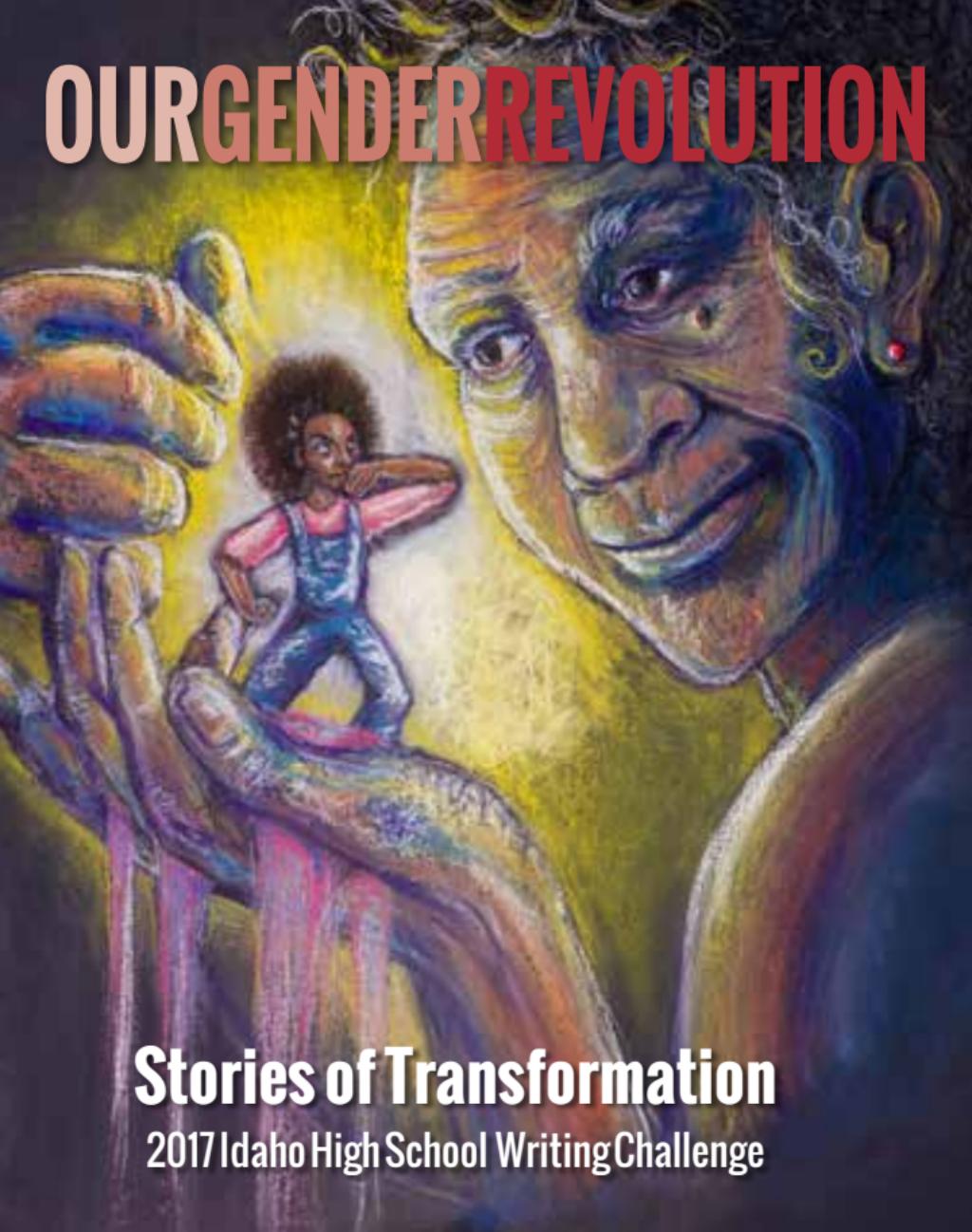


# OUR GENDER REVOLUTION



**Stories of Transformation**  
2017 Idaho High School Writing Challenge

## **Dust**

My grandmother,  
her bones caked with desert sand  
with skin thick as leather  
told me I had grit.

Gazing down at unblemished hands,  
I wondered where it was.

Now I've found it;  
mixed with blood on my lips,  
ground into my road-rash palms,  
ringing in my ears,  
smoldering in my chest  
as I heave myself up from the dust,  
determined to show them  
that down is the last place I'll stay

**Linnea Boice**

*Boise High School*

*Kathy Rotchford – Teacher*

*Cover art inspired by "Dust".*

*Boise High School – Artists: Sadie Schrenkeisen, Luan Teed, Kari Wagenman and Ginal Werdel  
Teacher: Katy Shanafelt*

*Stories of Transformation* are poems and writings that help us discover new insights - from revealing our deep connection to all living things to understanding how much of gender is socially and culturally constructed to envisioning a world with courageous love and mutual respect.

At the heart of these writings, we seek to end our culture of domination, extraction, and violence and create a world with social equity and collective liberation for all human beings - a world rooted in interdependence, resilience, and regeneration.

The 8th *Our Gender Revolution* publication was compiled from over 2,000 student submissions. Congratulations to Idaho's high school student authors whose selections are published as well as the *Our Gender Revolution Award* recipients who displayed critical thinking and excellence.

A special thank you to Idaho's teachers who encouraged their students to discover new insights through writing and to the judges who read the amazing submissions by thousands of young people.

— Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

**OUR GENDER REVOLUTION**  
[www.ourgenderrevolution.org](http://www.ourgenderrevolution.org)

## We Choose All of Us

Unfair treatment, harassment, or discrimination based on sex, gender or gender expression is wrong and creates the conditions for gender violence - abuse and sexual assault - to occur. We also do not live single issue lives: we see the limitations of single identities of sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, ability, class, religion, immigration and refugee status. We know that discrimination against any person hurts all of us. We choose to interrupt and end all forms of hate, oppression, and violence. We want to create a world where everyone is valued for their full selves.

Gender is one of the core ways we learn to identify and express ourselves. Gender is socially and culturally

constructed — it's something we learn — not just something we inherit through our biology. We learn and create our gender through our relationship to ourselves and our interactions with the people around us. But, even though gender is socialized, it is still very real. It shapes each of our experiences in profound and different ways.

When identities like gender, race, religion, and many others are linked to power, control and domination, many people are devalued just for being who they are. When people are devalued we can create harm, including hurtful words, discrimination, and eventually physical violence.

The good news is that we can change this by redefining what gender means to us and valuing everyone in our diverse communities.

## ***Stories of Transformation*** **writing prompts**

- Describe the part of yourself that already understands its deep connections with all living things. What does this self want you and others to experience, understand and feel?
- Tell the story of your people. Who are your people? Where have they been and what has happened to them? What has been the source of their resilience? What has or could healing look like in and beyond your community?
- Envision a radically different world rooted in courageous love and mutual responsibility. Where do you see signs that this new world is “already on her way”?
- None of us are truly free from violence and domination until all of us are free. Write about why and how this is true.
- Your choices have power. By choosing how you respond to behaviors or statements that objectify or devalue girls and women or people who are gender non-conforming, you make a statement about what you value. Write about a moment when you made a choice about gender.
- Much of our understanding and experience of gender is socially and culturally constructed. As children we learn what to be, think and do based on the gender we are assigned at birth and the culture we live in. Yet to be whole, we all need to have access to full range of human emotions and behaviors, regardless of our gender. Write about your experience of this.



**Feminist**

As long as mothers pack pepper spray  
into their seventh grade daughters' backpacks  
And acid deforms lovely faces  
You can call me a feminist  
As long as the mass-idolization of religious texts that  
strip women of their dignity are taken at face value  
And mere children are sold into sex slavery  
You can call me a feminist  
I have no problem with the negative connotation  
we've given that word  
It's prevalent, it's necessary,  
and even mass-ignorance can't destruct its value.

