

# SLE Fifth Graders: A Creative Exploration

April is National Poetry Month and following are some poems by the Seeley Lake Elementary School 5th Graders.

These poems were written in the beginning of the school year and then performed in their class room by professionals.

Alpine Artisan Peggy Meinholtz led Mrs. Mahoney's Fifth grade class through writing exercises that led to poems written about owls, then poems starting with the line "If I were a (their choice of animal.)" or "I am a (their choice of animal.)" and finally those who were not still working on their first two poems were encouraged to look at nature, find a metaphor and explore.

During the 2 Valleys Stage artists residency by Confluence, author Alan Kesselheim read three of the students poems to the class while Stuart Weber accompanied the poems on classical guitar. After presenting Jackie Teague's "Winter Moon" and Riley Sturm's "I am a Mongoose", Alan and Stuart played around with April Payton's "I am a Horse" creating many moods for the piece by changing their style of reading and music.

Alan then set the class to writing two short narratives. Each began with the same line but they came out quite different as Stuart played a different mood of music each time the students were writing.

Following are a selection of the poems the fifth graders created

I am a horse  
running wild and free  
I am a horse  
running to the top of the mountains  
and back  
down again  
I am a horse  
running with all of the horses  
I am a horse  
causing trouble with cowboys  
I am a horse  
running with the cowboys on my back  
I am a horse  
bucking the cowboys off  
I am a horse  
running wild and free  
I am a horse  
just like I should be.  
*April Payton*

I am a Mongoose  
chasing the mail man,  
jumping a ford,  
lighting fireworks,  
fighting a whale,  
walking in the sewer,  
eating a mushroom,  
playing all clay,  
using a vacuum  
*Riley Sturm*

## Breakfast Time

As breakfast time was near  
I got dressed and went  
down  
down  
down  
down  
down  
down  
down  
down

down  
down the stairs  
I got to the  
Table I ate up I went out the  
door  
I forgot my pants! Girls were  
looking at me! So I went back  
home  
went up  
up  
up  
up  
the stairs got my pants and went  
down  
down  
down  
down the stairs  
out the door late to school  
*Emily*

## Winter Moon

How thin and sharp  
is the moon tonight.  
How thin and sharp  
and ghostly white  
is the slim curved crook  
of the moon tonight  
*Jackie Teague*

## BEE

Bee yellow and Black  
little small flier  
Wings size of an ant  
Striped and stinging  
lives in a hive carries pollen on  
his legs  
makes honey  
YUM!  
YUM !

*Kalah Tripke*

## Road Trip

Like the sneaky owl in the forest  
my Chevrolet can fly swiftly  
away...  
The clutch is my prey.  
It'll take less than a day to find my  
way,  
to fly, to fly, to fly away.  
  
The world is my clay, I mold it in  
my own way,  
my own way, my own way.  
I'll mold the clay.

The road is my canvas to go away,  
to find the way to mold the clay.  
*Locke Voegelin Hassett*

An Owl in a tree  
spots a cat.  
Slowly moves his head,  
fast as the wind  
Flys down from the tree.  
CRASH!  
On the ground  
Cat with feathers and a beak,  
Owl has fur and a tail.  
Thinking thinking  
Trying to get back to normal.  
CRASH!  
Another owl has fur and a tail,  
another cat with feathers and a  
beak.  
The Owl goes up in the tree  
CRASH!  
OH NO we didn't change.  
New Species !

*Brittany*

I'm a Bat

sleeping  
all day  
I'm a Bat  
hunting  
all night  
I'm a bat  
flying  
and flying  
I'm a Bat  
going high  
and high  
I'm a Bat  
flying  
to my mom

*Dylan Beerey*

I am a Bald Eagle  
fishing  
Circling round a pond  
catching fish eating fish  
eating and eating and eating fish  
I sleep  
Then I fly fly fly  
wings full of wind  
I swerve  
Trees and mountains go by  
I see people  
I sit on a branch  
They catch me in a clear picture  
I see a mouse  
I eat him  
Boy was he good!

*Dylan Hableman*