

From the playground in my backyard....

**I am from the playground I had in my backyard
from the Lamby I always slept with
and the dog I found comfort in.
From the big gray house
and many years of baby chicks.
I am from the row of oaks in front of my house
Whose orderly row stands at attention.
From the turtle sandbox and my big trampoline
and from my big brother and baby brother,
from the craziness of having two brothers who litter the floor with
their clothes
from my father herding us all out of the house to go fishing.
I am from the late Christmas Eve nights spent at the church,
From the messy spaghetti and meat loafs my mom made for dinner
from the Dunkin' donut holes my grandfather brought which covered my fingers in
frosting
and from the big pool in the back of my great grandparents' house
the orange blanket I couldn't sleep without.
I am from the unforgettable family trips to Disney World
and from the everlasting happiness spent with my family.**

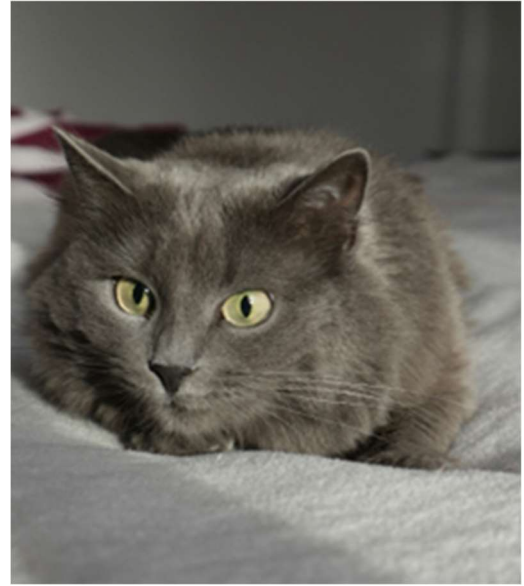


**Ava Stone
Parish High School – Grade 11
Mrs. Salvas, English 3
Chaplin, CT
May, 2024**

Living in Luxury

I prowl my kingdom and rule my minions.
They wait on me hand and foot
Opening doors and bringing me food,
they talk to me lovingly.
I am their queen and they know this.
They respect me and give me titles that are worthy.
My subjects submit, they listen to my pleas,
treat me well, and I live in luxury
It's the best life any cat could ask for
Best Ruler
with loyal subjects.
The best ruler, fair and just,
Alara, the cat

Roman Skrypnyk, unsplash



A Conundrum

I am a conundrum.
I have soft fur on my back, but I am not a cat.
I love to swim, but I am not a fish.
I lay eggs, but I am not a bird.
I have venom, but I am not a snake.
I am a conundrum.
I don't fit in anywhere, I'm not just one thing.
I used to think it was wrong,
and I used to think I was bad.
Now I know better.
I am who I am, and I don't need to fit in.
I am significant and memorable.
I am special.
I am a conundrum.
I am a platypus.

Kairi Harding



Parish High School – Grade 11
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The Silent Dog

He was full of life like the flowers that dance in the breeze where he once stood.

His gaze was bright like the sun that shone in the sky above him.

He was the light in the night, the water to the fire.

His hour of eternal silence was dire, the light had been drained from his eyes, and had been replaced with a gaze filled with misery.

In his gaze you could see the suffering of a thousand people, his light had been replaced with a dark haze.

He was once full of life like the flowers that danced in the breeze where he had once stood.

Natasha Belt

Parish Hill High School – Grade 11

Mrs. Salvas, English 3

Chaplin, CT

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Bat Addressing Bugs

**Soaring low over the landscape
quiet as a whisper,
the bringer of death for thousands.
a shrill shriek in the dead of night-
the moment you spot me is the moment
you perish.**



Todd Cravens, unsplash

Ant Colony

**We are the harbingers of destruction,
we could ravage entire ecosystems if left unchecked
We create megastructures the likes of which baffle even prideful primates.
We are united as one and draw strength from our numbers.
We are the builders, gatherers, and soldiers who win our conflicts.
We are ants, and We. Are. Strong.**



Alexander Aceto

Parish Hill High School – Grade 11

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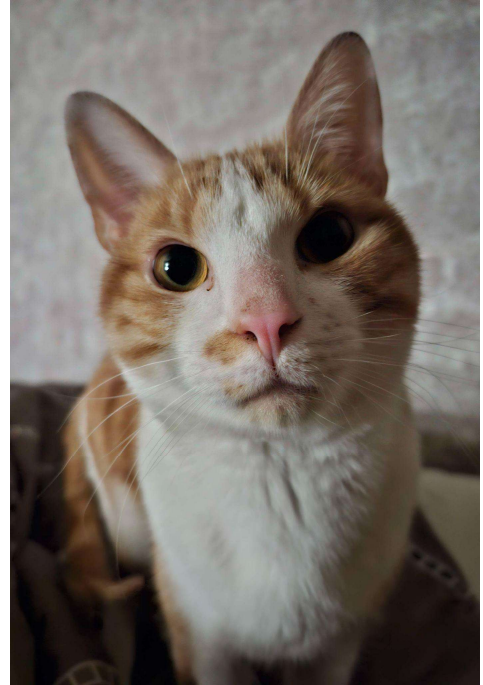
Hampton, CT

May, 2024

Praybir Kashyap, unsplash

Thor the Cat

**I wait at the white door for my human to return.
I let out a “Meow,” then I look at a fern.
From behind the glass, I see a bird.
I watch the leafy terrain, without uttering a word.
I must protect my home from even a rat.
They’re up to no good, I can assure you that.
With their ugly tails and scheming nature.
I’ll watch this bird until I’m sure
that he will not bond with another impure.
From behind the door, I hear a beloved voice.
I hope she may give me treats as I rejoice.**



Alissa Potter

Parish Hill High School -- Grade 11

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May, 2024