

Creative Writing Excerpts We Are Proud Of

*Hawken Middle School
Cleveland, OH*

Below are student selected excerpts from their creative journals. Please peruse and enjoy!

Jackson

“Breathing the air made my throat dry, there was the feeling of freeze and the feeling of burn. Both of those feelings gave me tingling that I felt all over my body. Darkness engulfed me, but somehow it felt warm and peaceful. I saw a faint light, it started coming closer. As it approached me it looked as if it was a ghost, but how could it be one? As I touched the figure it flickered and faded away. A feeling came over me, it was a feeling of dread that made my stomach drop. Was I dead? Then, I remembered, and the memories came flooding in. I had been killed by Duo, that stupid bird had taken everyone from me and now I was alone. I felt as if my existence had lost its purpose. I felt myself slowly disassembling until I was no more.”

Boris

“With determination and a newfound sense of purpose, I embraced the role thrust upon me, navigating the uncharted waters of this mystical connection. As I soared through the sky, gathering food for the avian companions, I couldn't help but revel in the unexpected beauty of my journey, grateful for the extraordinary experiences that awaited me. Suddenly, the distinct snap of a twig jolted me into alertness. A ghostly presence lingered, imperceptible to the eye but unmistakable in the eerie sounds that surrounded me. Without hesitation, I sprinted toward the unseen intruder, swiftly placing a bag over its head. I refrained from seeking explanations, as the ghost's motives and identity were mere trifles compared to the impending threat that loomed over me – a realization that sent shivers down my spine.

My focus shifted from the captured apparition to a more pressing concern: the impending danger targeting the infants of the bird king's assistant. Fear coexisted with a strange sense of courage within me. The gravity of the situation was apparent, and I understood that I alone stood between the safety of the innocent and an imminent peril.”

Clara

“Imagine your basic human rights get taken away from you overnight.

I woke up one morning, and I didn't feel safe anymore. I already didn't feel safe walking by myself around the city, and I felt the need to make sure I dressed as if I were a man. But this morning, I felt especially uncomfortable. Like something had changed. I continued with my morning routine. Brushing my teeth, getting dressed, doing my makeup, etc. Something felt off. I couldn't pinpoint it, though. I walked downstairs from my apartment to get a coffee at the nearest Starbucks. I felt as if someone was staring at me. Or multiple people were. Like I was going to disappear for months on end. And *no one* would find me. Like I would get taken... or... maybe even killed. Everything felt off and unsafe. I stayed home all day. Although I was in my home, I knew I wasn't safe anymore. Something, anything, was going to happen to me."

Des

"She apologized and let me leave by myself because she was too scared to walk me there. As I left the school I was really scared because there were a bunch of screaming noises coming from that school building.

A girl named Kaylen came up to me and said, 'You're wasting your time. Turn around while you still can.'

I was really nervous but I took a big gulp and opened up the school doors. All I could hear in my distance was screaming and yelling. I tried to turn around and open the doors but they locked so I couldn't escape. An old lady, who in my opinion looked like she was around 600 years old, came up to me and said, 'Welcome. I am glad you came. Follow me to your chamber.'

I stood still. I was also scared enough I tinkled on myself a little. 'If you fail to obey we have things and places to do to people when they are being naughty.' I followed her quietly with my hand shaking so fast that you could barely see they were moving."

Ivy

"It was a late Saturday night when my pet cat Romeo disappeared. We had let him out thinking he would come back in an hour or two and that is where we were wrong. That night happened to be the worst snowstorm of the year, making our town look identically white everywhere you looked. Romeo had done this before not once, but multiple times, so we weren't very worried as he always found his way back. On the 5th day he was gone, we started to get uneasy and my mom started calling a bunch of vets and shelters to see if they had seen Romeo, but none had. We asked the vets to look out for him. We began to give up hope, which made me upset as Romeo was funny and brought a great personality to the family. Then my mom made a final push to find him by calling a few more vets, with no luck. We started to accept that we lost a member of the family. A couple more days passed when my mom got a call from a vet saying that someone had brought Romeo in. She rushed to the vet to pick him up and when we got him back home he was very skinny and sick. My parents took him to the vet and he got medication we also gave him a lot of treats and food. He came back with some more personality. Thankfully that was the last time that Romeo went missing and he is very happy staying closer to home now."

