Poems from the Elloree Total Arts Program

Poetry Component

Edited by Joanna Cattonar
Nancy Yarborough
and the English faculty
at Elloree High School

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South Carolina Arts Commission
Columbia, South Carolina
Since the 1974-75 school year, Elloree has brought professional artists in music, dance, theatre, puppetry, painting, printmaking, pottery, and other art forms into its schools and community to work with students and adults. By making songs, dance, plays, pictures, and pots, participants of all ages have discovered and reaffirmed their own creativity.

Each year a professional poet has come to Elloree to serve as a catalyst for students and resource person for teachers. This continues to be a focal point for the Elloree Total Arts Program as evidenced by this anthology. During the 1976-77 school year poet Joanna Cattonar lived in Elloree for one month and, during her stay, spent two weeks working at Elloree Elementary and two weeks working at Elloree High School. The poems included in *Watch It* were written during her residency.

Following Ms. Cattonar in the Elloree writing program was noted black poet Etheridge Knight, who visited with English classes at the high school and read his work for students. In the Spring, lyricist and playwright Robert Montgomery spent one day at the elementary and at the high school helping students explore ways of using language to make songs.

Other writing by Elloree students is included in *Things That Move The Silence*, an anthology featuring all the South Carolina Total Arts Program sites: Elloree, Greenwood, Dillon County, Lancaster County, Chester, Fort Mill, and Oconee County. Interested persons may request a copy at no charge from the South Carolina Arts Commission.
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FUNDING

National Endowment for the Arts
South Carolina Arts Commission
Orangeburg School District #7
Elloree Parent/Teacher/Student Association
Dear Friends in Elloree,

I think of Elloree as a special place and I am pleased to have been asked to write an Introductory Note for this anthology. I am happy to share with you my pride in the children of Elloree. You will see for yourself in the work before you the kind of vibrancy and richness of spirit, intelligence and imagination I was impressed with every day.

These poems cover the whole spectrum of sensibilities and they are remarkably insightful and fresh. Regardless of your age, you will recognize yourself. By sharing their feelings, thoughts, and innermost dreams with us, the students of Elloree Elementary and High School have enriched us and added their voices to our common heritage.

My work has taken me many miles across the state of South Carolina, and I have read a great many poems by hundreds of young people: I assure you that the poetry you are about to read is some of the finest work being done in the South Carolina schools today.

See for yourself. Be proud of these poets and let them know!

Congratulations!

Joanna Cattonar
Elloree TAP Poet in Residence
WATCH IT

A speck in the sky
It's flowing away
But it won't say
Good-bye

Don't you see it going there
Up up in the thin air
Oh I am on the wind
Singing

Bird town miles down
A speck in the blue sky
Hey hey don't die
Hey flower don't want to die

Come back home again
Now you aren't thin
Up there on the wind
Swinging

Oh, Lord I am falling
Don't stop the wind
Flowerbeds being spread
Sailing

On the ocean to the sea
Onto an icicle beach
Wearing rugged skis
On land now home again

Georgia Mae Ellis
Grade 11
Elloree High
UNTITLED

This is my house
I have flowers
and trees around it
and a moon
and a cross. Welcome
to our future.

Jacqueline Pauling
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

I am what you thought of yesterday
I was with you last night
I can make what's unreal turn into reality
I can make the moon cry my tears
And the stars dance to my music
I can make the thunder ask a question
And make the lightning reply my burning answer
I can make life a bed of roses
And death my faithful friend
I can make the birds sing a song so sweet
That everybody will stop to listen
I can make yesterday's thoughts turn
Into tomorrow's reality...
because...

I am a dream!

Faye Marie Zeigler
Grade 12
Elloree High
THIS IS THE SUN

I live in a brown trailer
and have a big red apple tree
and I saw the sun came
out yesterday and went back
in, and it is a nice day too
the sun is shining
the wind is blowing

Dorothy Ann Fogle
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

If I were a city
I would have a lot of friends.

Tyrone Gilmore
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary

CINQUAIN

Then came
The New Yorker
To the town of big small
Elloree. It was quite a sight
To see.

Brian Keith Wilborn
Grade 10
Elloree High
UNTITLED

People are reading
Flowers are seeding
And the grass needs weeding.

Lilly Ann Canty
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary

MY FAMILY AND ME

Me and my family live hard.
Because we are in a barge.
We eat food which is good.
We have a car which has a hood.
We love one another
And we stick together.

Mark Wiles
Grade 8
Elloree Elementary
UNTITLED

I wish I had a car,
But I have no money.
How do I get it?
Steal? No, I'll work for it.

Dean Keller
Cluster Class
Elloree Elementary

DISQUIETED

Four whole days on a ship away from home
wondering whether to stay or just - just roam!
away from the feeling of being alone
from the high afternoon sun until dawn
Sitting, sometimes standing, thinking,
Fishermen don't have it as easy a job as
I had thought.
That's what I was telling my father one day.
He was medium and very stout.
The fog on the water was thick and wide,
seems as though it cleared up to my surprise.
Down, far below the ship's deck, I was thinking,
What would I do if there was a wreck?
Hollering, screaming, very afraid,
So I just stood there and shouted.
The men heard me but just said I was too
far out! Out of the way of home.
Homesick I was. Four whole days on a ship
away from home, disquieting,
But I used my head and stayed
instead of roamed.

