

We wish to express a BIG thank you to all of the students who have submitted poetry and the teachers and staff that have nurtured them along the way.



A Poetry Anthology Written by the Students of



n a s r u d e e n y a s i n z a k a r i a y a h y a n u h a  
m a r y a m a h a m d i a b d i r a h m a n  
m u s a b n a j m a k h a d r a f a t i m a  
f a d u m a s u m a y a k e y s e m u n i r a a m a l  
s a m i y a n a j m a m a r y a m a n a d i r a  
i m a n s a m i y a f a i z a m u n a m a y m u n a  
f a d u m o a m i i r a h i j r a s a f i y o  
h a f s a k h a d i i j a b a h j a r i y a n  
s a n a a n a j m o m a n i r a i b r a h i m  
a h m e d n o o r n u r d i n f a d u m a s u d i  
j a m e i l r a h m o s a l m a n i m c a  
h a f s a m o h a m e d y u s u f  
s a m i r a m o h a m e d s a l a h r u d e e n  
a i s h a s u r e y a y a y h e i k r a j e y l a n i

A Poetry Anthology Written by the Students of



Nasrudeen Noor 1  
Riyan Abdulahi 1  
Maryama Mohamed 1  
Nuha Mohamed 1  
Sanaa Mohamed 2  
Najmo Mohamud 2  
Manira Ahmed 2  
Hamdi Hassan 3  
Zakaria Mohamed 3  
Yusuf Yusuf 3  
Yasin Ali 4  
Abdirahman Jama 4  
Yahya Hersi 4  
Ibrahim Ahmed 4  
Ahmednoor Noor 4  
Musab Mohamed 5  
Faduma Hashi 5  
Sumaya Haye 5  
Faduma Abdullahi 6  
Keyse Mohamed 6  
Fatima Haye 6  
Bahja Mohamed 7  
Hafsa Mohamed 7  
Samiya Ismail and Najma Ali 8  
Munira Alawi and Semira Mohamed 8  
Khadra Sahid 9  
Sudi Ahmed 9  
Najma Mohamed 10  
Iman Mohamed 10  
Maryama Hussein 11  
Nadira Ali 12  
Samiya Mohamed 12  
Jameil Said, 13  
Safiyo Mohamed 13  
Fadumo Jama 14  
Salma Mumin 14  
Rahmo Ahmed 14  
Amiira Ali and Hijra Aburahman 16  
Nimca Mohamed 17  
Hafsa Farah 17  
Mohamed Adem 18  
Mohamed Salah 18  
Muna Nuur and Maymuna Ali 19  
Faiza Osman 20  
Nurdin Alawi 20  
Amal Mohamed Bashir 21  
Samira Mohamed 21  
Salahrudeen Mohamed 22  
Aisha Hashi and Sureya Haye 22  
Yayhe Abdurhaman 23  
Ikra Jama 23  
Jeylani Said 24  
Khadiija Ismael, 25

Nice  
Always watching  
Snakes are coming  
Running is fun  
Up in heaven  
Ducks say quack  
Empty means nothing's in there  
Elephants have huge feet  
Name every name

**Nasrudeen Noor, TK**

-----

Really beautiful  
I love my toy tiger  
Yellow is my favorite  
And I play outside  
Nine hours of sleep

**Riyan Abdulahi, TK**

-----

Must do kind things  
Always want to be good and pay attention  
Run, jump, skip  
You are sparkling  
And I love your dress  
My family and mom, I love you because my mom raised me

**Maryama Mohamed, 1st grade**

-----

Never stop trying  
Unit you are on fire  
Hopes and dreams can let you reach higher  
And now you can be anything you want to be

**Nuha Mohamed, 1st grade**

I like to bake cupcakes.  
I want to be a scientist  
I am beautiful.