Nina

"There was a ghost. Although, we couldn't see it. We knew it was there though, because of the recent events that had occurred in the house. Dishes had clattered with no one touching them, books had shifted, and floors had cracked. But, that wasn't what the story's about. It's about a dog named Hubert. Hubert was a regular dog, living in the house that had the ghost. Hubert had a friend, or like a brother who also lived in the house named Harold. They were best friends and loved each other until they decided to eat spaghetti. Hubert had randomly changed, seeming more aggressive and unagreeable. He decided to run away, and find a different place to live. Harold knew what Hubert was planning to do, and wanted to run away too. He loved Hubert, and he didn't want to leave him. When Hubert was sneaking out one night, Harold followed him."

Ethan

"Once upon a time, in a village by a river that seemed to stream for miles, there lived three pebbles, Rocky, Pebble, and Little Stone. They decided to have a skipping contest. Rocky and Pebble skipped impressively, but when Little Stone sank to the riverbed, he didn't give up. Instead, he rose gracefully to the surface, teaching his friends that skipping wasn't the only way to be special. From that day on, the three pebbles became the best of friends, embracing each other's unique qualities and enjoying every adventure by the riverside."

Oke

"My name is James and it is 5:30 in the morning. I wake up, brush my teeth, wash my face, shower, eat breakfast, and then I'm off to school. The most boring class of the day is reading. Everybody in my class hates reading books and everyday we always get a reading assignment. I walk into class and since we have assigned seats, I sit next to a girl that I don't like and we never even look at each other. In class I just put my head down and when the teacher asks a question, I don't know what the answer is because I'm either daydreaming or I'm taking a nap because I always wake up early. I get in trouble and the teacher almost everyday keeps me inside her classroom for the entire recess period. Then we head to the best class of all of them, VIDEO GAMES. Everyone likes this class because all we do is, well, play video games. Also there are no assigned seats so we can sit wherever we want to. We also have 3 whole hours of playing video games so we can play for a very long time. You can even go play outside if you don't want to play video games. My friends and I go play Fortnite and we all get into a game. We won 4 times in a row because we are just the best squad alive. These are the boring parts of the day and the best parts of the day."

Hayden

"I (Fluffy) am a very good bird who is always very nice. Then one day I was flying and accidentally flew into my owner, Sarah's, closet door. All of the clothes crashed out of the closet, and a ball that was stuffed in the back of Sarah's closet rolled onto her door and fell down the stairs. That is where the ball rolled out the door and hit a bump in the home's driveway. It flew in the air, but then fell and hit the windshield of a passing car, the car swerved and hit a lamppost. Fortunately since this is in 2152 it was a self-driving car driving someone there pizza, and the pizza floated to its owner."

KJ

"There once was a state named Taylor Swift. The story of the people goes like this. The state of Taylor Swift was always a happy place people liked to go to. It had nice things, and it had nice stores. But after a couple of years, the state started to be kind of good and kind of bad because people who weren't that good were coming there. One day, everybody was in their house and watching TV. The news came up. There had been a robbery at one of Taylor Swift's stores. Around there, that doesn't happen too much. So when the police investigate, you won't believe who robbed the store. It was Travis Kelce, a famous football player. But the police were trying to find out why he did it and never found out."

Kayleigh

"Everybody hates Duo, but all he ever wanted was to fly. Every day at school, he would always attempt to fly during recess, and all of the other birds would make fun of him. This cycle continued for months and months, until one day, when he actually did fly. He jumped off the picnic table, spread his wings, and flew up to the top of the building. The other kids watched in awe and were shocked to see that he could actually fly, and that he met his goal and completed it. He stayed up there for a long time until another one of the birds came up to join him, and they created a little nest. This bird's name was Duolingo, and she was very good at flying. Way better than Duo. Duo was best friends with Duolingo, and they did everything together. Duolingo was one of the three people who didn't make fun of him for wanting to fly, the other two people being his mother and father. Duolingo was very rich and well-dressed, and she wore very impressive clothing. When she flew up to Duo, she was wearing a green Gucci designer dress, with snake earrings in her ears. Duo was wearing a red football jersey, because he had practice in the morning, and was too lazy to change out of it. Duolingo took out her phone and started looking through her audio recordings, but Duo saw that. Duo was curious why Duolingo had so many voice recordings, but he didn't want to ask, so he just kept it to himself. Duolingo then put on headphones, completely shut out Duo, and she listened to an album called, 'The Tortured Poets Department.' It said 'unreleased' next to it, and that Taylor Swift was the artist."