**Cora Aldridge**

*Boise High School*  
*Cindy Hartley – Teacher*

## **Equality**

We live and die loudly  
Engulfed in a cacophony of noise  
As we scramble and heave  
To the top of the pile  
And I stand, watching,  
Lingering at the bottom.  
  
Why is it one man  
Should rise far above  
At the expense of another  
Who are we to become  
If those that lie beneath  
Are left behind  
In the mess created by few.  
This world is large enough  
to hold everyone upon an equal level

**Indigo Blauch-Chappell**

*One Stone High School*

*Woody Sobey – Teacher*

## **Into the Garbage**

The fate I have been handed:  
a cinder-block of text,  
that one page, single spaced  
story  
titled:  
“Lesbians: a tragedy”  
about a blonde and a  
brunette,  
a relationship  
beginning and ending

in a sweet and poison  
first kiss,  
and an  
“I love you,”  
spoken with dying breath.

I crumpled up  
that story and tossed it  
into my trash can  
next to a cheese stick wrapper  
and a pen I used up  
writing one worth living.

**Linnea Boice**

*Boise High School*

*Jennifer McClain – Teacher*

## **Storm**

Statistics show  
that people  
heed hurricane warnings  
less often  
when the storm has a name  
like Florence, Irene or Hazel,  
even when  
they rain destruction.

My voice is the wind,  
Sixty miles an hour  
tearing down trees,  
ripping houses from their  
foundations.

Do not mistake my passion  
for violence,  
my eye is still calm,  
but I am not afraid to raise my  
voice,  
to howl,  
to roar.

They will listen.  
I will make them  
listen.

**Linnea Boice**  
*Boise High School*  
*Jennifer McClain – Teacher*

## **Mother Earth**

We are the ends of her nerves,  
Feeling for her.

We are the blood of her veins  
Living for her.

We are her ears for sound,  
eyes for sight,  
body to dance,  
mouth to recite.

Maybe if enough of us crawl on each other's shoulders  
we could become her.

Maybe if enough of us care a little more  
we could keep her.

Because we also have her hands to labor.

The hands to save her.

**Robert Christensen**

*Fruitland High School*

*Kelly Dayley – Teacher*

### **DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo**

Exploited and exposed  
They took it all.  
Left them nothing to withhold  
They stood alone.  
Had to start from the bottom,  
They were in this place  
Of confusion and dismay  
A reoccurrence for this race.

Yet, they were prosperous.  
Their land was lush,  
The people were eager,  
To thrive so much.

But, war after war,  
Women and children were "explored"  
Homes and families torn apart  
Fleeing the country  
They loved with all their heart.

**Therese Etoka**

*Boise High School  
Sharon Hanson – Teacher*

### **The Towel**

Dripping with pool water,  
My attempt to retrieve my towel cut short  
By a man's voice,  
She's too young to be dressing like that  
Eyeing my water-logged swimsuit  
My mom's mouth tightens momentarily  
But releases into a shrug.  
I want her to talk back  
To say that if I'm too young to be dressing like that  
Than I'm too young to be sexualized.  
But she says  
Nothing  
And I, ashamed, cling to my towel.

**Rose Hansen**

*McCall Donnelly High School  
Melissa Coriell – Teacher*

### **Reckless Love**

I see her coming, this new world  
She rides in on the backs of freedom ringers  
She sings praises with the doers and the shakers  
She sits and mourns with the brokenhearted  
She shouts and raises her fist at the injustice  
And with her comes change  
Like winter to spring  
What is this I see on the horizon?  
Something new and extraordinary  
Like the old world had never seen before  
Bold and reckless love

**Emma Janzen**

*Timberline High School  
Taryn Waddell – Teacher*

## **Footprints**

A world,  
Calling out to us  
The whispered wind crawling between fingers,  
Soft as cold snow  
Still echoing the footprints  
Of running children.  
We enjoy these memories  
Of natural beauty  
Never stopping to think that  
our footprints  
could be echoing deeper  
than we can observe.  
This world gives us so much,  
Yet we give back so little.  
“be the change,”  
we say.  
And yet,  
We don’t stop  
To truly see,  
The echo of our footprints.

**Cate Knothe**  
*Boise High School*  
*Cindy Hartley – Teacher*

## **Misunderstood**

Corruption sweeps through the Nation.

News reports aren't reliable.

Rush Limbaugh blares,

Screaming about Muslim terror.

The kindness and warmth they have,

The support and tolerance.

Hijab or prayer rug, they are people.

They worship Allah facing Mecca.

Sweet, Kind, Human.

They aren't the problem.

Have you ever met a Muslim?

Loved a Muslim?

They aren't a terror.

Maybe you are.

Salaam.

**Elsa McDonald**

*Pocatello High School*

*Caitlin Pankau – Teacher*

## **Why Keep a Girl?**

I like to imagine  
That my parents wanted to keep me  
But couldn't  
Because of China's one-child law.  
I know that's not the case.  
They abandoned me because I was not a boy.  
Why keep a daughter  
When you can have a son?  
A boy provides better,  
So why keep a girl?  
Daughters are worth less than sons.  
And so I became  
A victim of misogyny  
At the tender age  
Of three days old

**Nina Sessions**

*Compass Honors High School  
Erin Gatfield – Teacher*

## **Ambition**

I am woman.

My purpose is not to find a prince

Or bear children

Though these are worthy endeavors.

I'm here to experience and inspire

To create something beautiful

To do something good.

I'm not caged by the opinion of man

Because the bars are only made of my thoughts

My thoughts do not cage me.

My thoughts are my wings.

**Kenadi Swendsen**

*Middleton High School*

*Melinda Garcia – Teacher*

## **Masculinity**

You do not control me, you do not own my body, my mind; it is mine.

You are weak and helpless. You are one of the worst kinds of privilege.

because the color pink makes you uncomfortable, because being feminine worries you, because you are too entitled to understand the word no

because me being more successful than you is a joke; an embarrassment that hurts your masculinity you claim to be so powerful

**Aminatu Tall**

*Vallivue High School*

*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

### **Would it be Easier?**

I often wonder,  
How life would be in the right body  
My mother always wanted a daughter  
She just didn't realize she got one  
trapped in the wrong skin, confined by stereotypes

I often imagine,  
How it would feel to be accepted by my true kind  
Instead of stuck on the middle road, alone  
Banished with little in common to my male peers  
Outcast from the other half by their fear of a desperate man.

**Brady Thiessens**

*Middleton High School  
Melinda Garcia – Teacher*

**Go Back**

Go back to the beginning

Go back to Nature

Go back to the trees, the grass, the sky

To before the cities, the smog, the melting glaciers

To when we knew and believed that everything we do  
has a consequence

When there was no such thing as plastic

As climate change, as contaminated water

When we paid attention to the beauty

To animals, to insects, to water, to land

To simplicity

Go back to Nature

**Lauren VerHagen**

*Vallivue High School*

*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## **My People**

My people were killers  
Colonizers, rapists, settlers  
thieves, sadists, selfish  
We committed mass genocide  
We destroyed everything for the “greater good”  
Only to build something ugly.  
We are still killers, rapists, and selfish  
But, we are also allies, fighters  
My people are growing, understand  
We are trying to make up for what we have done  
It may be too late, but we try  
My people are repentant and giving

**Lauren VerHagen**

*Vallivue High School*

*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## **Speak**

"God has a plan for all of us."

Bishop says

Stern eyes looking down at her.

The woman.

The housekeeper, the wife,  
the mother.

She looks up in defiance.

Stormy eyes filled with rage, and yet –  
she remains silent.

It's difficult to find your voice  
after being taught you never had one.