**Sanaa Mohamed, 1st grade**

-----

Never give up  
Always have fun  
Jump on trampolines  
Make more trampolines  
Octonauts

**Najmo Mohamud, 1st grade**

-----

Make cupcakes  
Apples are good  
Najmo is my best friend  
I am beautiful  
Running in PE  
And always have fun

**Manira Ahmed, 1st grade**

Some people always leave trash everywhere  
In neighborhoods, city parks  
They destroy animal habitats and kill  
Rare, endangered creatures just for their features  
Fur for coats, scarves, mittens

People also kill animals for food  
Capture them for pets  
And use them for scientific research

These illness cures may not leave enough for the animals that need it  
They can become very sick and maybe even die

People think that some animals are scary and dangerous  
They only want to be left alone  
They have to defend themselves from attack

People should stop harming animals  
Leave them alone and they will leave you alone

**Hamdi Hassan, 2nd grade**

-----

I like to work with people  
We help each other  
We help people in the community

**Zakaria Mohamed, 2nd grade**

-----

Nature is important because it has beautiful colors  
Especially in the Spring  
And in the Fall, the leaves fall down  
And people jump in them.

**Yusuf Yusuf, 2nd grade**

We cooperate  
People can be powerful  
Together we can

**Yasin Ali, 2nd grade**

-----

Storms are bad  
The thing is to sleep  
On the roof you gonna fall  
Run away  
My mom gives me chocolate when it happens

**Abdirahman Jama, 3rd grade**

-----

Raindrops fall from heavy clouds  
A puddle forms on the ground  
In the street, hear the swish and splash  
Night or day, the rain comes down

**Yahya Hersi, 3rd grade**

-----

I wanna be a rapper  
But don't steal my wrappers  
So don't be a brat.  
So don't be a cat.

**Ibrahim Ahmed, 3rd grade**

-----

My name is Ahmed  
I like Iftin because integrity and focus are our goals.  
It is fun at Iftin.

**Ahmednoor Noor**

I want to be a player  
But I can't see all the layers  
I hope to become a player  
To see my dream  
I will have to find my layers  
And I did find it  
You just need courage

**Musab Mohamed, 3rd grade**

-----

Life is,  
A series of events that are strung together  
Like a phrase of a sentence  
Forever changing and  
Forever adapting  
Turn the page and read on

**Faduma Hashi, 4th grade**

-----

Silvery moon  
I see your face  
High in the sky  
That is your place  
Quietly you appear  
When it is night  
There I see you  
When tucked up tight  
Allah has made you  
You are his moon  
But you will be hidden  
From our eyes quite soon  
That will be when the day time has come  
When Allah reveals  
The light of the sun

**Sumaya Haye, 4th grade**

The day's are going by  
The birds fly high  
I'm getting pretty nervous  
I'm not gonna lie  
And all the birds cry  
Don't take me away  
I promise I'll stay  
But life is a new journey  
And I can't wait  
Before it's too late  
Because it's an adventure  
Everyday

**Faduma Abdullahi, 4th grade**

-----

I am nine years old  
I came from Africa, one year ago  
I lived in Hagadera, Somalia and Nairobi, Kenya  
Since I came here, I have learned English, math and basketball  
It is hard sometimes, but learning keeps me going  
Thank you parents, teachers and students

**Keyse Mohamed, 4th grade**

-----

"I have a dream", said Martin Luther King  
Trying to stop Segregation in Civilization

"Each person must live their life as a model for others", said Rosa Parks  
Reminding you to respect one another

"Fly like a butterfly, sting like a bee", came from the famous Mohamed Ali  
Even if you the lamest or the greatest, you still tried the hardest

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer", said Harriet Tubman  
Always remember to be a winner

**Fatima Haye, 5th grade**

Sing a song that will calm one's heart  
Help a person in need  
To seek out the truth is not easy  
Not being as perfect as you can be  
Share your heart with others and you will see  
A good deed is more than you think  
With a good heart you'll never sink  
Make today your day, and help you succeed  
All you need to do is succeed

**Bahja Mohamed, 5th grade**

-----

Try your hardest  
And you shall succeed  
If you don't, try again  
Life is not easy and  
Nor is it hard  
Just practice,  
Practice, Practice  
and then you'll  
have it  
Believe in yourself  
And you'll climb the  
Highest shelf  
As your grades go up,  
Look around  
You'll never fall  
Down

