your final resting ground
He only wanted the money, Now he took your life
You lie there with lifeless eyes,
Staring at the peaceful night sky,

I'm wondering why
You lie in the coffin in front of the church,
The pastor says a few words but he didn't know you the way I did,
And no one ever will

You lie there with lifeless eyes,
You're no longer there you've left me here
In the ground

Your casket goes
Throw down my red rose

I'll see you again
When I too pass over
Will you wait for me?

You lie there,
You're at peace,
Wait til the day I see you again
I'll never forget you or your lifeless eyes.

Numb

by Elora

Sometimes all I want to be is numb,
Desensitized from the world's hate,
From the anger that surrounds me.

To numb myself,

To not take notice of what is happening around me.

Close my eyes and just forget anything that is there.

When I open my eyes I remember what I had forgotten, I remember that numb is the coward's way
And I may be many things not all of which are good, But I will not be a coward.

So even when I hurt I feel.

If only to escape the numbing I so crave No matter the pain, numbing is not an answer; No matter
the pain, numbing is not the way out.

Once Upon A Summer Night

by Elizabeth

Once upon a summer night,
I had just put out my light,
I looked outside to see,
My flowers talking with a tree.

The roses had started to dance,
And the daisies with them will prance,
The chipmunks sat around a fire,
While the birds flew even higher.

The pretty wren was with the hens,
All were talking of their dens,
The little bugs were quite snug,
Nestled by the fire.

But then I made a noise,
And all looked up with grace and poise,
Immediately there was not a stir,
The fire was out with a whirl.

All was silent,
I wondered how,
I was so sad,
And yet i'm glad,
Their secret is safe with me now.

Scared is.

by Catelynn

Scared is going fishing & when you catch a fish and your grandma scares you by saying the fish is following you so you run to the car and want to lock the doors.

Scared is turning the volume up when a scary movie is playing and you scream.

Scared is screaming because of a Halloween costume that has fake blood all over.

Scared is when you toss & turn in bed thinking about the scary movie that you just got done watching and you have to go to the bathroom but you think about the monster under your bed worrying if he will grab your feet.

Scared is worrying about the mice in your room that soon might gnaw at your feet.

Scared is seeing a tarantula out of its cage & while you are screaming it crawls up your toes into your pants leg.

Scared is seeing a bulldog cross the street and starts to bark at you when you try to save him.

Your Arms Are My Prison

by Miriam

Your arms are my prison, unbreaking chain
Forcing in feelings that I can't contain
You laugh at the truth, scorned but accepted
Mocking me in this game you've perfected
Sweet ignorance, sell my morality
Trade my soul to embrace mortality
This pain is softer than being alone
Going under, I cannot hold my own
I close my ears to your lies in defeat
Let them pierce me as I pray it's complete
Words bury people but can't bring them back
Failed tries prove gravestones are unchanging fact
You see I'm bleeding, I'm broke and bruised
You hold the stained knife that cuts all the used

A Wake Up Call for the U.S.

(written as a response to a poem called the Burdens of Uncle Sam)

by Johanna

Sure! Blacks are inferior.
Of Course you say this is true.
The female gender is
Quite inferior too.

But, while you are on your pedestal,
Think of the women and the blacks.
Do you think that they're not angry?
Do you think they won't strike back?

The black man works twice as hard
And yet receives much harm.
He sleeps where it is cold and wet
While you are nice and warm.

The average city woman
Must work, toil hard in factories.
Still, you find the lazy man's work
More satisfactory.

For this you have a reason,
But I can tell you it:
It builds you up to knock them down
You dirty hypocrite.

Would you like to be treated
The way that you treat them.
If you can't answer that,
Tell me when you can.

The Scarlet Letter

by Brad

During one's life, he or she will be sure to face many difficult decisions that will demand much time and thought. These decisions can have many different results to consider. Some will affect a large amount of people, while others will change one's life forever. Throughout the story, Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale is constantly facing an internal battle over the decision of whether or not to admit his part in the sin of Hester Prynne. Either side has large amounts of pain to bear. The difference is where the pain comes from. One choice leaves him tortured by his own mind. The other will result in being disgraced to the entire community.

It is a classic example of the choice between what is right and what is easy. To keep it to himself would cause much less hardships, but, especially with his religious background, he knows lying about it is a sin against God and Hester.

His reputation with the town is one of perfection. No matter what error he makes, the people still consider him the ideal example of a flawless life. By keeping this secret, Dimmesdale becomes rather emotional in his preaching and is able to sympathize with his sinful congregation.

Whenever he preaches, the people listen intently and follow every bit of advice Dimmesdale gives. Why give this up? It would appear that he would be most happy by keeping quiet about all that has happened and go on with his life. We are given the description of him at his Election Sermon, despite his peculiar behavior recently, as "an epoch of life more brilliant and full of triumph than any previous one, or than any which could hereafter be."(223) Popularity is regarded highly in many people's minds. Dimmesdale is possibly the most popular and well-liked man in the whole community.

On the other hand, to admit his sin would relieve much of the pressure and anguish on the Reverend. His conscience never resides peacefully while the truth remains a secret. He tortures himself constantly for his silence, which, ultimately, leads to a fatal heart condition. Through this

sin, he preaches with more sympathy and achieves more respect, but like many positive gains, it comes with a catch. Dimmesdale tries to ease his tortured soul by admitting his sinfulness to the congregation, but instead of rebuking him, they look at it as a symbol or motivation to do better themselves, not believing that such a man could sin. This makes Dimmesdale even more upset with himself. Eventually, he feels that he is unable to preach anymore. He believes that his corrupt soul is going to contaminate the rest through his teachings to them. (Chap 20) The hope is that if he admits his sin, him and Hester will be able to move away and finally live in peace without the rest of the world looking down on them.

In the end, Dimmesdale finally confesses his sin to the city. One might think this would resolve the story, and Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale would go on to live an enjoyable life, but the result is far from this. It is unclear as to what feeling Dimmesdale has towards his decision. When looking at how his body reacts, it goes both ways. While speaking, we are told Dimmesdale “threw off all assistance, and stepped passionately forward” (228), showing a rise of strength. He no longer needed Hester to stand. This alone makes it appear that Dimmesdale did the correct thing, but arguments against this arise almost immediately.

He soon reveals the scar above his own heart from his torture. Then, he quickly dies, leaving Hester alone without completing their “perfect” plan. In resolution, Rev. Arthur Dimmesdale suffers terribly and eventually dies. Hester, on the other hand, lives a life that she is satisfied with and becomes happy. Dimmesdale never realized what Hester had discovered. Happiness is not found by giving in to guilt. Dimmesdale believes he is not fit to be a minister anymore and won’t be happy until he quits this profession. The truth is that the happiness comes from looking in one’s self and using the wrong that was done to learn a lesson and strive to do better in the future. Hester ignores what the community says about her. Instead, she confesses to her sin and decides to live a better life because of it. The overall message is that one should not deny their identity. Self-confidence and strength come through the study of oneself and the reform that comes in result.