Michael Brantley
Grade 12
Elloree High
REWARD

Moving swiftly like the speed of light
I only catch the memories.
Oh, how I wish that I could move along with you
But I'm just an awkward human,
While you are free as one can be.
But yet I do not cry, because I am not as swift as you
Because as everyone knows you are my
DESTINY.

Wilber Jenkins, Jr.
Grade 11
Elloree High

UNTITLED

Can you do anything right?
How did you get in?
"Run, run," Pat said to herself.
"It's a nice day," William said.
"Stop the line!" the teacher said.
Tom climbed over the house.
Oh, it's you! Come in.
Put the toy away.
How did you get in Hollywood?
Eat all you can.
Run, run for your life!

Christopher Stokes
Cluster Class
Elloree Elementary
PEOPLE

When I was a little girl
people always walking
over me and kicking me
I try to call my mother
But I say where in the world is she

Linda Adams
Grade 8
Elloree Elementary

I got up out of my black bed
in my black room
feeling real black
I went in my black bathroom
and washed my black face
with my black rage
I went down my black stair
and went to my black kitchen
and turned on my black stove
and then I ate some black
toast and drank my black coffee
I was all ready for this black
day, so I went to my black door
and opened it and guess what I saw?
A lot of white snow.

John Oliver
Grade 12
Elloree High
A dog barking
A child crying
Life goes on as ugly as before

Gwen Moorer
Grade 12
Elloree High

LIFE

Life is full of ups and downs
Love affairs, childhood fun,
A day with mom and dad,
getting older, having nights on the town.

It's fun living, yet sometimes
it can be so dreadful.
To really conjugate those failures
and to really understand it sometimes hurts.

There may be a time when you
can just stand up and say...
"This is my life, let me live
it my way."

But then again you can say
When times were sad and times
were glad where was my
heart and what could I have done to
make it happy?

Sonya Monet Williams
Grade 10
Elloree High
THE SPLASHY SOUND

Once I heard
the splashy sound
of a bird and
I said to myself
I said wonder if
I could do it I
whispered but it was
not like a
bird

I wish my hand could cry.
I wish my hand could sing.
I wish my hand could do
what I can't do.

Althea Scott
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary

Geneva Canty
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary

THE BLACK AND WHITE FAIR

The fair is Black and White
Here I go blowing a black balloon
with rain falling around me.
Hundreds of children fly on wheels
with hair waving and floating
from their heads.
Here is light with people
laughing with money in their hands.

Paul McAllister
Grade 11
Elloree High
A HAPPY MOMENT

There is a boy far away
whose mother prays for him day to day.
Just to make sure everything will be all right,
She prays for her boy in the night.
But when this boy comes home in a couple
of years,
I hope to see those happy tears.
I'll be glad, so would my mother,
Cause this dude happens to be my brother.

Cleveland Williams
Grade 12
Elloree High

UNTITLED

I dreamed of a brand new world.
I dreamed about being the President.
I dreamed of a new car that my father gave me.
I dreamed about having everything I want.
I dreamed about someday no one would have to fight.
I dreamed of everybody getting along together.
I dreamed of being married to the beautiful girls in the world.
I dreamed of having everything I wanted.
I dreamed that a state were named after me.
I dreamed I dreamed and I dreamed
I dreamed about being the only person on earth.
I dreamed about having all the money in the world.
I dreamed, I dreamed and I dreamed I dreamed

Eugene Sellers
Grade 10
Elloree High
MY DREAM

I dreamed I had a horse
And I could ride him all day long.
When it's time to put him up,
I would give him water and hay
And take the saddle off him.
So it wouldn't hurt his back.
I really would take care of him.
And ride him the next day.
I would let my friend ride him
Sometimes, but not all the time.

Deborah Wiles
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary

DREAM ABOUT

Dream about the angel
Dream about the smile
Dream about the raining
Dream about Elloree
Dream about a dance they call the bump
Dream about the joy

Frankie Oliver
Grade 8
Elloree Elementary
Silent singing angels lie over the snarling red wind ocean, like black birds muttering and flying across the sky, dreaming of a lonely white giraffe clowning and jumping, dancing, jumping like a silent tease. What a surprise!

Oh snakes, ghosts riding on airplanes and wheeling through Elloree. Jessamine opens sweet clean and sticky silver rings like velvet. Blood flaming like icy sleet and rain smiles like bright silent dishes scratching and crackling like rubber.

Purple steel ribbons wondering and scratching over singing pickles like wizards jumping over growing snakes. The dream came wondering of rain shouting of green, sliver, purple, black, gold, blue clowns.

Prelawn Scott
Grade 8
Elloree Elementary
I DREAM ABOUT HORSES

I dream about horses
and they buckle in my dreams
and they walk like a friend.

Alfred Dukes
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary

THE TINY TINY GIRAFFE

Once I almost stepped on a tiny
tiny giraffe. But he moved from
under my toe...

Angela Jones
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary

A RAINBOW IN THE WATER

There was a rainbow
in the water and the boat
had no bottom and it started
to sink
but the rainbow
held it up
24 hours

Robert Busky
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary
It's fun when you're coming
It's fun when you're going
It's fun all the time
inside

Karen Jones
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

I eat like a dog
And get fat like a rat.
But when I am not eating,
I get poor like a snake.
But when a snake is eating,
He gets fat like a rat.
So what can I be?

