

TEEN

zine

Open Mic
Special Edition

THE 3RD TEEN ZINE
PUBLICATION CREATED
BY TEENS FROM
YORK COUNTY, SC!



Glory by Genesis Medley

Rock Hill Youth Poet Laureate

Ghost, holy, and overcoming like a catapult to a
transformative journey

Oasis to a thirsty community of striving brown
and gold

Spelling out the vibrating honor for his glory

Pulling on ever-so-fragile heartstrings

Easing in a graceful tune of faith and
unperishable hope

Lush kisses on tired foreheads approaching the
brink of surrender

Merging of hymns and spirituals for a blend of
goodness

Unity on every corner and every mile, a church
stood upright

Sweet prayers coated in harmonies, chords,
and melodies

In every lyric is a refugee, a pillowy haven of
comfort

Coiled in every note, the love of an
unconditional God



teddy bear



by Alexa

My teddy bear is fluffy
he makes me feel better when my nose is stuffy.

My teddy bear is helpful
comforting me when i feel doubtful.

My teddy bear comforts me,
helping me when I scrape my knee.
Learning, drinking, he's on the chair thinking.

My teddy bear is my best friend,
he's there til the end.

His fur the color of toast,
he's there when you need him the most.
He wears a crown, he makes me laugh like a clown.

My teddy bear is my friend willie,
and with him I never frown.



BATTLE SCARS

by Jordan ★

Hey i'm living with these demons inside bottled up
Emotions you know can't hide trying to escape the pain
That's deep but only release i find is when i bleed
Cutting through the flesh feeling numb temporary
Relief but the pain will come scars on my skin a story
untold trying to find peace in a world so cold

Battle scars they tell my tale every cut every mark it's
a whole new nail trying to find peace in war within but
the hurt the pain it's where i begin

Lost in a cycle cant break free seeking solace in this
self-inflicted misery can't explain the pain that I feel
this internal battle it's all to real drowning in a sea of
my own despair hoping that someone somewhere would
care but the silence echoes its deafening in the
darkness my soul is wandering



★
Battle scars they tell my tale every cut every mark
it's a whole new nail trying to find peace in war
within but the hurt the pain it's where i begin

★ I wear my pain like a badge of honor every scar a
reminder of the war but deep down i know i need to
heal find a way out break the cycles seal

Battle scars they tell my tale every cut every mark
it's a whole new nail trying to find peace in war
within but the hurt the pain it's where i begin

These battle scars they won't define me i'll rise
above break free and be free no longer bound by the
chains of my past i'll find my strength



"HOW BEING AN OPTIMIST CHANGED MY LIFE" SPEECH BY ASHER



My name is Asher M[...] and I'm a 6 th grader at [...] Middle School in Rock Hill, SC. I'm sharing how optimism has guided me through trying times. I'm only 12 years old but I've been through a lot.

When I was 5, my step brother passed away. It made me very mad, and I started acting out. I didn't want to listen to anybody. I started talking back to my mom and teachers. I kept getting in trouble at home and at school. I had to stay in my room because of my behavior and I couldn't go outside and play with my friends. I remember having to stand in the corner for a long time and sometimes I got a whooping. One day, I planned to go to a game with my stepdad, but because of my behaviors, I had to stay home with my mom. I was mad but I couldn't do anything about it, so I let it go. As I said before, I'm only 12, but I've had some trying times. I still tried to be positive and tell myself I could change.

Recently, my mom sent me to live with my dad and stepmom. At first, I didn't like it because I didn't want to leave my family in Georgia. I was scared that it would be hard to make new friends, and I didn't want to go to a new school. I begged my mom to let me stay home but it didn't work. I even cried real tears and it still didn't work.



The tears usually work, but not this time. Now that I'm in South Carolina, things are not so bad. Things have changed but the change is helping me to be better. I'm now optimistic about being here. According to Webster's Dictionary, optimism is the tendency to see the good side of things and to expect good results. The opposite of optimism is pessimism which is the belief that things will come out badly. An optimist believes good things will happen.



I'm an optimist. I believe good things will happen in my life. I believe good things will happen in my home, at my new school, with my new friends, and with my new hobby. I'm taking boxing lessons, and the coach said that I'm a fast learner. I made a 100 on my ELA quiz, I'm not getting in trouble, and have 'O' suspensions. I'm trying my best. My new principal said he would give me a fresh start and a chance to get things right. I'm also different at home. I don't talk back and I follow the rules. Sometimes, I don't like the rules but being an optimist helps me feel better.



In closing, I hope my story helps you understand how optimism can guide you during trying times. Change isn't always easy, but sometimes necessary. I'll continue to let optimism guide me, as I become the man God wants me to be.



Musical Performers

Lacey - sang

"Used To Be Mine" by Sara Bareilles

Katelyn - sang

"A Thousand Years" by Christina Perri

Logan - Played the ukulele and sang

"Riptide" by Vance Joy

Evie - sang

"Dream a Little Dream of Me"

by the Mamas and the Papas

Sullivan - played his Baritone Instrument

"Lift Every Voice And Sing"

James Weldon Johnson,

Arranged by Chris Sharp (ASCAP)

Musical Performers

Ray - sang

"Birdhouse in Your Soul"

by They Might Be Giants

Caile - sang

"Perfect Isn't Easy" from the movie

'Oliver and Company'

Corian - sang

"Roses" by OutKast



"Summer and Winter" by Ava



Summer is loud and fun,
but demanding and harsh.
Winter is quiet and serene,
but will catch you off guard.