**Hafsa Mohamed, Grade 5**

I am who I am  
Nobody else can be me

You can be yourself  
Just feel free

Encouragers, give courage  
Influencers, influence you

Show respect  
Don't be mean

JUST BE WHO YOU WANT TO BE  
When you feel down, hear the sound of motivation  
When you grow, your life will be full of decoration  
So be who YOU want to be and  
NOBODY can change that

**Samiya Ismail and Najma Ali, 5th grade**

-----

Friends are valuable for many reasons  
You need a hand?  
They'll be there  
You need support?  
They'll be there  
You need a shoulder to cry on?  
They'll be there

We've got friends when we can't take it any longer  
They make us feel stronger  
We've got friends when we can't make it  
They make us so much better

One thing we know for sure is we've got friends

**Munira Alawi and Semira Mohamed, 5th grade**



Respect, respect  
Respect is the key  
For all we can be successful, when we work as a team

Respect, respect  
Respect is the key  
For all we can be successful, when we work as a team

Following directions is important for you. It's easy to learn when you know what to do

Respect, respect  
Respect is the key  
For all we can be successful when we work as a team

When it's your turn you can do the talking  
Remember be quiet when you're in the halls walking

Respect, respect  
Respect is the key  
For all we can be successful when we work as a team

Helpful and kindness is the way to be  
Respectful and cooperative to everyone we see

**Khadra Sahid, 5th grade**

-----

**Courage**

Anything you can't do you will learn  
Believe in yourself with no concerns  
Help others so they will do it in return  
Don't spread rumors just be nice  
Show respect more than twice  
Make them feel like they are in paradise  
Have courage in yourself and others  
Treat them like your sisters and brothers

**Sudi Ahmed, 5th grade**

Education is key to unlock your knowledge  
It can get you into your dream college  
There are so many subjects to choose from  
Don't worry about any hurdles  
You can overcome them

Teachers are there to help you succeed  
And you will achieve your dreams  
Yes, indeed!

**Najma Mohamed, 5th grade**

-----

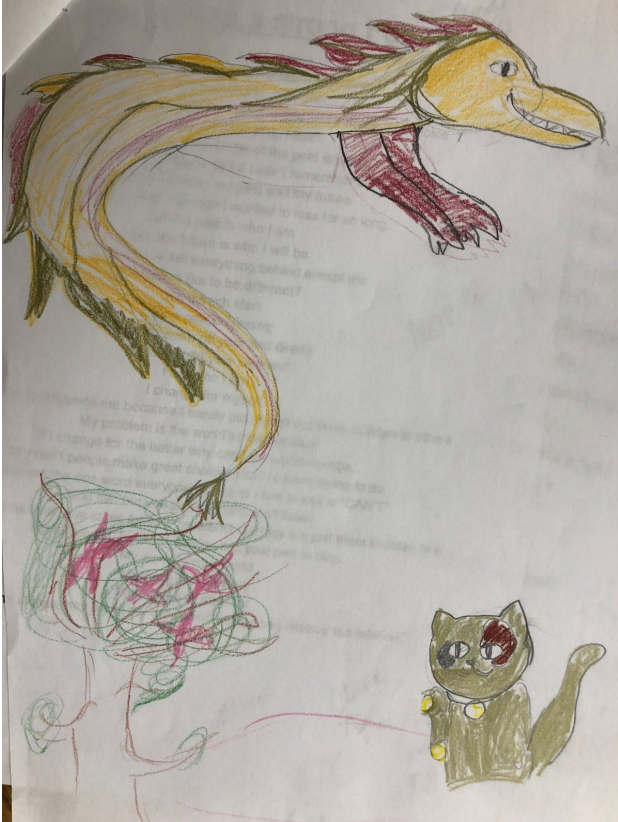
What is this feeling bursting out from inside me?  
Is it to be embraced or should I simply reject it?  
Nay, it is to be embrace  
How can I quench the flames that so consume me?  
Nay, it shall be released.  
Will I be crushed by the embers of sadness?  
Nay, I will not let that happen.  
Let the bonfire of Happiness wrap you in its warmth.