**Kathryn Wagoner**

*Middleton High School*

*Melinda Garcia – Teacher*

People always ask me Fadi, where are you from?  
I'm from a land which was once beautiful  
With a rich culture and resources  
It was paradise, it was pure  
A country that had a good history  
But turned into an atrocious place  
A place that guarded my father  
A country that birthed my mother  
Countless have died, it's unrealistic  
No one knows their names, no one cares  
They've just become a statistic  
I am Somalia

**Fadil Adan**

*Borah High School  
Erik Talbert – Teacher*

## **More**

I am not your dog  
I will not sit still  
and be obedient to your commands  
you do not control me

Don't compare me  
to a delicate little flower  
when I am so much more

I am the ocean, brave and fierce  
I am a star in the night sky,  
glorious and sacred  
I am a raging river,  
unstoppable and determined

I am more than just a girl

**Maria Alonso**  
*Capital High School*  
*Britteny Breske – Teacher*

Bright colors fill the streets  
Happiness spreads throughout the town.  
A poor country with whom I fell in love,  
A culture of which I am proud.  
Our brown skin,  
Brown eyes,  
Dark hair,  
And uplifting spirit.  
All inherited and passed down to me.  
I want to share the liveliness,  
The joy,  
The love.  
This free country lacks it all.  
The adversities,  
The prejudice,  
The hate conquers all.  
I wish to influence one culture  
With another.

**Amira Arias**  
*Vallivue High School*  
*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## **You're beautiful just the way you are!**

Oh but don't dress like that, it's slutty  
And don't dress like that, you look like a prude.  
Don't wear makeup, you look better without it!  
... woah, are you sick?  
Be independent! Be Strong!  
But woah, slow down there honey,  
you can't be with the big boys.  
Don't you want equality!?  
Wait woman can't do that.  
But be whoever you want to be, we won't judge.

**Amira Arias**

*Vallivue High School  
Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## **This is Us**

Who are we?  
We are ourselves.  
We live, laugh, love,  
But we stand up for ourselves.  
We don't let them push us around.  
Because after all we have been through,  
After all we have let happen,  
We stopped.  
We started standing up for ourselves  
Our past has created us  
It has shaped who we are,  
And for that,  
This is us

**Samantha Asbury**

*Caldwell High School  
Andrea Arnold – Teacher*

## **She Waits**

She is on her way.  
The one who will turn society around.  
No, not a person,  
But another world.  
Where everything is full of love and peace.  
Not hatred and judgment.  
She looks over us on a daily basis,  
Waiting for her time,  
To come and rescue us from the world we have created.  
She awaits her time,  
For when she can fill us all with love,  
And show us the true meaning of life.

### **Samantha Asbury**

*Caldwell High School  
Andrea Arnold – Teacher*

## **Confidence**

I have been through troubles and obstacles in life, but I am STRONG.  
I am a soul searcher who loves to adventure, and I have PRIDE.  
I am me inside and out, and I am BEAUTIFUL.  
I have good and bad sides, but I am PROUD of who I am.  
I am a WOMAN and I have CONFIDENCE.  
I am ME.

### **Zoe Barnhard**

*Mackay Junior/Senior High School  
Stephanie Green – Teacher*

## **WhAT dO YoU WanT FroM mE**

MY woRds To cOnform  
My LeTTerS To bE STRaight  
BuT YouR MiNd iS Just COnfUsion  
YoUr HeaRTs aRe fIlleD WiTH haTe  
wHat DO yoU WaNt FrOm mE  
tO StOp  
To HiDe My EyeS  
WeLL I'm Sorry  
thAT's Not ME  
I'm Tired of YouR Lies  
BuT Now I'm HErE  
NoW I can Be fRee  
With My feet DanGLing Off the EDGe oF Nowhere  
I Can Simply Be

**Esther Bell**

*Gem State Adventist Academy  
Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher*

## **Misogyny in the Hallway**

One day I will no longer leave your criticism unchallenged  
Your words turn my belly into a raging inferno and my  
tongue into a punishing whip  
I yearn for, instead, a heart full of understanding  
Of forgiveness  
Of love  
Of healing  
But as my inward struggle rages, the topic changes  
And once again  
I've met blatant sexism with downturned eyes and  
meaningless silence

**Sabrina Bishop**

*Middleton High School  
Melinda Garcia – Teacher*

## **My White Ancestor**

the rusty knife of ignorance  
ferociously clasped in his knuckles  
at the throats of Native Americans,  
Africans,  
African-Americans,  
South Americans,  
Southeast Asians,  
and any other humans  
whose lives he deemed less valuable than his own  
spilling a waterfall of blood—  
equally red blood—  
that stains generations  
of my brothers and sisters  
who do not share my skin color  
  
he is not dead  
though I wish he were—  
my white ancestor

**Katherine Blackwell**

*Mountain Home Senior High School  
Maura Brantley – Teacher*

Rape is no accident. it is not a stumble over biological predispositions or a misstep on the path to maturity. a mother says, "Boys will be boys" and my heart shatters. boys are humans. men are humans. rapists should be held to human standards – not male, athlete, "Boys will be boys."

dismissive, sexist, or rape-culture-blind criteria. think twice about it before you ridicule the victim. believe the victim. believe the victim. believe the victim.

**Katherine Blackwell**

*Mountain Home Senior High School*

*Maura Brantley – Teacher*

what I never learned falsehood  
from humanity. that society  
was unity. feeds  
what I never saw to us;  
in the eyes when we regard  
of a stranger was sex  
freedom. gender identity.  
but. and sexuality.  
when we recognize as aspects  
skin color of individuality.  
as a declaration. not.  
of endless love. determinants  
pain. of destiny;  
persecution. when we  
success. fearlessly.  
and culture. unashamedly.  
instead of open our eyes;  
a two-dimensional we will be free.

**Katherine Blackwell**

*Mountain Home Senior High School  
Maura Brantley – Teacher*

## **Gravity**

They told me stories  
about two girls falling,  
not in love  
but into a mistake  
about two girls falling,  
maybe in love,  
maybe into a pit of vipers  
  
about two girls falling  
in love,  
the doomed, tangled-stars kind

cautionary tales,  
about my particular  
gravity.

They never mentioned it  
twirling the earth around  
the sun,  
or lifting  
waves to kiss the moon.

They especially never  
said anything about  
my universe not making sense  
without it.

**Linnea Boice**

*Boise High School*

*Jennifer McClain – Teacher*

## **Whispers**

A symphony of engines and shouting fills the streets.  
The soft glow of streetlights illuminate  
Billboards displaying what it means to be a woman  
Whispering their twisted lies about beauty.  
My head is throbbing  
I'm dashing for the hills  
The cracks in the sidewalk shift to tree roots,  
The boughs of evergreens  
Replace the windows holding judging eyes behind them  
The trees don't murmur anything to me,  
I am able to find myself.

**Ariana Borzea**

*One Stone High School  
Woody Sobey – Teacher*

## We Are the People of the Ground

My people have no skin color. We have no traditions, no long rituals or short prayers. My people do not bear their history books but in human brains. Our culture is not one of superstition and ceremony but one of pain and love. We do not measure in centuries but in months. We are people who stay on the ground while all others blow away. We are what everyone else leaves behind.

**Robert Bratley**

*Capital High School*

*Carla Zumwalt – Teacher*

## **A World of Love**

Doesn't everyone long to be loved?

Doesn't everyone yearn to be appreciated?

Imagine a place where when given a choice between loving  
and being right;

love would always come first.

Imagine a life where every moment was a new beginning,  
a chance to make any wrong right.

Every thought that comes to mind would lead to  
magnanimous actions.

Good deeds would be a way of life.

Oh, the beauty of a loving world.