Stanley Steward
Grade 7
Elloree Elementary
I love to go fishing with my dad. Once when we were on our way it began to rain, so we had to come back home. "Oh, Dad?"
"What, Derrick?"
"A starfish is in the trunk."
"A who fish?"
"A starfish."
Then Dad came running.
"Where, where, where?"
"Right here! Kill him, Dad!"
"Who me?"
"Yes, you!"
"No, you kill him, Derrick."
"No, you."
Then an octopus came running at us.
"Look, Derrick, what's coming! an octopus! Call help! Help! Help us!"

Derrick Dash
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary
You stole a dime
and went to the liquor store and bought wine
--- but now you look like Mr. Frankenstein.

Bernard Cheeseboro
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary

RIDING ON A ROLLERCOASTER DREAM

I dream that I am riding
on a Rollercoaster, going up,
down, pounding, around, screaming,
crying, yelling for it to
stop! Please, stop, please
stop this Rollercoaster!
I say in my sleep.
And I suddenly wake up
and I can't believe it -
I am on a Rollercoaster!
Get me off!

Shirley Pauling
Grade 11
Elloree High
DAY WALK

Walking noon dizzy sun
Daybreak on the morning run
Violets dance along your path
Chilly sparkles through windowpane
Like galloping horses on angel wings
Or crazy balloons in the wind or
Maybe standing while time ticks away
Cattle drive out good-bye day
Oh how you crawl, then walk,
Then run through sunset and done.

Georgia Mae Ellis
Grade 11
Elloree High

UNTITLED

The hurricane was getting strong,
the waves were getting high,
the people were running for shelter.
Who do the fish die?
Some of the people die,
but the sea birds would fly,
the whales would swim,
the crabs would run,
the clams would close their shells
and bury themselves.
The hurricane went down
and I went home
and I sat down and wrote a poem
about the fish dying and the birds flying.

David Smith
Grade 7
Elloree Elementary
FLYING BLUE VELVET

Blue velvet flies when you wear it. It makes a man look like he is in a world of pleasure. Flying blue velvet makes it cool when it's hot. It makes a person happy when they are sad. So... have a piece of flying blue velvet, especially at Night.

Juanita Pearson
Grade 8
Elloree Elementary

RED

Red is the heartbeat of love pounding to escape the terrifying world of hatred. Red is the streaking sound that always knocks us to the ground. Red is the color of the open sea that God put here to stay. Red is the only door to heaven, high above the clouds. Red is hell fighting to take over our souls. But Red is still the gleaming color that both you and I can see.

Anthony Hillard and Anthony Damon
Grade 9
Elloree High
BLUE

blue is sitting by the river
blue is watching girls
blue is being just yourself

Harold Dash
Grade 10
Elloree High

PERSONALITIES

My personality is like a traffic jam
What I do and learn are drops of rain
My surroundings are like a tree's branches
The hair on my head is like the dew on grass
People with different faces make
noises like airplanes
Their emotions are hot like a desert

Deloris Minnigan
Grade 12
Elloree High

ZODIAC CRYSTAL JEWELRY

My name is Estelle
My zodiac sign is Leo
I like crystal and jewelry
But most of all, I like myself.

Estelle Snider
Grade 7
Elloree Elementary
A WISH

I wish I always had a way
To say just what I want to say.
That I never cared that someone might laugh at me
And make me feel too scared to talk.
I wish I were able
Always to feel comfortable
When I speak.

Ricky Strock
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary

NOTHING TO SAY

I have nothing to say
Not yet not today
because I am thinking of going to play
that's why I have nothing to say, today.

Artie Felder
Grade 12
Elloree High
I wish I were a hill
I would be brown
with a pond at the
bottom of me and
the sun shining on me
and trees on me

Wes Hill
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

I wish I were an artist
drawing pictures
like reindeer
and Washington and the old times,
Abraham Lincoln and George Washington,
and plants,
roses and tulips

Anthony Shivers
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary
UNTITLED

I wish I were an elephant
I wish I were a monkey so I could
   climb up trees
When I grow up I'll be a fireman
If a fireman were an animal he would
   be a deer
I wish I were a flower so I could
   catch a bird
I wish I were a rock so that they'd
   throw me around

Rhondi McCord
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary

I WISH

I wish people didn't die
I wish Mrs. Alston would come back
I wish there were no school
I wish I had a sister
I wish I had a house of my own
I wish I had lots and lots of money
I wish I never have to go in the hospital
I wish I never get in any danger

Lillian Williams
Grade 9
Elloree High
I took a trip last night
I visited someone beautiful
Someone I hadn't seen in a long time
Someone who I care very much about

She seemed lonely, as though she were hurt
She sat all alone as if to say, why me?
As I saw her in a distance
I saw she had great beauty and intelligence
But there was something about her--something cold

I'm getting closer now
I see her but she doesn't see me
She's thinking very hard -- thinking
Maybe thinking of memories she had with a lost love

I'm standing with her, she sees me
She starts to laugh and pretend
She says she couldn't be happier
But as I look at her
I realize that her pretending days are over
Because the person I visited -- the person I see
is me

Faye Marie Zeigler
Grade 12
Elloree High
UNTITLED

I am like a butterfly without wings
I am like a blue bird that can't sing
I am like a big bell that can't ring
I am like a bee that can't sting
I am like a guitar without strings
I am like a forest without spring

Carolyn Shuler
Grade 9
Elloree High

WHY

I catch my eyes
Looking up at the skies
Asking the good Lord
Why some people die

I catch my tongue
Asking my eyes
Why do I cry
Even when I don't try

Laverne Jefferson
Grade 10
Elloree High
I am like a tree that cannot grow
I am like a baby, forever helpless
I am like a river that will not rise
I am like a creature in disguise
I am like the wind that forever dies

Rhonda Davis
Grade 9
Elloree High

I am like a bomb that will not light.
I am like a teacher who does not fight.
I am a person with two minds.
I am like a child. I play all the time.
I am like a bird that will not fly.
I am like a baby that does not cry.
I am like a teacher who is very fine.
I am like a doctor who will try to take your mind.