**Iman Mohamed, 6th grade**

## Festival of Hope

When cherry blossoms fall in the diamond river  
A thundering roar echoes as  
Dragon squeezes the clouds with his wings  
Bringing rain, peace and happiness  
An endless blessing for the people  
A good harvest means a good year

**Maryama Hussein, 6th grade**



**She: "Guess Who I'm talking About"**

She was scared, She was lonely  
She wasn't bold  
She was unique and sometimes clumsy  
She always persevered  
She had powers to fix all the problems except her own  
And when she was afraid, she found courage to find the truth  
She was fabulous and bright  
One idea described her best  
She was loyal to a fault

**Nadira Ali, 6th grade**

-----

WHAT you are will always be special

WHAT this school will always be in my heart

WHEN life pushes you down, push back harder

WHERE there are bad decisions, there's always good ones

WHY things happen will never be certain, so keep moving forward

**Samiya Mohamed, 6th grade**

## **You Can Never Steal Dreams**

My life has been a maze  
Twisting and turning  
Without haste  
I been navigating at my own pace  
For some reason God has reserved me a space  
I see the world from a different place

I can see the plan

I'm not losing faith, I'm not going to break  
I have what it takes to be great  
When you admit positivity, negativity seems to emulate  
I felt the highest high and the lowest lows  
The sorrows, the worries  
But I am stronger than people know  
No man, woman or soul can ever take my being

You can steal my property  
You will never steal my dreams!

**Jameil Said, 6th grade**

-----

Her hair cannot swing  
Yah Ey

Cook it, cook it, eat it, eat it  
Yah Ey

Left foot earth, right foot quake

She danced, then she slept  
Yah Ey

Join a gym, join a gym  
Yah Ey

**Safiyo Mohamed, 7th grade**

## **Free the Black Bird**

Our souls cuffed within us  
When everything feels so lost  
Free the black bird now

**Fadumo Jama, 7th grade**

-----

I woke up the wind way breezy  
Oh my  
Oh my god I am so scared  
Oh no  
I am so fly and I can dab  
Oh yea  
There is henna on my legs  
He knows  
Got all these Somalis in my dm  
Yea I do  
Oh my God, I got in trouble  
No, no, no  
Ohhhh ... I can dance so well  
Wanna see?

**Salma Mumin, 7th grade**

-----

My life is lit  
Ya'll shall just quit  
Cus I'm the coolest  
Ya'll know you can't do this  
My account on high  
Yo, I'm so sly  
I just visit Dubai  
Ya'll can't lie

**Rahmo Ahmed, 7th grade**

There's something interesting about words

From the way letters form these words

To the way these words are pronounced

What exactly do words mean?

Is there any truth to words?

Or are words just statements of the moment?

Is there value to words?

Do words have an expiration date?

Now, I wonder

How do words work?

Did you mean it then?

Do you mean it now?

Were you honest?

Your words just let me down

"If I had a collection of all things beautiful, I would have a collection of you."

Words told to me, by you

Were your words telling me truth?

Or just enough to get yourself through

Cuz your collections were beautiful

Only thing missing were your words

What does it mean to be a man of your word?

"I love you, and will forever love you"

"Weligay baan ku checlaaneyaa"

"I will never hurt you"

"Maku daawacayo"

"I will always be here for you"

"Agtaada baa choogayaa"

Words, words and more words

Kelmado

Such a great meaning to these words

Yes, they mean nothing now

How do you believe words?

"Actions speak louder than words"

But isn't uttering these words an act within itself?