**Alivia Buchen**

*Coeur d'Alene High School*

*Linda Parkin – Teacher*

## **The Illusion of Equality**

"Equality" how strange it be  
That I be equal or that he  
Could ever equal me that he  
For I have power and strength to see  
  
In each I know a being unique  
That though the world around me speak  
Of lofty goal "equality"  
  
For you could never hope to be  
As wondrous at what makes me, me  
So speak not of equality  
But effort seen and goals attained

**Elaina Buckway**  
*Middleton High School*  
*Melinda Garcia – Teacher*

## **Carved Out Like My Mother**

Spinning the wood block on the lathe  
Cutting away to make a rolling pin  
I think of my mother  
I carve out the handle  
chip away. chip away.

Reflecting on this woman  
Knowing I was created by her  
I was made like her  
I have been carved out  
chip away. chip away.

Changing as I grow older  
Becoming something new  
She helps reshape me still  
She loves the rolling pin

[chip away. chip away.]

**Robert Christensen**

*Fruitland High School  
Kelly Dayley – Teacher*

## **Before and After the Camps**

"A day that will live in infamy."

This wasn't just war for Japan and the U.S.,  
but for citizens within the "United" States.

Born into frightened conformity  
his name, Tom  
different than his siblings  
Nothing like Yoshi or Mitsue.

His language  
becomes English,  
his family being fluent in Japanese  
he conforms.

"You belong in a camp,  
you Jap!"  
Receiving glares and stares,  
he conforms.

Conformity is tough  
Still, he tries  
If not?  
Dangerous.

**Kali Crawford**

*Middleton High School  
Melinda Garcia – Teacher*

## **Be a Victim**

Mud from rain puddles covered my clothes  
Just an adventurous six-year-old.

Be a lady

Almost burning down the kitchen,

While making cereal

You'll never get a husband if you can't cook

At thirteen only wanting to wear a new dress

Knee high length

Isn't that too short? You know how boys are

Seventeen, touched in ways nobody wants

Never trusting a man the same.

Were you asking for it?

**Hannah Crossley**

*Middleton High School*

*Mike Brown – Teacher*

## **Her Wheelchair Cheerleader**

He's been in a wheelchair all his life  
Born without a leg  
Fighting like a dog for independence  
and acceptance among others  
Yet when they pushed him away  
saying he was different  
at his side she stayed  
She loved him when no one else would  
And when she ran her cross-country races  
she was never shocked  
to see him on the sideline  
cheering her on like mad

**Lauren Cummins**

*Burley High School*  
*Brandi Powell – Teacher*

## **I Am That Girl**

My mother always wanted a daughter  
A girl who loves doing hair and dresses girly  
Terrible expectations that society pushed on girls and women for generations  
Raised me on the ideal of femininity  
I realized that the person she raised me to be wasn't the person I am.  
Instead of being seen not heard,  
I use my voice to fight against injustice.  
I live by my rules and expectations, not society's.  
No more, Big Brother.

**Tre'Anna Cussins**

*Capital High School  
Dianne Ruxton – Teacher*

## **Connected**

We are all connected to one another,

Whether you realize it or not.

Mother, father, sister, brother,

Tall, slinky, short, squat.

Intertwined are our destinies,

And, of course, our pasts.

We all have a similar melody,

From calming syllables to random blasts.

Each of us a little different,

But still something similar.

Some are kind, others belligerent,

Yet everyone has a signature.

In the end, we are all affected,

We are all connected.

**Brook Danelson**

*Gem State Adventist Academy*

*Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher*

## **Her**

It's our home	Instead of uniting for what's shared
We breath what it produces	The world.
We live as it provides	It's our world, it's all we have
Taking advantage	We need to protect it
Abusing and wasting	We destroy it
We take	For what?
We worry about ourselves	This is our only world.
Not caring about what gives us life	She gives us life.
We kill due to our differences	We give her death.

**Hailey Dodson**

*Mountain View High School*

*Kristin Galloway – Teacher*

## **In It to Win It**

"You fight like a girl," people tell me.

"I am a girl," is my response.

"What's wrong with being a girl?" I wonder.

Girls can fight.

Girls are strong, contrary to popular belief.

I can fight.

I can win.

And I am strong, no matter what others tell me.

Girls are often belittled because they are not as strong as boys.

But we are strong.

We rise above any and all expectations.

**Ashley Doser**

*Vallivue High School*

*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## **Tamalada**

"Plop!" goes the masa,  
As I spread it onto a corn husk,  
While everyone around me  
bustles about their work.  
  
Next goes the pork,  
Its sauce, blood red,  
It reminds me,  
Of the beets,  
In the stories my mother told me,  
About her work in the beet fields,  
As a girl.  
  
I put the tamal,  
Into the pot,  
And look back at my family,  
Laughing cheerfully.  
I think to myself,  
This is where I belong.

**Sofia Edgar**

*Timberline High School  
Taryn Waddell – Teacher*

## **Love...**

Love must be real.

It must be happy.

It shouldn't hurt.

Love should be free.

It should be unique.

It shouldn't be controlling.

Love can be scary.

It can be silly.

It shouldn't be threatening.

Love is beautiful.

It can come in different ways.

It shouldn't always be physical.

Love might be hard.

It is worth it.

It shouldn't be a job.

Love can be many things.

It usually is.

But it shouldn't be abusive.

**Tabitha Elgan**

*Caldwell High School*

*Andrea Arnold – Teacher*

## I Ask

Women can't code	A woman
You spat	Give me the computer
Your aggressive tone	It is my friend
Computers don't care	I will write in its language
Whom types on it	Of numbers and dashes
Whether of delicate hands	Your words
Or masculine fingers	And tone
Computers care about knowledge	Are not code
Whom can it comprehend	Are not numbers and dashes
It understands me	So, I ask Who is the one who can't code?

**Bridget Fitzpatrick**

*Timberline High School  
Taryn Waddell – Teacher*

## **Just a Girl**

Sweat dripping  
Muscles aching  
Covered in dirt  
But I am just a girl.

Bruised legs  
Bruised arms  
And scraped sides  
But I am just a girl.

Concussions  
Broken bones  
And sprained ankles  
But I am just a girl.

Lifting weights  
Shooting three pointers  
And hitting home-runs  
But I am still just a girl.

**Brigitt Futter**

*Fruitland High School  
Kara Walton – Teacher*

Wild, unfair, crazy  
This is the world today  
But it could be better  
It could be...  
Helpful  
Adaptable  
Loving  
Cheerful  
Blissful  
I see this in some people  
Just not enough  
The world needs more people who are  
Selfless  
Devoted  
Encouraging  
And overall more helpful

**Isabelle Gardner**  
*Vallivue High School*  
*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## Promises

All she wanted was to see her children again  
Tears streaming down her face, thorns on the ground stinging  
her bare feet  
They told her to take them off as they left footprints behind  
“La mosca,” he whispered sharply  
The seven of them became one with the desert  
She can almost see the outline of the fence  
The entrance to an unknown world  
It promised a better life  
It promised a future with her children

**Jocelyne Garrido**

*Caldwell Senior High School*

*Andrea Arnold – Teacher*

I have been ashamed of being a girl for my whole life. Girls were pink and delicate like porcelain, with painted on faces. I felt more blue. More like rowdy soccer games and Pokémon cards. More like... strong. More like brave. More like a superhero.

I've grown up, now. I don't think in black and white.

Pink and blue aren't the only colors I see anymore. I'm purple.

**Jennifer Gil**

*Vallivue High School*

*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

My people live in the shadows  
In gutters and  
In cracks in the sidewalk  
  
They're scared to hold hands in public,  
They don't dare show their faces at church,  
And they don't talk to their relatives.  
  
They throw stones at us.  
Cut us with glass.  
Kill us. Beat us. Call us "f\*\*s"  
And we bleed red and blue and yellow.  
We're unholy.  
We're unlovable.  
And we refuse to remain quiet.

