

Summer 2005

# Simon Says



\$5

Imani Owens



Front cover, 1-r Cameron Hilliard, Curtisha Fletcher, Naaman Dudley, Kennard Brown, Quentia Strims, Tamya Dudley

**WELCOME** to the premiere edition of *Simon Says*, the Abram Simon Elementary School literary magazine, written and edited by the students of Simon Elementary. *Simon Says* is published through a collaborative effort between the school and the D.C. Creative Writing Workshop, an independent non-profit working to create a literary renaissance in Southeast Washington. In September 2004, after four years of providing award-winning programming at Charles Hart Middle School, the D.C. Creative Writing Workshop expanded to offer similar programs to students at Simon and at nearby Ballou High School. In the short time since the school has welcomed the program, fourth graders at Simon have devoted themselves to learning the joy of self expression and the power of the written word. *Simon Says* is the result of nearly a year of workshops with professional writers, giving our young writers the opportunity to exercise their creative energies, speak their minds, and be heard by an audience throughout the city.

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Monique Boyd



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Kennard Brown



## The No Real Friends Blues

There's always no real friends.  
People say one thing or another,  
and it always leads up to something or other.  
Friends say one thing to your face  
and another to your back.  
And a real friend wouldn't attack  
your feelings like that.  
Fake friends try to cover up  
what they're really like,  
and that's why  
I got the no real friends blues.

*Curtisha Fletcher*

## I Got the Blues of My Brother

Me and my mom  
were going to the mall  
and we saw my brother.  
We said "hi,"  
and he just kept on walking.  
I see him, like, every weekend.  
He doesn't talk to us at all.  
We say we've got three brothers,  
and one of them doesn't exist to us.  
His name is P.J.

*Eunique Wimbush*

## Homework Blues

All this homework  
isn't good for me.  
Too much of it,  
I can't sleep.

I can't sleep right,  
I can't eat right.  
This is so wrong.  
It makes me wanna fight.

Like I said,  
too much of it.  
I don't like it,  
not even a bit.

And when I finish,  
I watch TV,  
and then my mother says to me  
Go to sleep!

*Cameron Hilliard*

Briana Lockett



## Mean Sister Blues

My mean sister is mean.  
I think there's a good spot in her,  
filled with fur.  
Even though I love her very much,  
sometimes I want to call the police on her.  
Yesterday, my grandmother told her  
to STOP!  
She tried to put my head in the trash.

*Devon Hudson*

## New School Blues

Have you ever gone to a new school?  
It was scary.  
Going to a new school might  
give you a scary blues.  
I know it gave me one.

A great idea is to go in with your parents.  
When you look at people  
they might look mean or nice.  
You can't say, because the way they look—  
when you stare, they stare back,  
they stare back really hard.

Did you have friends at your old school?  
If you did, I'm sure you'll miss them.  
I know  
I miss mine.  
At the end of the school year  
you might have some more.

I had a lot of friends at the end of the year.  
We did a lot of things together.  
I know  
you will have new friends.  
I'm sure you will do lots of things too.

*Quenita Simms*

## The Writing Poem Blues

I was sitting in the room  
having a good time,  
when a lady came  
and made us do some boring poem.  
Something I wouldn't even think about.  
Something like this.

I would rather be playing cards  
or running around like crazy  
than sitting in a boring class doing a poem.

When she first walked in the classroom  
I knew we had to do something like this.  
When a poem came, I was mad.  
And then my teacher said  
"Wakenya, I know you can do it."  
When she turned her back,  
I pushed my paper away from me.

*Wa' Kenya Middleton*

## My Rhythm

My family thinks  
I am a bouncing rhythm.  
My name is bouncing rhythm,  
and if you see me  
on the streets,  
I am bouncing everywhere.  
The echo is in my mind,  
So I can't  
get it out of my mind.

*Michael Marbury*

*Naaman Dudley*



## They Call Me

I am smooth like silk  
and when I am walking  
on the sidewalk,  
I slide.

People call me queen of my room  
because I do  
anything I want  
in my room

People call me heartbeat  
because I am fast,  
in a heartbeat  
I am unseen because  
when people look at me  
they see air.

*Imani Givens*

## When the wind blows

When the wind blows,  
it blows the gold to me.  
When I look at the color sky-blue,  
it makes a rainbow for me.  
The rainbow turns into demons,  
I run like a jet,  
the jet turns into a flower in a vase,  
the vase turns into a circle of rings.

*Imani Givens*

## Changing

What do I do when I see pink shoes  
that turn into the white diamonds  
that are now on my fingers  
then turn into a unicorn galloping in the sky  
and so much fresh air  
that turns into magenta-colored silk  
that turns into a little girl worshipping her heroes?  
I said it was all an illusion  
and I went back to bed.