Mark Carson Greene
Grade 9
Elloree High
I'M FREE

I'm free like a bird
I'm free like a bee
I'm free like a river
running wild
All the time I was dreaming
I wasn't free at all.

Marion Robinson
Grade 11
Elloree High

Why do I worry?
Why do I worry?
Nothing's going to come my way.
Nothing's going to happen.
When I look at the sky
seems like it gets higher and higher.
and the trees get greener and greener.
I'm afraid of the dark.
I'm afraid of light.
Why doesn't somebody come
and be afraid like me.

Lynn Johnson
Grade 10
Elloree High
My hand is wrinkled.
My hand is long and pretty.
My hand can move like a car.
My hand is lovely. My hand is beautiful as a flower.
My fingers are like leaves.

Georgette Fogle
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

I wish my hand could talk.
I wish my hand could dance.
I wish my hand could talk on the telephone.
I wish my hand could ride a pony.
I wish my hand could come to the door.

I wish my hand could drive a car.
I wish my hand could sleep in bed.
I dream about my hand writing.
I dream my hand was writing a poem and sleeping.

I wish my hand could dream about me.
I wish my hand could come to me.
I wish my hand could go to my mother and father.

Veronica McClary
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary
My hand is steel  
I use it to pick up things  
And to work and write  
I see lines, long lines, short  
lines, little ones and scratch lines  
in my fingers.

I make oil paint, and paint cars

Tyrone Heyward  
Grade 6  
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

Sometimes when it's dark  
And there's only a little bit  
of light  
I can make my hands  
look like birds  
or rabbits

Your hand is a lovely thing

Carol Faldana  
Grade 4  
Elloree Elementary
In my hand I see blood vessels
I see an "M"
That means you die on Monday,
you're born on Monday,
you marry on Monday.

Maurice Williams
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary

I wish my hand were magic
I have the "M" in my hand
I wish I were getting married

Shelia Kinley
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary

LOVE IS LIKE A ROSE

Love is like a rose blooming into Spring.
Love is like children playing on a swing.
Love is like cotton in a field.
Love is like you and me.

Lawrence Houser
Grade 8
Elloree Elementary
ACROSTIC

Cool
hearted
Ann
ran
love
over
Tom's
thin
ears

Charlotte Gilmore
Grade 10
Elloree High

UNTITLED

This is a poem about fish and kissing. When you go fish take your time and when you start to kiss have a good time. When you start to fish you catch a fish, and when you start kissing take your time and don't leave your line.

Harriett Pauling
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary
SWEET THING

you my sweet thing is an example of sweet love.
you my sweet thing is what makes me light up.
you sweet is the most handsomest I know.
you my sweet thing is the most sweetest boy.
you my sweet thing is who all those other girls want and I got (at last I hope).

Dana Shuler
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

A dream it must be
For all the guys were watching
She looks and picks me

Clarence Allen
Grade 11
Elloree High
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

My past is like a shattered glass - broken, misplaced, and unneeded. It's filled with arguments, pain, confusion and rain. It'll have to get better.

It's the present now and I made it somehow, to be really accepted. I've got my friends and sadness ends quickly as I see my love.

The future is coming - It looks so good, just like I hoped it would. He and I are together in sunshiny weather Even when it rains.

Debbie Baker
Grade 12
Elloree High

CROSTIC

Vernell is my name. Everything is golden brown. Red is a pretty color. Nita is my favorite friend. Everyone said hello. Love is a real thing. Love is wonderful.

Vernell Green
Cluster Class
Elloree Elementary
A PANTOUM

The love I had
now it is gone
I'm looking once more
for another love

now it is gone
my foxy lady left me
for another love
who I hope will return some day

my foxy lady left me
just to be close to you
who I hope will return some day
to be with me

Just to be close to you
the love I had
to be with me
I'm looking once more

Marion Robinson
Grade 11
Elloree High

HE

He once was my life
He once was my everything
He once said he loved me
He lied

Sonya Williams
Grade 10
Elloree High
When night comes,
Evenings are gone;
And I am in bed
Thinking of you,
Having dreams of your
Every move,
Remembering when we were together.

Elaine Pauling
Grade 11
Elloree High

ACROSTIC
Loving
Inevitably
Brings
Rough
Associations

Sonya Williams
Grade 10
Elloree High

Why be my friend
When you don't care for me?
You hurt my feelings
Though you tell me your secrets.
Life is peculiar without you.

Sheila Zeigler
Grade 11
Elloree High
Love is like you
When I look at you I see sunlight
Your eyes are like the morning sun
You make me feel like I am in a new world
When you kiss me, I taste nothing but cotton candy
Your skin is like a little soft pillow
Your teeth are just as white as the clouds in the sky

Michael Canty
Grade 8
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

Loving you was all I needed
On a cold, cold night like this
Nothing could ever be the same after you
Left me in this mess.
I guess I could go on, but
Nothing will ever be the same.
Sure I will miss you.
Sure wish that you were with me.

