

## **POETRY CONTEST: SAMPLE POEMS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS**

### **The Things They Believe to See Don't Define Me**

**By: C.M., The Gaines-Jones Education Foundation (GJEF)**

There will never be an end to a stereotype.

I saw him; he looked past me.

He told me I looked like his shadow,  
asked where the rest of the monkeys were?

And where my watermelon was?

The key to reality: knowing the difference  
between a living lie and a dying truth.

Life is full of crossroads.

In the choice to bully or be a friend,  
would you take the path less traveled?

He can ignore the tears in my eyes,  
and I fear he does, but I'll still try.

Because a man can understand  
the juicy taste of fruit but not the  
sour feelings of lies.

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**Poem by: I.W., GATE Academy**

Crunching blades of grass,  
Under slow footsteps.  
Wish not granted.

Long weeks searching,  
for a sense of belonging.  
Too much to ask?

There is darkness.  
But sometimes  
light can shine unexpectedly.

So the wind,  
blowing hard,  
Won't affect my family this time.

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**Poem by: M.E., Bahia Vista Elementary School**

Adventurous is the color blue.  
Adventurous is a bird exploring the country.  
Adventurous is going to Lake Tahoe.  
Adventurous is a Brazil nut in South America.  
Adventurous is climbing a mountain and seeing the view.  
Adventurous is my dad who crossed the border of Mexico to come to America.  
Adventurous is a blizzard blowing strong winds.  
Adventurous is my Mexican dress with flowers.  
Adventurous is feet taking a step forward to a new place.