**Samantha Gipson**  
*Vallivue High School*  
*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## **Not Worth It**

Unaware and young I was.  
My parents taught me lessons.  
No cursing, being mean, vain, many others.  
One stuck out.  
To treat anyone and everyone as a person.  
No matter the gender or circumstances.  
Today, too many boys treat girls as mild amusement.  
And too many girls tolerate that treatment.

**Jordan Gropp**

*Timberline High School  
Taryn Waddell – Teacher*

Please respect gender pronouns

His, Hers, Vis, Xyr, Xem, and Xe

These are not optional

**Dylan Habersetzer**

*Timberline High School*

*Taryn Waddell – Teacher*

## You Are You & I Am Me

We are people!  
With different passions and values.  
What you think, may not be what I think.  
What I see, is not necessarily what you see.  
Anarchists and peacemakers,  
Dreamers and believers.  
We are only human  
We have our differences, and we have our doubts,  
But what a happy thought it is  
Sharing our connections abound.  
Distinctions make us unique,  
Our inner connections shine,  
What makes you is yours  
And what makes me is mine.

### **Sadie Hammack**

*Mackay Junior/Senior High School  
Stephanie Green – Teacher*

## **Puzzle**

The length of my legs  
the way a skirt falls on my hips  
maybe the shade I paint my lips.  
If I'm content, I'm a puzzle to be solved  
I'm what the eyes compromise  
for when the mind gets bored.  
But when undressed  
I am not naked.  
And if you touch my skin  
You have not touched me at all.  
My length and shade mean nothing  
I am more than curves and flesh  
In daydreams.

**Celia Hausske**

*Boise High School  
Sharon Hanson – Teacher*

## **Eleutheromania**

Everyone is dependent  
What happens to some  
Affects all  
What is true for all  
Is true for some  
When violence is the reality of some  
It is real for everyone  
When abuse is the reality for some  
Everyone has at the least a chip on their shoulder  
If freedom and justice is the reality for some  
Why can't it be the reality for all?

**Ashley Harris**

*Vallivue High School*

*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

Deer pranced in the forest with no worries of hunters  
Trees and all plants sprouted and grew without worries  
of loggers or fires  
Men, women and children laughed and smiled as their  
days went by  
Peace ruled all the lakes, rivers, seas, oceans, plains,  
deserts, and mountains.  
Wars, starvation and poverty vanished.  
Equality and happiness is all that was left.  
The world was together and perfect.

**Isaac Herrera**

*Caldwell High School  
Andrea Arnold – Teacher*

## **Who am I?**

I can't tell who I am,  
I only know what I should be.  
Hiding in my closet is all I can do.  
Feeling empty inside.  
Showing a fake smile.  
Many words in my mind  
Many aren't said out loud.

I have now understood that I can't hide any longer.  
Saying what I believe.  
Being who I really am  
Not caring for anybody's opinion,  
And hiding no more.  
I am different  
Not the same like you.

**Karina Herrera**  
*Capital High School*  
*Erik Talbert – Teacher*

## **Insides**

I like to run and play in the woods,

Instead I should be cleaning.

I like to go catch fishes,

Instead I should be doing dishes.

There is no specific reasoning –

Gender is a factor to this riddle,

But people can't stay out of the middle

They won't let me decide to be who I am

They expect me to be a woman, but inside I am a man.

**Johnny Jones**

*Pocatello High School*

*Kelley Ragan – Teacher*

## **Back Off**

I'm a teenage girl  
who wants to be a rapper  
A real one, not an actor  
Watch me spit truth  
Problem is – I'm not a dude

Men dominate this place  
Where I should be powerless  
I feel motivated  
I'll make it  
I got this

Just because I'm a girl  
Doesn't mean I have to look good to get fame  
Because I have words that look great  
I am merciless

Your challenge: Step up

**Aaliyah Juarez**  
*Caldwell High School*  
*Andrea Arnold – Teacher*

## **Be Yourself, Please**

I apologize

I'm sorry

I didn't understand

Boys can love boys

And girls can love girls

I ignored that some people are nonconforming

Because I was brought up small-minded

I'm here to say that

I understand now

I'm bisexual and even though I was born female

Sometimes

I feel more like a male

And I'd rather keep it secret than tell

And go through hell

**Aaliyah Juarez**

*Caldwell High School*

*Andrea Arnold – Teacher*

## **Connections with Nature**

Whether it is in the woods,  
out on the desert,  
sitting on the porch on a starry night,  
you let your inner-self go  
and let your mind slip away out into the wild.  
If you listen closely  
you can hear the crickets chirping,  
hear the wind softly howling,  
you can listen to the elk bugling back and forth,  
the wolves howling to each other,  
the coyotes yipping.  
If you listen it is beautiful.

**Russell Kay**

*South Fremont High School  
Mary Cory – Teacher*

## **If Only You**

I went around looking for pretty skirts  
but bought a comfy cute coat instead

I went around looking for pretty lipsticks  
but bought a moisturizing skin lotion instead

I went around looking for pretty heels  
but bought small tennis shoes instead

I don't know if there will be the time  
to live as a woman again

But,  
If only you, I'm always happy.

**Nayoung Kim**

*Boise High School*

*Cindy Hartley – Teacher*

## **Who Are You?**

Who are you to judge me,  
whether I can do this or not,  
based on my appearance, and gender.

I'm a living person just like you,  
that has feelings, emotions, and thoughts.  
I am not my sex, and I too have my own right.

Who are you to judge me,  
how exactly to live my life.

I have my own background.  
I have a unique face, unique personality, and unique life.

**Nayoung Kim**

*Boise High School*

*Cindy Hartley – Teacher*

## **We can be a tree – Not a fallen leaf**

We should not feel like we don't have a choice –  
In different "worlds" we are seen as weak  
But we are women and we have a voice –  
Read the good words of Maya Angelou  
Saying, "You can shut me down but I'll rise."  
We can stand tall and not be knocked down low  
Standing firm in our reason and belief  
We can be a tree, not a fallen leaf

**Teela Kilby**

*Gem State Adventist Academy  
Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher*

## **No Sin to Cry**

I am a boy,  
The one shunned by all,  
They tell me not to cry,  
Crying shows pain,  
Pain shows weakness,  
Men aren't weak,  
If crying is such an unmanly thing,  
Why are we living here,  
This world has pain – this world is weak,  
But it is no weaker than the ones, who live on it,  
Crying is a way to express what goes unsaid,  
It speaks the pain I cannot,  
What's wrong with that?

**Linda Kirby**

*Gem State Adventist Academy  
Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher*

## Fairytales

The world  
once told me I was a "damsel in distress,"  
a frail being caught in the spiraling clutches of a dragon's tail.  
I was told to wait –  
Keep faith!  
My knight in shining armor was on his way.  
But looking down at that gleaming silver blade,  
leather hilt sliding between fingers,  
I knew I wouldn't be called helpless.  
I'd fight my own dragon,  
build my own  
Happily Ever After.

**Cate Knothe**

*Boise High School  
Cindy Hartley – Teacher*

## **Chains**

See me.

Not the person you want me to be,

But the identity I chose myself.

I am not the quiet, obedient girl

You once forced me to be.

No, I have a voice.

I have eyes that see,

A mind that thinks,

A heart that feels,

Just like you.

So don't tell me to conform

When I will just break those chains

Again

And

Again

**Cate Knothe**

*Boise High School*

*Cindy Hartley – Teacher*

## **I Am Me**

When I meet someone new,  
they see how I dress,  
they see how I act,  
and they see how I am.  
They see that I care,  
about how I look,  
about how you are,  
and about helping others.  
The saddest thing,  
is when they assume that I'm gay.  
Not because I am not,  
but because society thinks  
that anyone who acts like me  
is too different to be straight.

**Colt Kraczek**

*Mackay Junior/Senior High School  
Stephanie Green – Teacher*

## **The Beauty of Unity**

I stepped into the room,  
eyes staring at me.

Not a single one was judging.  
This was comfortable.