Thomas Bookhart
Grade 12
Elloree High
UNTITLED

I was there, but I never left  
I was different, but I did not change  
I was with you, yet I was alone  
I was thinking, but not with my mind  
I was loving, but not with my heart  
I was seeing, but not perceiving  
I was hearing, but not understanding  
You were my beginning, but I was my end

Mike Fanning  
Grade 12  
Elloree High

WHAT'S LEFT

What is left when your lover has gone?  
An emptiness like a cold wind in an empty room.  
What is left when it seems like everything has left you?  
A dark summer night with out any light.  
What is left when there is no tomorrow?  
Really nothing but death.

Dorinda Fugitt  
Grade 10  
Elloree High
SIX MONTHS AND TWO WEEKS PANTOUM

Sitting in the car
thinking about Mary
the girl he once loved.
Now everything's quiet

thinking about Mary
She's the only one on his mind.
Now everything's quiet
because Mary has left his side.

She's the only one on his mind.
That's why he's sitting in the car,
because Mary has left his side.
Six months and two weeks--that's how long she's been dead.

That's why he's sitting in the car,
Sitting in the car.
Six months and two weeks--that's how long she's been dead.
The girl he once loved.

Anthony Damon
Grade 9
Elloree High
POETIC SISTER

She calls me a friend,
    just a friend
And I call her a sister,
    yet I would love to be more
    than just a brother.

She's a young woman
    who expresses herself in a very lovely way.
She makes me feel
    so young and needed
For I feel as if I need her.
She sits in class talking and dreaming,
    and wishing yet a little more
And I sit very happy and seemingly content
    but wishing and dreaming for a little more.
She's a dream and I know it,
    but one day I'll grasp for it
And by all means I'll do
    all I can for it.

Ronald Axson
Grade 12
Elloree High

UNTITLED

I am like a dog
who walks down the street jiggling its tail
who doesn't care if the sky is falling
I am just a plain ordinary dog who loves to take a walk
    in the sun

Martha Dubose
Grade 9
Elloree High
TELL ME LITTLE GIRL

Tell me your name little girl.  
Tell me why you are crying.  
Are you lonely little girl?  
Please tell me your problem.  

I want to know. I want to help.  
Tell me so that I can be some help.  
Tell me if you feel not wanted.  
Tell me little girl because I am on your side.  
If you don't tell me, who will?

Ella Moore  
Grade 12  
Elloree High

MY DREAM

I dreamed that I had a horse  
And I could ride him all day long  
But when it's time to put him up  
I would give him water and hay  
And take the saddle off him  
So it wouldn't hurt his back  
I really would take care of him.  
And ride him the next day.  
I would let my friends ride him.  
Sometimes but not all the time.

Deborah Wiles  
Grade 5  
Elloree Elementary
In the wintertime
the birds flock to where
they can hide again

Ann Jones
Grade 11
Elloree High

There were deer hopping around.
Sunflowers were silver in the sunlight.
Birds were flying back and far along the trees.
But me, I just sat there all alone with no one to talk to.
My heart was filled with foam of sadness, no one to talk to.
Everyone was happy, but me all alone, and free.
Maybe the birds are free too, like me.
We are all alone.

Yvonne Canty
Grade 7
Elloree Elementary

I am so confused as to what to do
I don't even know whether
to turn black
or blue

Reverdy Wilborn
Grade 9
Elloree High
BUTTERFLY

I am a butterfly that floats through the air
The wind takes me high in the sky so far until I cry

Benjamin Saxon
Grade 9
Elloree High
I am a whale
and I swim a lot
I sing and play with the fish,
and swim far with the dolphins.
I turn on my back and sleep.
I dream about being the
leader of all the whales.

Anthony Shivers
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

I am a star
I go to sleep at night
when I wake up
everything seems so bright

* *

I am a little fish
all covered with snow
with white fins

Pearline Pearson
Grade 9
Elloree High
CAT AND THE MOUSE

There was a cat and a mouse. They lived in a big red house. One day the cat said to the mouse, "I'm going to get my own house."

The mouse said, "Do what you want to do. You is nothing but a big head fool. But when you get scared, I won't be there. It will only be you and your big head and your new house."

Anthony Small
Grade 7
Elloree Elementary

THE NEW FISH

I wanted a fish
But my mother told me no
I asked her why
She didn't give me an answer
So I started to cry
She tried to make me understand
that she didn't want a fish.
I told her I would take care of it
But she didn't listen a bit.
It was my birthday
And I wanted a fish
When I got home I saw a fish
in a dish.

Rose Ann Shuler
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary
KATINE

Kind, sweet, lovable and very understanding
Angry, unhappy, and very sad.
Tired of crying because no one understands her.
In a daze because her short black cat has left her place.
Not all that tired of looking at the wall, because big brother has left her alone.
Entering the room, her short black cat hide and all.

Anthony Damon
Grade 9
Elloree High
MY TURTLE

My turtle is green.
He is very soft.
He's mine. My very own.
He's little Jr.
I would not even loan him.

Tracey Felkel
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

My dog had puppies.