*Curtisha Fletcher*

## Unbelievable

I'm so incredible  
and so divine  
Everybody worships the ground I walk on  
and I'm only nine.

I'm the biggest and baddest  
no one can stop me, there is no way  
I can pick up the sun  
and throw it away.

And I'm so smart  
I went to kindergarten before I was three  
That's the way  
I want to be.

*Curtisha Fletcher*



Ashley Boston

## My name...

My name sounds like singing birds  
swarming in the air.

It will also have its personality:

it will be sweet as a rose  
in a movie star's hands.

And my name has a smell—

it smells like a new coat  
that has not been worn.

It looks like a kind schoolgirl.

My name feels like smooth sheets  
that have just been washed.

*Curtisha Fletcher*

## I have all sorts of names

I have all sorts of names.

My teacher thinks I'm smart  
like a whip on a stick.

But my mother thinks I'm restless  
like a bat in the dark.

My grandma has the sweetest name for me,  
like an angel, she said, every single day.

My uncle thinks I'm so easy to scare,  
like a mouse being chased by a .45 gun.

But that's not all.

My friends have the worst name for me:

They think I'm a splinter in their side,  
and think I think I know everything,  
like the man in the sky.

I'm not sure what my name is really  
but people keep labeling me  
like I'm a big fat baby.

*Curtisha Fletcher*

## Hoping

She has nothing,  
nothing at all.  
She lost everything  
to her name.  
Even her home.  
She's longing for something  
she can call her own.  
Reaching for the sky  
she's even had to lie  
just to provide herself  
with shelter and food.  
Holding her hands up high  
thinking,  
maybe, just maybe,  
she can touch the sky.  
Give me a sign—  
She always said,  
“I wish I was rich  
and had some money”  
but she still has nothing,  
nothing at all.

*Curtisha Fletcher*

Keontae Rose



## Loneliness

I'm on a hill, far away from people.  
I feel so lonely, but there's something keeping me here.  
When I come here, it feels like I've been desiring this place.  
It makes me feel lonelier and lonelier.  
I think in my head,  
Am I lonely because of here, or is it the town?  
When I leave here for town, will it drag me back?  
Sometimes I feel so lonely, I want to cry,  
But I hold it in and go back to that hill.  
It calms me down.  
I've made up my mind  
It's the town that makes me feel lonely.  
That's how lonely I feel sometimes.

*Shawntay Kent*

## Pink horse jumping

I see a beautiful horse  
crossing over a bridge  
into a valley of water.

She takes a sip of the water  
then gallops away  
into the mist.

After a few moments  
she hears delicate voices.  
Then a girl in a pink dress  
appears from out of nowhere.

But the girl was only an illusion.  
Really, it was all a dream.

*Shawntay Kent*

## Anger

Anger stays up two days straight.  
He fights his sleep.  
He gets baggy eyes.  
He goes to work,  
his boss asks him  
Did you go to sleep yesterday?  
He tells a couple of lies.  
Today, he made a new day.  
He wants to say  
today is angry day.

*Jayon Gray*



Jayon Gray

## Blue Green

I see a horse, jumping in a triangle  
Then, on a sunny day,  
a blue-green cheetah making an echo  
All of a sudden  
a three headed spider  
crawled on a branch  
with meatballs flying in the air  
and the one eyed dinosaur  
was moving  
And then the world came to an end  
and the world rose from the dead  
and everybody was turned into babies  
and the world was born again

*Naaman Dudley*

## The Perfect Waters

It's like floating in the dream of someone else.  
And thousands of hands speaking to me:  
I shall not harm you  
and I'm so lonely in the dark world,  
alone and treated like a slave,  
pushed around and tortured.  
This lady came and made a spell,  
then I was the king of the land  
and was treated with respect.  
Now it's so confused  
that I think about a thoughtful dream.

*Naaman Dudley*

## My name is unseen

My brother calls me Nightmare  
because I drive him nuts.  
When I step inside a hole  
it feels like I am going down  
deeper and deeper.  
Now my name will be Tomorrow,  
My name will be Voices All Around Me.  
Today, my name is Unseen  
because when people are around me  
they seem to not see me.

*Shantel Mitchell*

## What Do I See?

I see a girl with a rainbow shirt  
And also, I see God  
I'm worshipping God  
Cherry blossoms floating in the air  
I see people happy every day  
And I see rainbows everywhere around me  
I see the rain fall, and me swimming in it  
I see a beautiful bridge  
I see a rainbow horse.