There was no feeling of shriveling,  
no feeling of doubt.

It was wonderful to be surrounded by others,  
of any race, generation, gender, or status.

We were in a room where none of that mattered.

We were united together as one,  
under one roof,  
one country,  
and one world ...

to live together, in harmony.

How beautiful.

**Courtney Lange**

*Mountain View High School  
Kristin Galloway – Teacher*

## **I Only Look Different**

I learned to laugh at myself before they can  
At my almond eyes,  
My chipmunk cheeks  
My skin that's somewhere between peach flesh and caramel  
I learned to hide my grades,  
bend silently over a book,  
bowing to my studies.  
I almost forgot that being Asian  
isn't synonymous with being smart or quiet;  
Being Asian  
is the same as being any other person.  
Why are you looking at me like that?

**Elizabeth Lee**

*Boise High School*

*Jennifer McClain – Teacher*

## **Only More**

They say she's only smart because she has  
Hair like thick ink trickling down her shoulders—cascades of  
Clichés;  
Her skin browns easily in California, where  
she cradles her grandfather's hand as the morphine drip-drip-drips  
That hand  
Hoed rice paddies,  
Fought the Korean War,  
Immigrated to America  
And lies remarkably still, hateful cancer eating at his insides ...  
Work hard, he'd told her.  
I will, she'd promised, and wondered  
How could you typecast someone so complex?

**Elizabeth Lee**

*Boise High School*

*Jennifer McClain – Teacher*

## **Someday**

One day, the mother told her son,  
When you are older, and stronger, and wiser,  
Some people won't understand  
that chocolate is just as sweet as vanilla  
That curlicues are just as precise as straight lines  
So you must remember that your heart is just as sweet,  
your brain just as sharp,  
And you are just as good.  
Okay, Mama, the boy agreed. But that's when I am older;  
Tonight, can we read another story?

**Elizabeth Lee**

*Boise High School*

*Jennifer McClain – Teacher*

## **I Am Me**

They say being a boy means,  
liking girls and sports.

They say being a boy means,  
acting tough and never crying.

I tried to be that image,  
It wasn't for lack of trying.

I'm not a girl just because I like other boys,  
scarves, or stuffed toys.

It doesn't matter that I like to shave or have a high voice,  
I am me by choice.

I am a beautiful boy.

**J.M.**

*Patriot Center School  
Heidi Hidy – Teacher*

The air we breathe has been consumed for centuries  
We are all connected in some way  
The dirt  
The whistle of the wind  
We are the feeling of a first kiss  
The feeling of someone leaving  
We are everything made up in the universe

**Shaina Maciolek**

*Frank Church High School  
Tara Haley – Teacher*

## **Gender Norms**

Halloween, a time when evil comes out to play

When we become who we aren't only for that day

In elementary I came to school with nails and heels

The costume was acceptable, but see what this reveals

Perceived as a joke, transgender is fine

Taken seriously it's crossing a line

As real darkness comes out every other day of the year

We must bring to light the unknown we fear

**Beau Maimer**

*Vallivue High School*

*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

I started as a seed, buried by the ignorance of my peers. My passion for school was met with belittlement, but I refused to diminish. I was praised by my teachers for being comprehensive of material, yet mocked by boys for applying myself to education. We can learn anything we set our minds to! I shouted my mantra to the heavens. I'd broken the glass ceiling of women who've been silenced ... I will always grow.

**Marissa Maldonado**

*Jerome High School  
Connie Nicholson – Teacher*

## **Uniquely You**

Somewhere along the line of aging, scrutiny, time  
I was taught to despise myself  
By a society that shuns confidence  
Feeding us our flaws  
But when you start drowning in these expectations  
You better reexamine the miracle of your existence

You are much more than your waistline  
Standards don't define you  
You can't surrender  
You got to remember you're the only thing you'll ever truly have  
No, I don't mean your body  
I mean you

**Sarah McKeever**

*Timberline High School  
Taryn Waddell – Teacher*

## **Another World**

Full

Kindness, Love, Responsibility, Equity

Little things that bring happiness

Biggest house, coolest room, newest phone

It does not matter

It is about who has

Biggest heart, most kindness, respect towards  
others

Because they are precious

Families reunited despite past conflicts

Receiving help when struggling

Showing courageous love,

Swallowing pride

Becoming selfless

Pure.

**Rebecca Mecham**

*Vallivue High School*

*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## **Courageous Love**

courageous love  
small acts of kindness  
affection we show  
no matter  
name,  
gender,  
race,  
ethnicity,  
religion,  
help others  
without thinking  
of consequences  
being  
courageous

**Rebecca Mecham**

*Vallivue High School  
Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## **How to Interpret a Pixie Cut**

Piercing, condescending eyes gaze toward a shaven crown

Seeing only an image produced by a hurtful slur

Quiet, harsh mouths whisper

"She must be lesbian"

Kissed hair is not a statement meant for you

The crest does not proclaim what you perceive

She owes no explanation

She wears her cut with pride

What's it to you?

**Aleah Mendiola**

*Middleton High School*

*Melinda Garcia – Teacher*

## **child of mine**

awkward and clumsy dirt coats my feet  
working in a kitchen a lack to calm the heat  
sad smiles, broken hearts and a field of war on a foreign land  
ink on my hands, stories in my heart but in a little yellow sundress  
I'm pushed back  
coffee tints my breath for a tyrant destroying  
yet as a girl I hold hope  
let me go and break those views  
till I'm free at last

**Jessa Moore**

*Vision Charter School*

*Rebecca Mitchell – Teacher*

## **Let stay at home parents be parents**

Let independent women be role models

Let guys who wear makeup be different

But don't shame people because of your views.

We all can do what we want,

There is no expiration on happiness

We're only human

We all have feeling too.

You can't shame for opinion

You can't shame for lifestyles

You can't shame me for being me,

because that's not what you want to see.

**Libby Moorman**

*Mackay Junior/Senior High School*

*Stephanie Green – Teacher*

## **Acceptance**

I told them who I was	Tell you without risk
They were loving	Without consequence?
Accepting	Who I am,
Supportive	Who I love?
It gave me hope	I want a new world,
That maybe this world;	The future is peering at me
Full of hate,	With wide eyes
Anger,	Inviting me to join them
Evil,	Beckoning me nearer
Might change	Calling to me
Can I be courageous?	Telling me it will be okay

**Taylor Nelson**

*Salmon Junior/Senior High School*

*Denise Braswell – Teacher*

## **I'm not a doll**

I don't want to be played with like Raggedy Ann  
I have a heart  
I am not to be looked at as if I was a Barbie  
I have worth  
I don't want to be handled as if I were a voodoo doll  
I can feel pain  
I am not a dress up doll  
I make my own choices  
I am not an object  
I am a human  
I am a woman

**Olivia Nelson**

*Timberline High School  
Taryn Waddell – Teacher*

## **The Culture We're Always Trying to Forget:**

The poverty.

Mexican slang baking bread in the oven swelled walls of dad's house and permeated his neighborhood with tender warmth.

East Los Angeles uplifted with the origins of

My father –

Who smothered in cocaine vulgarity of East LA at 14; his mouth foaming in heroin like bubbles in his mother's bathtub.

14.

43.

Until vulgarity is common – necessary – for

forgotten Spanish kids – who must overflow their own bodies with anything,

except the bread they came from.

### **My-joy Nicholas**

*Coeur d'Alene High School*

*Linda Parkin – Teacher*

Shooting stars dash the night sky and I wish for a different world.  
One where hourglasses aren't coveted shapes and  
A square of chocolate the darkest sin.  
A world where love means equality not  
Hunching my shoulders, muting my voice, and living in the dark  
of his shadow.  
I wish for a world where courage to speak is admired not marred  
by the whips of loathing and  
I am not handcuffed to emotionless love.