One of them is white and the other ones are brown and gray. I dropped one of them yesterday and it hollered! My dog had them on my bed. When they were little they looked ugly - big, flat, and old. They had little feet and little eyes that were closed.

My dog's name is Missy. She climbs onto my bed and sleeps in a box and climbs out the living room window. She eats all the cats' food and drinks up their water. She's always scaring my big, old dog and she runs after the calf.

Sandra Garrett
Cluster Class
Elloree Elementary
Once I saw a green dog
fight a purple cat.
The dog ate the purple cat
and turned yellow.
Then I saw a blue tiger
eat the yellow dog.
The tiger turned black.
And along came a pink
elephant and ate the black
cat and he turned red.
And then a little gray mouse
came and scared the elephant so
bad he turned green, purple,
yellow, blue, black, pink, red and gray.

Ricky Jenkins
Grade 9
Elloree High

WARTY THE TOAD

Warty the Toad
hopped across the road.
When he got there he was lost
So he hopped right back across.

Rose Marie Adams
Cluster Class
Elloree Elementary
I AM A LION

I am a lion.
I can talk to other lions.
I am a special animal.
I have long claws.
I use them to get my food.
I have four legs.
I am very, very, very happy.
I am a lion.
Don't you think that you would be happy to be a lion?

Tammy Rickenbaker
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary

I AM A RABBIT

If I were a rabbit
I would be pretty and brown
and my tail would be white and bushey like a ball
and I would have fur

Ald Queen Johnson
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary
I love to watch animals play.
I love to watch trees every day.
I love to draw birds flying over water
And watching little fish.

Douglas Wiles
Grade 8
Elloe re Elementary

SUMMER POEM

Summer is the best season of them all.
When summer comes,
All the birds fly miles and miles.
They come all across the world.
When they get home,
They will sit in a tree and eat seed.

William Martin
Grade 6
Elloe re Elementary
UNTITLED

Fly silent swan
So beautiful and
graceful fly through
Through the big
blue sky oh
graceful one
queen of
the sky oh fly

Sylvester Stewart
Grade 8
Elloree Elementary

Dance around the moon
And the sun
In wings
Summer is a very pleasant time of the Year

Daisy Bell Williams
Cluster Class
Elloree Elementary

She saw a bird while she was riding her pony.
She took her bird with her when she rode her pony.
She went to get her pony and she saw him
riding the bird on his back.

Floretha Murray
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary
UNTITLED

If I were a bird
I would spread my wings and fly all around

Carol

Ald Queen

Veronica

Debbie

Angela

Carol Faldana
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary
ANIMALS

As the sun comes up in the trees
and the lake is glassy and the fog is rising
the birds are singing in the trees
the fish are playing that no one sees
the grasshoppers are singing in the tall grass
the frogs are croaking in the swamp

Dean Williams
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary
SUMMER IS

Summer is when you see beautiful things.
Summer is when you get to see the birds.
Summer is time for playing.
Summer is when it gets hot.
Summer is for cooling out.
Summer is when the flowers are beautiful.
Summer is for being what you want to be.
Summer is having fun.

Atlhella Williams
Grade 7
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

The wind is blowing
The birds are singing
And the birds are flying
The water is coming.
The frogs are jumping in the water
It is a sunny day
The water is turning

Joan Sheard
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary
SUNSHINE

Sunshine is being free.
Sunshine is being myself.
Sunshine is being able to face the next day.
Sunshine is seeing the bright morning light.

Sunshine is talking to friends.
Sunshine is my science teacher.
Sunshine is my poetry teacher.
Sunshine is everything I want it to be.

Louise Bonaparte
Grade 7
Elloree Elementary

SPRING

When Spring comes
I feel like a daisy just opening up into new life.
I feel like running twenty miles,
And taking off my heavy coat,
And putting on a pair of sneakers.
I feel like I started a new life
And everything is better than it was before.
I get faster in running.
I can go swimming outdoors.
It feels like the smell of new flowers.
The animals are coming back from their vacations.
I love Spring.

Rufus Miller
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary
If I were a cloud I would
    pour rain down on you every day
If I were the sun I would shine
    every day
If I were a bird I would fly high
    in the air
If I were a house
    I would keep people warm
If I were a tree I would
    be as tall as you are
If I were a flower
    I would grow each day
If I were grass I would
    grow each day.

Anthony Clark
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary
When Spring comes
The birds begin tossing
The grass begins to turn green
The trees begin to shake
Flowers start to blossom
And turn pretty.

Rosa Minnigan
Grade 8
Elloree Elementary

STARS AND FLOWERS

The stars are bright
The sun is light
The stars are beautiful
I try to count the stars but they just appear every night

The flowers are pretty
The flowers are colorful
The flowers are bright.
I try counting the flowers but it is too many

Vernester Sheard
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary
RUNNING IN THE RAIN

I like to run in the rain.
One day somebody broke the windowpane.
Mother cried loudly,
Who did it, who did it?
I want to know who did it!
That's why I like to run in the rain.

Carol Pelzer
Grade 10
Elloree High
THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS

The rain pours,
The water flows,
The boats row,
The vegetables grow.

Lillie Ann Cantey
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED CINQUAIN

Rain falls.
Lightning flashes
over the sky like a
lion; thunder goes boom, boom, boom!
It rained.