**Amiira Ali and Hijra Aburahman, 7th grade**

## **Don't Quit**

When things don't go your way  
Don't quit  
When sadness starts heading your way  
Don't quit or lose hope  
If students start to discourage you  
Don't follow their footsteps  
When care is pressing you down a bit  
Rest if you Must  
But don't you quit  
The road to success is not straight  
You gotta light back  
Have determination, perseverance and faith  
Every day is a test  
Take the lead  
A wish I send to you  
My dear staff, teachers, students, lovely parents  
I wish you the best  
Never quit  
Cause success will come to each one of us  
Don't quiet and don't stop!

**Nimca Mohamed, 7th grade**

-----

Life is a test  
All you can do is try your best  
To face these obstacles  
That may seem impossible  
But know some things won't always guide you  
You have to do  
What you think is right  
Even if it is in the night  
Where it is dark and mysterious  
Where you have to be serious and curious  
Of the things you will learn on your path  
At least you did the best you could  
And if you could do better, I'm pretty sure you would  
You might not always conquer  
But even if you don't, you didn't do it for him or her  
But for yourself and no one else

**Hafsa Farah, 7th grade**

Dear Chester,

I can tell who you are by the smell you make  
I can tell who you are by the sound you make  
I can tell who you are by the taste you make  
I can tell who you are by touching you  
And finally, I can tell who you are by eating you

Best regards,

Hot Cheetos

**Mohamed Adem, 7th grade**

-----

I'm spitting some bars  
So high up you think it's from Mars  
I'm pulling up with all these foreign cars  
Thinking one day, I'll achieve something  
Little bit of life  
I not only won once but thrice  
Believe me when I say this  
I'm super nice  
I hope you loved this poem  
Because it's so amazing  
Be active don't be lazy

**Mohamed Salah, 7th grade**

## **Change Makes a Strong Future**

We all have our stories  
From happy moments to the worst moments  
All you wish for is to start over  
Maybe it would've been better if I changed this and if I made this choice  
What I don't think of is, How?  
How can I change for the better if the past is within me?  
How can I forget everything that is bad if I can't remember the good times?  
I'm stuck between my past and my future  
I've been holding a grudge I wanted to lose for so long  
But the past is who I am  
And the future is who I will be  
Considering I've left everything behind except me  
What's it like to be different?  
It's a fresh start  
It's a new beginning  
A way to wash off your bad deeds  
To help build your new self  
I am who I am  
I change for myself  
Society doesn't influence me because I barely put myself out there to listen  
to others  
My problem is the world's problem itself  
If I change for the better, why can't the world change?  
Why can't people make great choices like I've been trying to do  
Because the one word everyone says and I fear to say is, "CAN'T"  
You can but you don't try and don't listen  
You might think everyone cares for your problems but they are just there to  
listen to it  
Not to solve it, because solving it is your part to play  
My world is your world  
My fears are your fears  
We are in this together  
Sticks and stones may break my bones, but nothing can destroy our  
relationship

**Muna Nuur and Maymuna Ali, 8th grade**

Growing up in this day and age, growing up everyday.  
With all expression, and all the rage  
Our scholar are learning every-day  
While math and science is fun and crazy  
Well english is not that boring  
Writing is so much like drawing art  
For every iftin scholar, it is essential  
For them to realize their full potential  
And teachers always do their best  
To keep their interest.  
To be there learning when a steak needs turning  
Like Learning leads to earning  
You choose to go to school  
Even though they had rules  
Even though it's stressful

**Faiza Osman, 8th grade**

-----

Hooping wit da homies  
Wit da glide

Swishing all these threes  
In my black tee

Rocking these black skinny jeans

While I'm staying on my deen

**Nurdin Alawi, 8th grade**

## **Future Dreams**

These tears of yours and mine  
Won't change reality  
Wasting time  
Hiding away  
Forgotten dreams  
Not all dreams come true  
Some never get a thought

But me? I am different  
I will continue to believe  
Until the day I die  
Advance past the grief  
Into the new day  
Where I can keep hoping

Hoping for a better world  
A world with clean air  
A world with dreams  
That come to reality  
Dreams that are given more than a thought  
Yet no one can force you  
Force you to live the world  
It's your choice  
But can you make the choice?  
The right one?