**Charlotte Nyblade**

*Burley High School*

*James O'Connor – Teacher*

## **What Made This Society So Corrupt?**

My angers boiling about to erupt  
My shorts are too short  
My jeans too long  
I'm a "slut," I'm a "prude"  
Everything I do is wrong  
I thought we were going in the right direction  
But looking in the mirror I don't see my reflection  
I became who you wanted me to be  
No longer myself  
Like a child's toy  
I now stand on your shelf

**Paige Powers**

*Parma High School  
Paula Leppert – Teacher*

## **how things work**

growing up	it's just how things work
I learned quickly	when I went into middle school
how things worked	that wasn't how things worked
girls	boys could be
clean	feminine
cook	caring
have babies	girls could be
boys	strong
work	brave
be strong	that's when I learned
relax	how things really work

**Anna Odom**

*Mountain View High School*

*Allison Sletager – Teacher*

## **Being Who You Are**

Growing up my dad came from a very poor reservation in Nevada. He lost his father at a young age, so being the best one to me couldn't make him happier. My dad is Native-American and my mom is white so that makes me half and half, but don't get it twisted. I get mistaken for Hispanic all the time. All in all, my dad is proud for who he is, and so am I.

### **Victoria Sam**

*Frank Church High School  
Tara Haley – Teacher*

## **My Story**

A new born baby girl  
Has been left out on the street  
In a small China town.  
Abandoned and alone  
With no family,  
No future,  
And no hope.  
Nothing but an old blanket  
Covers her frail, naked body  
With her umbilical cord still attached.  
Surrounded by unfamiliarity,  
She cries out for her mama.  
She is hungry, thirsty, cold.  
But her mother never comes back.  
She has abandoned her daughter.  
And is at home with her son.

**Nina Sessions**

*Compass Honors High School  
Erin Gatfield – Teacher*

## **Warrioress**

Thank you  
For stepping in,  
When my birth parents stepped out.  
For giving me a future  
And a family.  
For telling me I have value  
When they said otherwise.  
For believing in me,  
And my ability to change the world.  
Thank you for seeing me  
As more than a useless girl  
Abandoned by my parents  
Because of my gender.  
Thank you for not seeing me as worthless,  
But for seeing me as a warrioress.

## **Nina Sessions**

*Compass Honors High School  
Erin Gatfield – Teacher*

On day 1, they said I was a girl,  
And I had the chubbiest cheeks.

On day 1,502, I got gum in my hair and had to cut it off,  
And I didn't mind.

On day 3,689, the boys laughed at me.  
And said I couldn't play football with them.

On day 5,410, I cut my hair off for real.  
And I loved it.

On day 5,943, I told them.  
And they didn't listen.

**Alex Shaffer**

*Ridgevue High School  
Nicholas Darlington – Teacher*

## **Longest Time Ago**

You tell me stories from the longest time ago, take it in while you talk oh so softly. Grandma, tell me the rest. The color of my skin doesn't define who I am. For I am so much more. I am the arrow my ancestor shot, hot with flames. I am the star they all followed to make it that extra way. For I am them and they are me. Taking me back through time.

**Shelby Smith**

*Fruitland High School  
Kara Walton – Teacher*

## I Imagine

I imagine a world  
Where words are not twisted and curled  
Where acceptance comes naturally  
And being different isn't seen as an abnormality  
Where sexuality, race, and gender are one  
And the amount of separation is close to none  
Where beauty is beneath what the eye can see  
And there are no standards to try and pretend to be  
Unfortunately this is all make believe  
But maybe someday our world won't be so naïve

**Morgan Solder**

*New Plymouth High School  
Pierrette Madrid Harris – Teacher*

## **The Black Community**

The Black Community. It's quite sad, although very important filled with self-hate, hate for our own, and a competition for who can be the whitest, most ideal Black.

but it also carries love, self-love, and awareness; not to mention, support

although we're not uplifted by others, we're empowered by one another

although we're beaten and exhausted, we'll continue with the strength we've made for ourselves through the oppressors' many ways to weaken us.

**Aminatu Tall**

*Vallivue High School*

*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## **Starlight**

Night – is like the oppressed.

Equally important, yet far less celebrated by its beloved counterpart.

If you – a star, glimmering your brilliance in the dark sky.

Planets hurling around, proclaiming your gravity

Then he – would be the sun.

Drowning out all light and stars around him.

Flooding Earth with heat and explosions

Roughly pushing life chaotically

but you

A woman – stronger, brighter, warmer in every way

Viewed as just a star in the night?

**Seth Thomsen**

*Gem State Adventist Academy*

*Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher*

## **Chaos**

Screams are mere echoes now,  
we are no longer beaten and oppressed  
by those who do not understand.  
Now we are accepted and loved,  
we are truly free,  
so it seems.  
In ways most do not understand,  
things are worse,  
those that do however,  
see our words silenced,  
in the name of “peace” and “love”  
for those that understand,  
we see that chaos still exists,  
that now,  
it is merely hidden,  
behind an insincere smile.

**Victoria Torres**

*Vallivue High School  
Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## sHE

He was a hero,  
He had saved her life.  
at least,  
that is what he told them.  
really though,  
He had saved His life.  
but they could not know  
because they would never understand,  
that a boy could cry,  
that a boy could be hurt,  
and that a She could be the cause of it all.  
never would they know  
because never would they believe  
that a boy,  
was human too.

**Victoria Torres**

*Vallivue High School  
Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## **Worlds Apart**

Imagine a world  
Where the sky is made of ash,  
Where its tears run black,  
Where the ground has been hardened  
By the hardship of man,  
And the mountains turn bland with sorrow.

Imagine a world  
Where the land explodes with life,  
Where mountains speak in color,  
Where the wind sets the tempo  
Of music conducted by the trees,  
Where time doesn't exist,  
And where freedom abides.

Imagine these worlds.  
Which one will you create?

**Kelton Turner**

*Gem State Adventist Academy  
Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher*

## **Fly**

Survival,  
Engraved in our blood.  
Curiosity,  
Represented by sweat.  
Hardships  
trickle down as tears.

We were not meant to sit still.  
Our innate skills,  
Along with learned experiences  
Make us who we are.

To thrive is our destiny  
On the one earth we have.

Nature has already given us all we need  
All we have to do is fly with our wings.

**Ashley Tran**

*Timberline High School  
Taryn Waddell – Teacher*

## **The Foreseen World**

I have seen the world  
No one free from terror  
People crying out in pain

I see the world  
Those who were in pain, now smiling  
Another, now struggling

I foresee the world  
Free, safe, optimistic.  
Because history  
does not have to repeat itself.  
Change is all it takes.

**Ashely Tran**

*Timberline High School  
Taryn Waddell – Teacher*

## **Stand**

People gather  
People sing  
People chant  
People pray  
People are beaten  
People are barricaded  
People are jailed  
And for what?  
For clean water  
For cleaning flowing rivers  
For the water that connects us all  
Even those on the other side of the fight  
For our future generations  
For Standing Rock  
So we must stand  
We must gather, sing, chant  
We must pray  
Mni Wiconi  
Water is life  
#NoDAPL

**Lauren VerHagen**

*Vallivue High School*

*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

## **Like a Girl**

A boy told me  
You run like a girl  
Yes that's very true  
if you ran harder you could too

A boy told me  
You hit like a girl  
Yes that's very true  
If you swung harder you could too

A boy told me  
You play ball like a girl  
Yes that's very true  
If you worked harder you could too

Be like a girl

**Maddie Villarreal**  
*Vallivue High School*  
*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

Kenya, the country my dad is from, is a beautiful country. The people are beautiful, the food is delicious, and the culture is thriving. I used to assimilate. I wouldn't eat the traditional food my dad made or wear the clothes he brought me. Embracing Kenyan and Black culture made me proud of my Blackness and I now feel more whole.