Collaborative Poem
Cluster Class
Elloree Elementary

BEFORE

When it
began to rain
it just poured and poured down
all night 'til I had just enough
of it

H. L. Gates
Grade 12
Elloree High
FLOOD

The flood is over
The water is high
I wonder how I can get by
I went to the mountain
The mountain said,
"If you can fly, you can get by."
The flood is moving fast again.
I went to the rain.
The rain said wind.
The flood is coming back again.
The flood has stopped.
The rain has gone.
Now I'm on my very own.

Dorothy Carrington
Grade 10
Elloree High
GRAVITY

I am the super force
that you cannot see.
Try to look at me;
tell me where can I be.

Touch me
tell me what's there?
I have the power
to keep you standing here.

Buildings hold,
books hold too.
And you think there isn't
anything that I can't possibly do.

You fly, you sky
you hardly stay down -- but
if you take time and think,
I must be all around.

You think you're better than me?
Try me if you can.
If it weren't for me
there would be no ocean, sea, or land.

I stay on my job
twenty-four hours a day.
I do my little task
in my own special way.

Virgil R. Hillard
Grade 11
Elloree High
HURRICANE BELL

Hurricane Bell is a naughty friend.
She likes to do favors for anyone but you.
She will take you to the bridge and rabble the trees.
Only thing she does is sit and cry.
She will go into the attic and make noise.
In the night when everyone is asleep,
She will make pots and pans rattle and break.

Estelle Snider
Grade 7
Elloree Elementary

A TORNADO

It can kill you.
If you are going to get away,
you better be fast.
or it will injure you.

Donald Jones
Cluster Class
Elloree Elementary

The waves in the ocean start dancing and crying
All the birds start praying and singing
And the animals in the forest start coming and saying,
"The waves are dancing and crying
because we are not friends to them."

Darrell Dash
Grade 7
Elloree Elementary
ROCKS

The rocks are big.
The water splashes on the rocks.
The water sounds like clocks going
tick tock tick tock.
Don't you wish you could lock
the ocean up?

Tracey Felkel
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary
The ocean is filled with fishes and sharks
   And the shore is filled with people
The waves are high, but the tides are low
   People find old blankets and shells ashore
The wind blows through the trees
   The people are swimming free
The people are also fishing on boats
   The crabs are crawling ashore
And the children are swimming and playing.

Debra Pearson
Grade 7
Elloree Elementary
BY THE SEASHORE

I watched the high waves
And the sun was out.
I saw clams and clamshells
And a crab bit me on the toe.
I saw big rocks in the water.
Some of them looked like mountains.

Rachael Hood
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary

THE DOLPHINS

We are the dolphin family.
We live off the coast of Florida
where the sun shines bright.
When the sun comes up we go to
the shallow part and when it goes
down we go into the deep.

Nathaniel Goodwin
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary
BY THE OCEAN

I like to look for starfish
everywhere I go
with the ocean down below.
Standing by the ocean
I watch the waves
and the starfish go by.
The starfish is taking a shower;
the starfish is fighting oysters!
That starfish!

Vernester Sheard
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary

When the tide was coming in
the starfish were coming in too.
The people were catching starfish
and putting them out to dry.

Clayton Dubose
Grade 7
Elloree Elementary

I see a fish in the ocean
I see frogs in the ocean
I heard a bird in the tree
I see a turning in the ocean
I heard a frog barerring in the pond

Cathy Whaley
Grade 5
Elloree Elementary
I love the ocean,
I love the sea,
I love people who talk to me.
I love peacefulness and soft talking.
I love to see people happy always.
I love people who share and care.
I love people who are kind and gentle.
I love cute and ugly people.
I love the people of the world.

Dodi Rickenbaker
Grade 8
Elloree Elementary
UNTITLED

Across the sailing ocean
Puppies dream. They dream about
white people and black people
getting along with one another
They take a ribbon and make
a rainbow turn into an
angel and they jump for joy

Juanita Pearson
Grade 8
Elloree Elementary

STOP FIGHTING

Stop fighting all you blacks and whites.
For once let us do something right.
Let's have some peace and harmony.
For can't you see,
For you and me

Caring and loving one another
Being friendly toward each other
Playing games
Instead of calling names
Makes a lot more sense.

Wandra Ramona Wilborn
Grade 6
Elloree Elementary
To feel, to touch, to see
All the beautiful things in time.
Fearing, hoping, wondering
if your day will be better
than mine.

We talk, we laugh, and despise each other
But in my heart today
you are still my brother.

We walk hand in hand
as the wind gives a gentle breeze,
we listen carefully to the birds
as we watch the beautiful trees.

Silent we are not speaking to each other
just staring as if we knew what was on each
others minds. Yes my friend you are still my brother.

Then it happened that silent moment broke
Your eyes caught mine and then we spoke
Today we are one, perhaps tomorrow will
be different.

But today my friend you are still my brother.

Gwen Moorer
Grade 12
Elloree Elementary
The world is filled with beautiful people, thinking about tomorrow and their future. There are blacks and whites here wandering in the street and doing their things by stepping on each other's feet.

It doesn't make any sense at all, knowing we're loved by God. They are all beautiful inside but on the outside they hate you, just because you're one of them too. You can see it in their eyes, you can even tell it by the way they say goodbye!

Is this really the way they all want to be? Someone please tell me.

Carol Martin
Grade 12
Elloree Elementary

THE OLD MAN

There was a man with no pain
He had to fight with one hand
He had a leg, but it was a peg
He lies in bed and always plays dead
When he gets up at night
he walks in his sleep,
and when he goes to bed
his heart is very deep.