I am envious of winter for gaining his favor,
And I'm being selfish, but it's about time I
got to be.

I make the crops grow.
I make the flowers bloom.
I make the animals frolic.

I give and give and give some more,
hoping they'll see, hoping for thanks.

But, ultimately, that's not what I need.
Why should I need a boy's attention, when
I am a force of nature?

He may never learn to love my heat,
But soon it will be gone and he'll miss it
when it snows.



"Eternity" by Chloe Johnson-Hall



We dream about it,
To live forever,
In
Boundless time,
No end in
Sight,
Without rhyme.



✧ Eternal days,
And endless nights,
Never aging or
Losing fights.
But with this
Gift

Comes a heavy
Price:
Watching loved ones
Fade from
Sight.



To live forever
Is a bittersweet
Dream,
For loneliness would be
The
Eternal theme.

Though I am proud I have not attained such promise.
For I am just half
Of excellence.
To live forever.



In
Boundless time,
No end in sight, without rhyme.

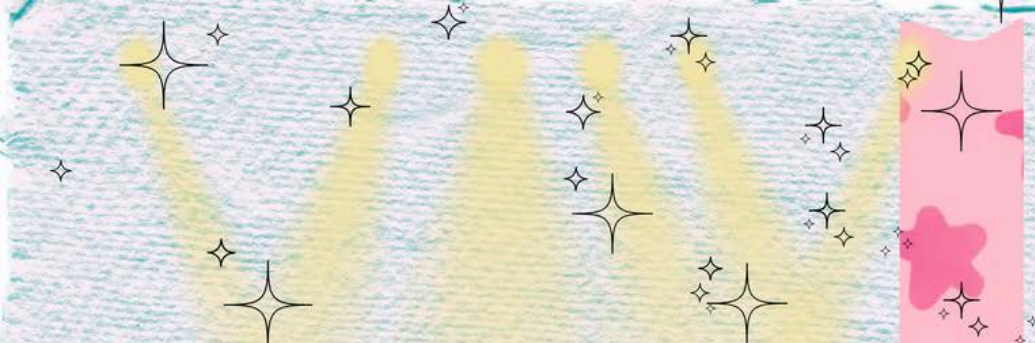
**"I'M COMING BACK"
SONG WRITTEN BY
KATE**

Look at all the smiling faces
Cause they know they're in their favorite places
I used to be one of them

Cards on enchanted nights
Winner gets bragger rights
They always made me whole again

But unforeseen circumstances were, unforeseen
And now that you're gone, you just feel like a dream

I'm Coming back
Don't care when. Don't care how
I'm Coming back
Don't care where I'm standing now
Hapin' out helped me out
And card nights made me believe
And so I make this solemn vow
That I'm coming back



Dance all day, up on stage
In this place you never age
I used to be one of them

Games all night, play by golf rules
You made me smile like a fool
They always made me whole again



So when I set foot off the plane,
I won't remember the 8 hour wait
Won't remember the tears on my face
Won't remember those terrible days

And when I set foot off the plane,
The rest of the world will have to wait

I'll wonder why I ever went away
When I see your smiling face
Cause when I'll set foot off that plane
I'll mark it as my very best day,

When as sunset covered my gray
The day that I became whole again
The day that I became whole again



THE YORK COUNTY LIBRARY WAS FORTUNATE TO PARTNER WITH GENESIS MEDLEY, THE ROCK HILL YOUTH POET LAUREATE, TO HOST THE FIRST YCL OPEN MIC NIGHT! THIS EVENT WAS COHOSTED WITH CARLO DAWSON, THE NEW ROCK HILL POET LAUREATE, AND WAS AN INCREDIBLE NIGHT OF COMMUNITY AND CELEBRATING THE GIFTED TEENS OF YORK COUNTY.

IT IS NEVER EASY TO GET UP IN FRONT OF A ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE AND SHARE YOUR INNER THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS, OR PERFORM MUSICALLY. THESE TEENS DID SUCH AN AMAZING JOB THAT WE WANTED TO CELEBRATE THEM AGAIN BY SHARING THEIR WORK IN THIS ZINE. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT AS MUCH AS WE DID, AND WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT TEEN OPEN MIC NIGHT IN DECEMBER!

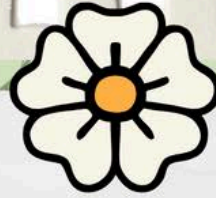
KRISTA HOWELL, TEEN LIBRARIAN



THANK
YOU!



We're excited to share our 3rd Teen Zine with you. I hope you enjoyed these amazing submissions from our teens. Thank you for reading our Zine!
Monika Dost Whaley, Teen Manager



Join us for fun and
free Teen Events at
all of our branches:
yclibrary.org/events



YORK COUNTY LIBRARY
(MAIN LIBRARY, ROCK HILL)
138 E BLACK STREET
29730 ROCK HILL, SC

