

WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE

*In Her Voice:
Celebrating the Poetry of Women*



*Poetry Submissions from Laurel
School students in Grades 5-12*



Wisteria

By Lily Rosenfeld

You act like I am a cracked silhouette.
But I don't break
You stomp over me with your norms.
You give me images,pictures of who I have to be. Your
twisted lies pull me down but I still grow.

Sky

By Frances Farmery

Sky
Pale,Lifeless
Darkening,Dampening,Pouring Getting Heavier now
Storming Rain



Girls

By Ruby Floyd

Strong, beautiful, witty. Girls.

Adventurous, empowering, smart. Women

Back in the day, women couldn't vote, they couldn't go to school, and they thought they weren't good enough just because of their gender.

Look how far we have come. In this generation, anyone can be who they want to be, especially women.

Take Kamala Harris for example the first women vice president of the United States.

Be who you want to be, no one can stand in your way.

No one can take away the right you have, to be you.

Don't listen to the people who taunt you who laugh at you just for being a girl. Women can be just as strong as men, even stronger!

Now, of course there will always be people that think that women were brought onto the earth to serve men.

We can't let that get in the way of pursuing our dreams.

So I say again.

Strong, beautiful, witty. Girls.

Adventurous, empowering, smart. Women



I Hear a Voice

By Mia Kwon

I hear a voice,
I hear a sound,
Where did it come from? I look all around,
The world blurry,
Time seems slow,
I can't find it,
Where did it go?
I figure appears
Should I have fear?
The figure speaks,
But I don't hear a word, Then a creature flies down,
It looks like a bird
The bird picks me up, And carries me high,
Until we disappear,
Into the sky



Stars

By Mia Kwon

Stars, you shine ever so bright
Stars, you guide sailors through the night
Stars, you shine over our world
Stars, you grant wishes for boys and girls
Stars, I have something to ask
Stars, it is only a small task
Stars, if you make my wish come true
Then I will be ever grateful for you

In the Woods

By Mia Kwon

In the woods, it's as quiet as a mouse
Look around, not a single house
All the trees, everywhere
Oh, look, a deer, standing there
It's staring at me so I stare back
See the beauty, there's no lack
All of the sudden, there's a crack
A tree falls forward, now lying on its back
Birds fly away
The deer runs astray
But I stay still, in my spot
Run away? I will not



A Storm

By Mia Kwon

The wind shrieks
The trees creak
There is a storm outside
We're scared and hide
Branches are falling
Birds are calling
The wind is howling
The bears are growling
The storm is relentless
The animals are helpless
They don't know what to do
There scared too
I tried to help
But when I looked I yelped
So I'll stay on my cot
Until it will stop



Untitled

By Greta Geib

I am a girl
Strong, brave, fearless
Kind, considerate, caring
Natural, beautiful, standing out
All these things and so much more
But at the end of the day, I'm always myself

Untitled

By Cameron Coult

I'm running out of time
People say "Life is a highway"
I don't believe that
Life isn't straight or long
There are always bumps and there is never enough time



I Will Wait

By Caroline Koch

I wait for things that are exciting
I wait for things that are a mystery
I wait for sad things
I wait for happy things
But YOU control what you wait for.

The Note

By Kate Cocco

Get a piece of paper
With a name on it
Write something nice About that person Kind words
Give it to that Person
That person says thank you
You say You are welcome
And at the end of the day
Both of You feel good.



Untitled

By Arianna Dumas

Life is like a court. You go in, with-
Evidence
There is a chance That you can either
— win
Or
— lose
Maybe you work so
Hard but you have to
Come back to court
And take a
Second
Chance.
There is always the
JUDGE
The person that decides
If
You
Win
Your
Case.
Maybe you are that person...
Maybe you decide that person's
PROBLEM.
If they
— win Or
— lose



Moon

By Hazel Segal

As Sun reaches out to the world for one last moment,
timid Moon comes to take his place. Elegant and quiet
she steps on to the floor of stars.