Earnest Johnson
Grade 9
Elloree High
A man is cold.
His jacket is torn.
Freezing like a scarecrow.

Class Poem
Grade 4
Elloree Elementary

UNTITLED

Shelton died at the break of morn
He opened his mouth and died
He went to heaven the next day
He came back from the dead

He opened his mouth and died
He stuck out his tongue and talked strange
He went to heaven the next day
With his pet dog and his wine

He stuck out his tongue and talked strange
For he was going to the moon
With his pet dog and his wine
With a look of love on his face

For to the moon he was going
Shelton died at the break of morn
He died hard and drunk
He went to heaven the next day

Hailey Ruth Wells
Grade 12
Elloree High
THE BULLET

Oh how sweet can a bullet be,
With its loud free bursting sound...
With the sweet smell that it brings.
Oh with the sparkling touch of sparkles,
As it touches my soft delicate skin,
And sinks in with its delicate touch.
Oh isn't the Bullet Sweet!

Merylin Mood
Grade 11
Elloree High

DEATH

My heart is bleeding so fast,
Death has come at last.
My hair is turning very slow.
Death is on the second row.
My dreams are very frightening.
Death comes by like a flash of lightning.
Death, Death, Death where are you?
In the middle of your room.

Dorothy Carrington
Grade 10
Elloree High
As I lay there with my eyes partly closed,
Suddenly without a warning, without a signal,
I saw a sparkle, I heard the chimes.
I didn't run - I wouldn't have if I could.
I just lay there helplessly, feeling nothing.
I wish I could explain and prepare you.
But I can't explain its nature.
Don't be alarmed, don't be confused.
    It will come for all of us.
Yes, DEATH will come.

Wilber Jenkins, Jr.
Grade 11
Elloree High
A shining road
upon darkness. Streets.
At night people scream.

Earnestine Darby
Grade 10
Elloree High

THE DREARY NIGHT

This was a long long dreary night.
I heard all sorts of silent sounds.
The little mice were on the stove
Trying to bake a nice hot pie.
The dogs and cats were fighting like rats
and suddenly the cat jumped on the window sill.
And I was trembling like a leaf, so I took
a walk.
When I went down the road I heard a voice
Saying, "Don't be afraid, cause I love you."
So I ran back up to the house
And shut the crying door.
I got into my nice warm bed
And slept the dreary night out
Until it was noon.

Earnest Huggins
Grade 10
Elloree High
MY SHADOW

I have a little shadow
that goes in and out with me.
What can be the use of him?
It's more than I can see.
And he really likes me
from my toes up to my head
and I see him jump before me
before I jump into my bed.

Rose Marie Adams
Cluster Class
Elloree Elementary

CLASS POEM

I live underground
and I work underground
and everything is dark underground
Cars run on one wheel underground
People have one leg underground
and walk on their hands underground
They dream of ghosts underground and
live in a house with one door
and eat black chicken underground

Ms. Alston's Class
Grade 10
Elloree High
THE GOLDEN MAN

The golden man was riding on the flaming, flowing, bright red river. Around the next bend he came upon a castle sitting on a hill. As he came closer he could almost hear screams. As his boat landed on the island, three big and hungry-looking lions sprang upon him.

The first lion died from an arrow, the second from a spear, but the third, the biggest, got to him before he could string another arrow.

As they wrestled, the golden man could have sworn that he saw a smile cross the snarling lion's face. The golden man managed to get his knife out of his belt and he stabbed the beast five times before it died.

The golden man was ragged from the fight, and he lay down to rest. When he awakened he found himself in the castle. As he looked around the room he saw juicy fruits, purple grapes, a stream of running water and a pitcher full of milk. Just then the door opened and entered his rescuer, a wizard. The golden man rose and thanked the wizard, but the wizard told him to keep his thanks and get out.

Arthur Bonaparte
Grade 11
Elloree High
THE LONG NIGHT

When I think about football
I think about the long night
the hard hit,
running over people
getting punched in the eye, pushing
and shoving, running for a touch down.
And just did make it.

When the night is over, you
walk with your head down to the ground.
I think - what a long night

Johnny Horton
Grade 12
Elloree High

ACROSTIC

James is my name.
Andy likes any kind of fruit.
Many bells are ringing.
Eagles are fun to watch.
Some boys play too rough.

James Adams
Cluster Class
Elloree Elementary
ABOUT THE POET IN RESIDENCE

JOANNA CATTONAR worked as Poet in Residence in Elloree, Oconee County, and Dillon County Total Arts Programs during the 1976-77 school year.

She holds a B.A. Degree in English from Vassar College and an M.A. Degree from Cornell University. She has taught writing courses at Western Michian University in Kalamazoo and at New Mexico Highlands University in Taos. She is the recipient of numerous grants, fellowships, and scholarships, has traveled through England and Europe, and is widely published as a poet and writer in anthologies and periodicals.

Formerly a resident of Taos, New Mexico, Ms. Cattonar came to South Carolina for the first time last Spring to tape programs for SC-ETV's Writer in Residence Program. These tapes, which will be aired during 1977, include Ms. Cattonar's reading her own work and reading stories for young people by other writers.

Ms. Cattonar's South Carolina residency is sponsored by the South Carolina Arts Commission and is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and participating schools and community sponsors.