**Alyssa Wainaina**

*Renaissance High School  
Shawna Schniederman – Teacher*

The culture in America surrounding gender won't be fair until we allow children of any sex to explore all of their interests and not limit them to dolls or cars. Since I was limited to "girl toys" as a child, I'll never know who I would be without such restraints. My interests and passions could be completely different than they are now. Gender is only so divided and "different" because of societal pressures.

**Alyssa Wainaina**

*Renaissance High School*

*Shawna Schniederma – Teacher*

## **Gender Rules**

Must girls like girly things?

Must girls have a pretty face?

Must boys like sports?

Must boys never cry?

Must girls like the opposite gender?

Must girls be submissive?

Must boys be assertive?

Must boys be tough?

- CHANGE -

We don't need these gender rules or what they entail. We could have a world without judgment, where people are people, where love is love. Where life can be

Lived.

**Robyn Weiss**

*Salmon Junior/Senior High School*

*Denise Braswell – Teacher*

## **Pink Ribbons**

My vision is blurred	This world helped
I no longer see in	Me back up
Black and White	Surgery
Pink fills more spaces	Radiation
Since last November	Pills
The world kept me	It's OK
From falling	The world is
Further than I could	on my side
Come back from	Pink ribbons
Love is powerful	Signal strength to me
Courage, community	Now that I know
Responsibility, love	What it takes
Qualities of endurance	To be a survivor

**Rachel Wood**

*Vallivue High School*

*Zachary Barclay – Teacher*

\* Our Gender Revolution Award  
+More than one poem

### **Boise High School**

*Boise*  
Cora Aldridge\*  
Linnea Boice\*\*+  
Therese Etoka\*  
Celia Hausske  
Nayoung Kim+  
Cate Knothe\*++  
Elizabeth Lee+++

### **Borah High School**

*Boise*  
Fadil Adan

### **Burley High School**

*Burley*  
Lauren Cummins  
Charlotte Nyblade

### **Caldwell High School**

*Caldwell*  
Samantha Asbury+  
Tabitha Elgan  
Jocelyne Garrido  
Isaac Herrera  
Aaliyah Juarez+

### **Capital High School**

*Boise*  
Maria Alonso  
Robert Bratley  
Tre'Anna Cussins  
Karina Herrera

### **Compass Honors High School**

*Meridian*  
Nina Sessions\*++

### **Coeur d'Alene High School**

*Coeur d'Alene*  
Alivia Buchen  
My-joy Nicholas

### **Frank Church High School**

*Boise*  
Shaina Maciolek  
Victoria Sam

### **Fruitland High School**

*Fruitland*  
Robert Christensen\*+  
Brigitt Futter  
Shelby Smith

**Gem State Adventist Academy**

*Caldwell*  
Esther Bell  
Brook Danelson  
Teela Kilby  
Linda Kirby  
Seth Thomsen  
Kelton Turner

Kali Crawford  
Hannah Crossley  
Aleah Mendiola  
Kenadi Swendsen\*  
Brady Thiessens\*  
Kathryn Wagoner\*

**Jerome High School**

*Jerome*  
Marissa Maldonado

**Mountain Home High School**

*Mountain Home*  
Katherine Blackwell++

**Mackay Junior/Senior High School**

*Mackay*  
Zoe Barnhard  
Sadie Hammack  
Colt Kraczek  
Libby Moorman

**Mountain View High School**

*Meridian*  
Hailey Dodson  
Courtney Lange  
Anna Odom

**New Plymouth High School**

*New Plymouth*  
Morgan Solder

**McCall Donnelly High School**

*McCall*  
Rose Hansen\*

**One Stone High School**

*Boise*  
Indigo Blauch-Chappell\*  
Ariana Borzea

**Middleton High School**

*Middleton*  
Sabrina Bishop  
Elaina Buckway

**Parma High School**

*Parma*  
Paige Powers

**Patriot Center School***Emmett*

J.M.

**Pocatello High School***Pocatello*

Johnny Jones

Elsa McDonald\*

**Renaissance High School***Meridian*

Alyssa Wainaina++

**Ridgevue High School***Nampa*

Alex Shaffer

**Salmon Junior/Senior High****School***Salmon*

Taylor Nelson

Robyn Weiss

**South Fremont High School***Saint Anthony*

Russell Kay

**Timberline High School***Boise*

Sofia Edgar

Bridget Fitzpatrick

Jordan Gropp

Dylan Habersetzer

Emma Janzen\*

Sarah McKeever

Olivia Nelson

Ashley Tran

**Vallivue High School***Caldwell*

Amira Arias+

Ashley Doser

Isabelle Gardner

Jennifer Gil

Samantha Gipson

Ashley Harris

Beau Maimer

Rebecca Mecham+

Aminatu Tall\*+

Victoria Torres+

Lauren VerHagen\*\*+

Maddie Villarreal

Rachel Wood

**Vision Charter School***Caldwell*

Jessa Moore

*It was a time when the unthinkable became the thinkable and the impossible really happened.* – Arundahti Roy

Our Gender Revolution re-imagines communities where all genders are valued, everyone can be their whole authentic self, and everyone thrives. Our Gender Revolution re-imagines communities where we see the humanity in **all of us**.

Our choices have power, together we can change everything and create communities free of hate and oppression. We can end the culture of gender violence – abuse and sexual assault – and other forms of oppression. Together, we will create this new story of Idaho.

Here are some actions you can take to create communities where hate and oppression no longer exist. Our choices have power.

### **Action 1: Choose Community**

Expand your awareness of who is in your community. Get to know others and see and value all people in your life. Protect and care for people in your community targeted by discrimination and hate.

### **Action 2: Choose Liberation**

Understand how groups and identities (gender, sexual orientation, race, ability, class, religion, immigration and refugee status, and others) are oppressed and discriminated against and act in solidarity for liberation.

### **Action 3: Choose Humanity**

We are all human, but we are often socialized to only see people as labels. Challenge yourself to see yourself and everyone you interact with beyond labels and for your and their full humanity.

## **Action 4: Choose Belonging**

Participate in our #WeChooseAllofUs Challenge to show the power and unity of all people in your community. Go to [www.OurGenderRevolution.org](http://www.OurGenderRevolution.org) to find out more!

## **Action 5: Feminism**

Sign up for [everydayfeminism.com](http://everydayfeminism.com) to educate yourself about feminism, rigid gender roles and expectations, gender and social equity, and much more.

## **Action 6: Choose to Lead Boldly**

Be accountable for your thoughts, language, and actions. Challenge yourself to unite across difference to overcome discrimination and hate.

## **Action 7: Choose Connection**

Work to end a culture that oppresses some and privileges others. Generate understanding, radical connection, and community by listening to each others stories.

## **Action 8: Choose Wholeness**

It is important to acknowledge that we live in a world that does not value everyone for their full selves and instead devalues them based on identity. Affirm that we are all powerful, beautiful, whole, just the way we are.

## **Where to get help**

If someone is in immediate danger, call 911. If you or a friend are experiencing hate, oppression, abuse, sexual assault or any form of violence – talk to a parent/caregiver, a school counselor, another adult you trust.

### **Hotline Numbers**

**National Dating Abuse Helpline** 1-866-331-9474 or [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org) to chat online

**National Sexual Assault Hotline** 1-833-656-HOPE (4673)

**Trevor Project (LGBTQ Youth)** 1-866-488-7386

**National Suicide Hotline** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

## **How to get involved with Our Gender Revolution**

Learn how to get involved with Our Gender Revolution, a project of the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence, by going to [www.ourgenderrevolution.org](http://www.ourgenderrevolution.org) to learn about youth organizing workshops and more.

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For more information contact the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence  
208-384-0419 or 1-888-293-6118

# OUR GENDER REVOLUTION

[www.ourgenderrevolution.org](http://www.ourgenderrevolution.org)