As the melody of crickets begins to welcome her she
relaxes a little.

Climbing up the stairs of constellations, she takes her
seat on her throne upon the sky.

From there, her silver locks drape the land,
allowing her kingdom to rest.

Creatures and critters of the night tiptoe out of their
burrows to see her beauty.

Their ears are too fragile for Sun's loud barks so they
wait for Moon's soft gentle voice to arrive. Moon's dark
skirt covers the earth in silence and peace.

Then she modestly lies down behind the horizon as
Sun wakes up again.



Standards

By Hannah Rosenfeld

The arms, the legs, the face, the words,
The height, the grades, the moves, the looks,
everything without a fight.
No flailing arms nor kicking legs, you must stay
composed, As your mind twirls out to other worlds.
Worlds of ideality.
A whirlwind of alternate realities,
Where nothing is wrong, flawed or slightly off,
Where everything is
Not big, not small,
Not bright, not dark,
But just right.
Perfect, until you drift back,
Forced to face the imperfection of what truly is.



Driven.

By Taya Offutt-Decker

Women are viewed as porcelain dolls.

“Too Pale! Too dark! Too Fat!”

“Dont touch her, she is fragile!”

One common example I have seen of this is when men say, “I can’t hit you because you’re a girl!”

Women are not fragile. I know that.

If women were so *fragile*, how would they go through the excruciating pain of bringing YOU into this world?

I would like to see men try to live a woman’s life.

Having to fight for their rights every day, getting catcalled while walking down the street, having to be held to standards that don’t make any sense.

It’s hard to see women go through so much. It’s hard to see them not give consent yet still be pushed to do something they don’t want to do. It’s terrifying for me to think that growing up would mean I am a target or a potential *victim*. Because of what has happened over the years, women can’t go out without pepper spray or a taser. They can’t go out without being judged or hit on by men who think they are superior. Women are *driven*. We are *driven*. The world is *driven*, to make everyone equal.



Untitled

By Emma Batt

The future is coming amazingly fast
But let's remember the present and past.

We've shot rockets zooming up into the stars,
Putting people on the moon, and robots on Mars.

We've discovered new life in places rough and deep,
Found quicker creatures and slower ones that creep.

We've built helpful tools, both large and small
Cars to drive and phones to call.

We're currently struggling with worldwide disease,
But there's still light and hope, you see,

Because friendships and love still exist now
And we will always be wondering why and how.

So if you act now, you can change so much
Because the future is now, and it starts with us.



Dear Maya

By Abby Clayton

Dear Maya Angelou,
I'm trying to stay strong, but how did you become strong?
Wind still heaves frigidly with injustice within its grasp
A lot has changed.
On the contrary,
There is now awareness of the injustices you faced
I myself am still learning how to better rise
I am learning how to carry myself with your pride
To stand my ground and remain resilient just as you wrote
With every stroke of my pen, I try to voice the power you fought for
I admire your louding voice, which still echoes today
I try to follow, but the world is not yet ready for me,
I follow your example and make my voice known
I can hear your voice still through modern poets
Your echo will always remain;
So tell me, how do I still rise?



Masks, Shoes, Doors, and Empathy

By Nicole Samala

Everyone has problems hidden behind a mask,
But we don't know what they are because we never ask.
We just assume that they are not there,
That we are the only ones that suffer and despair.

Yet this is obviously not true, most can agree;
We all fight different battles that others fail to see
There is more to everyone beyond the surface,
Yet we go about serving our own self-purpose.

But you have nothing to lose
If you step inside another's shoes.
Look at the world through their own lenses,
And finally come to your senses.

Discover the good, the bad, and the ugly,
And only then can you kind of see
Why a person acts the way they do
And believe their personal views

Empathy is what I am trying to say
And should be the key takeaway,
So before you go on judging other people,
Open the door and look beyond the keyhole.