**Amal Mohamed Bashir, 8th grade**

-----

## **Nature**

The beauty of the sunset  
Tells us something each day  
That another day has ended today  
The beauty of sunrise  
Tells us this day is here to stay  
The wind blowing on the face  
Tells us life is a running race  
So, get inspired by nature each day  
To make your own way

**Samira Mohamed**

## **We Are Everything**

WE ARE EVERYTHING  
We are talkers  
We are ballers  
Most of all, we are IFTIN SCHOLARS  
WE ARE THE FUTURE  
Don't regret the mistakes you have made  
Learn from them  
We are part of IFTIN  
We have INTEGRITY  
We are FOCUSED on our dreams  
We are TOLERANT of each other  
We are INDEPENDENT  
We are NURTURING  
And that right there is what makes us Iftin Scholars

**Salahrudeen Mohamed**

-----

## **Iftin**

Iftin, a word which means light  
A place where it's safe  
Where we love learning  
Where teachers watch our brains turning  
Where the teachers learning environment is beautiful  
It's undisputable  
Math, science, English and history  
We have moved closer to our victory  
Closer to our future  
Sure it was like some kind of torture  
But we must do it  
But it's going to be a wonderful journey you have to admit it

**Asha Hashi and Sureya Haya, 8th grade**

This poem is to tell you  
I'm rated PG13  
I'm a hooper  
You can catch me on the scene  
Islam is my religion  
I'm all about the Deen  
So, don't call me liar  
So hot  
I can cause wildfire

**Yayhe Abdurhaman, 8th grade**

-----

**Summer's Almost Here**

Summer's almost here  
It's time to celebrate and cheer  
As the day keeps getting hotter  
You will know it's time to go in the water  
Summer's almost here  
It's time to get your gear  
And ride on the mountains near  
Summer's almost here  
It's time to be lit with peers  
Having fun and laughing with tears  
We all know that summer's almost here

**Ikra Jama, 8th grade**

-----

Being hurt only makes you grow  
Don't listen to bullies  
Who hurt you the most  
Don't worry  
They all look the same  
They try to be cool  
But they have no fame  
We are here to learn  
Not to mess around  
I hope everyone has a great day

**Jeylani Said, 8th grade**





Land of the free home of the brave  
Yet I feel so trapped in a place of decay  
A place where my rights aren't equal to their's  
a place where my fight is harder than their's

But not as hard as those in the Motherland  
Where our star spangled banner  
Is a cloth thrown in the sand.

What does it mean when reality isn't what it seems  
When a country in the depths of falling apart  
Is made into something it really is not  
When hundreds of people are murdered we throw away the fact that the effect is more important than the cause  
Those murdered are more important than the murderers  
That John Doe was once someone's abowo  
That torn apart limb as your cover photo  
Was once someone's hooyo

So before you publicize and dramatize this demise  
Why not mourn for a bit  
Think for a bit  
About how our gracious God  
Gave us the easy life  
A life filled with stress on our next  
Assignment at school  
or how our friend is such a tool

Let's be grateful that our stress isn't about our next plate of food

Or if we get to live the next day  
Or if our mom will come back home safe

So if you ask me and wonder why i'm angry it's because  
I'm sick  
I homesick  
I yearn to be with my people  
I want to help my people

Because as our Syrian brothers and sisters cry tears of blood  
Watching the bodies of their loved ones ripped apart

Because as our Palestinian brothers and sisters throw rocks that speak the multitude of emotions they feel as the tanks  
of the enemy are gunned down

Because as our Somali brothers and sisters break apart internally due to starvation and are simply known as the new  
trending picture on Twitter  
In their eyes  
Our generation has abandoned them  
Their eyes beg for us to come  
Back home to help instead of watching their pain through a screen

So no this isn't the land of the free nor the home of the brave  
Because freedom is no longer a right  
But a fight  
And being brave is just being plain disobedient  
Peace is yet something even the most advanced countries to the most poor still need to attain

Peace and freedom!