Addie

"I ran down the dark hall and ran into the room. I was almost there. It will all be over soon. I could hear him, his footsteps. Then I saw it. I ran as fast as I could, and I opened it up. This would be the end of the killing, murders, and missing people. It would show everyone who he actually is. I opened the envelope up and read, "Everybody loves Duo. But nobody knew the other side of him.t, all he ever wanted was to continue his job. Duo loved being who he was. But he had a different side to himself. All those stories about him killing people turned out to be a reality. His job was to act like a cute loveable character, but he really wasn't. He was a mass murderer. He liked the ones that thought the text was a scam or spam. But little did they know what was really coming for them. They underestimated the power of Duolingo. He knows everything. So, make sure to do your lessons-or else. Don't download the app. If you stop, you know what's going to happen. You need to run. He's coming."

Emery

"This morning when I woke up, I realized that I was going to be late for school! It was already 7:45 and school started at 8:00. All of a sudden, I jumped. Someone was honking outside.

"The bus is leaving!" shouted my mom. I jumped out of bed, grabbed my backpack, and dashed out the door. I had barely made it onto the bus! On the ride to school, I checked my schedule and found out that I had my least favorite class first.

'What a great way to start the day,' I thought. As soon as the bus stopped I jumped off and ran to class. This teacher was strict and boring. He marked me tardy for being one minute late. It took everything in me not to yell. Next, the teacher had us write a five-paragraph essay about our favorite thing. We weren't allowed to talk or leave the classroom for any reason other than an emergency. Even though the class was two hours it felt like an eternity.

Finally, the class was over. I heard the bell and sprinted out of the classroom to my next class. My next class was my favorite. The teacher was always happy and let us do almost whatever we wanted as long as we finished our work. As soon as I walked in the room I started to feel better. We were allowed to work with our friends and take breaks as we needed."

Olivia

"Hi, my name is Mr. Teacher and I teach at Silly Giggles elementary. I hate my first class, Class A5. All the kids in it are super boring and do almost nothing. All they do is sit there and stay quiet the whole time it scares me because of how quiet they are. They don't answer any questions, they just stare at me as I walk around trying to teach them. My other class, Class Z2, is really fun and nice. They are not too loud but they also are not too quiet. They are very energetic and like to talk. They don't stare at me like in my other class so I like that a lot. I am able to be myself and not focus so much on hiding how scared I am of the other students. Good thing the year is almost over so I won't need to deal with those kids anymore. Oh! I just got an email from the head of the school. It says "I have thought this through a lot and I thought I should move you up to the next grade with your first class, Class A5. You will have the same class as this year. I hope you enjoy!" from Head Of School. What??? I DON'T WANT TO BE WITH THE SAME KIDS AS LAST YEAR THEY SCARE ME SO MUCH!!! NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NOOOOO!!!"

Brody

"It was finally the big day. The cow ghost had turned 1000 yesterday. He walked downstairs. On the bus, the ghost felt left out, at school, it was even worse. His first class of the day was history. His teacher was an old ghost that seemed to be almost 99,000. During the period, he learned all about haunted houses. His next class was art. As he took his seat, a woman walked into the room. She was not see-through. The woman had on a strange pair of glasses, and was wearing a flowing dress with colorful patterns. She had a warm smile that seemed to light up the room. The cow ghost couldn't help but feel a sense of curiosity and admiration as he watched her unpack her art supplies.

As the art class progressed, the woman introduced herself as Ms. Emily, the new art teacher. She encouraged the students to express themselves through their artwork. The cow ghost, although initially feeling out of place, found himself drawn to Ms. Emily's vibrant energy and passion for creativity.

During lunchtime, the cow ghost found himself sitting alone at a deserted table in the cafeteria. He watched as groups of students laughed and chatted.

But just as he was about to give up, a voice interrupted his thoughts. 'Hey there, cow ghost! Mind if I join you?' Turning around, the cow ghost saw a moose ghost with a mischievous grin and twinkling eyes standing beside him."