*Shantel Mitchell*

## Keontae the Great

I drive so great  
I could hang fire on a house.  
I'm so fast,  
a Benz can't even catch me.  
I'm so strong,  
I can knock over the monuments.  
I'm so cold,  
I could freeze the sun by blowing my breath.  
I'm so flexible,  
I could stretch to Pluto in a second.  
I'm so good at magic,  
I could turn Ms. Scudder into a rabbit,  
and Ms. Nancy into a hat.

*Keontae Rose*

*Quenita Stimpms*



## A Jumping Man

I see a man jumping off a cliff  
because he's depressed  
someone sold his house  
when he didn't ask them to.  
His house is blue and his insides are blue.

*Keontae Rose*

## Never give up

My big sister calls me annoying nightmare  
because I sometimes scare her in her sleep.  
My friends call me nuclear war  
because I bring my big water guns and squirt them to death.  
My mother calls me the howling tummy  
because I'm always hungry.  
My dad calls me the memory man  
because I can remember what holidays and birthdays are which.  
My grandmother calls me sweet little angel  
because she never sees me do anything.  
My mother calls me the brave knight  
because I fight off bugs and insects.  
My dad calls me stiff bones  
because I have a lot of courage.  
I think my real name is metal  
because I never give up.

*Cameron Hilliard*

## Clothes and the Moon

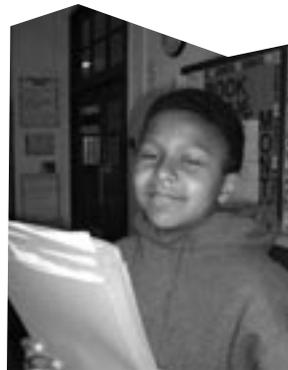
I made lizards into pants,  
like in two minutes  
I can jump up to the moon  
and it's not even night  
I can walk to the moon  
to get some cheese, without stairs  
I can tell the clouds  
to throw down some rain  
and I pause the rain  
to go out to play!

*Briana Luckett*

## Kaleidoscope

My friend's favorite color is yellow—  
Circles of bowls of noodles  
Deer being eaten by bears  
Fires running out of windows  
Hail drops on my nose, it hurts  
Earthworms getting smooshed by sneakers  
Green eyeballs blossoming in the wind  
And splinters in my fingers  
Plus voices everywhere.

*Briana Luckett*



Jay Jordan

## The Unusual Foot

My feet are ugly  
my toes are long,  
when I wear thermals,  
which I call long johns,  
my feet still show.  
I kick the ball  
it's pink and round  
it's stuck on the ground.  
My leg is nerdy  
my other leg is perky.  
Even though my feet are long,  
I wear long johns.  
It's like lucky  
leaves on my leg.  
A yellow color  
will go to my head  
I drink some lemonade,  
it spills on my shirt.  
I pick up some dirt.  
It gets in my eye,  
I start to cry  
I look down  
with a frown  
because I have an unusual foot.

*Briana Lockett*

## My Name

My name feels like a smooth pillow  
with the sheets all nice and neat and  
everything in place.

My name smells like roses  
in fresh water  
in a perfect vase.

My name looks like  
robins in a tree  
just being born.

My name sounds like  
birds singing in the air  
while the wind is blowing.

My name tastes like  
oranges  
fresh from the tree.

*Briana Luckett*

Michael Marbury



## Bragging

I am invincible.

I can overcome any obstacle.

I have turbo speed to shoot across the ground.

I built the Statue of Liberty in one second.

I can lift up 5,000,000 Titanics with my pinky.

I can dribble the ball so fast, people think I went left when I went right.

I can crush any obstacle with my thumb.

I can destroy any obstacle with my head.

I can be invisible by saying *invisibility*.

I can turn a wolf into a cow.

*Cameron Hilliard*

## One day

One day, I saw a pink cat  
on a cloudy day.  
The cat was running in circles.  
Suddenly, he turned into a strange creature.  
It was 12:00 in the dark,  
bushes were falling, trees were shaking  
I said, "Why is it doing this?"  
The creator had echoed me.

*Eunique Wimbush*

## New School Blues

When I went to a new school,  
I did not know anybody  
so it gave me the blues.

At my new school,  
I had green beans for lunch  
and I did not want them  
and it gave me the blues.

At my new school,  
I did not have recess  
for a whole week  
and that gave me the blues.

*Tamiya Dudley*

## Upside Down Sky

It makes me frown  
when the sky is down  
Someone tell me, why is it upside down?

I might be lazy  
but inside I am just crazy  
I never saw anything in my life like this.

The sky is upside down  
with a twist  
It's a kind of green that hasn't been seen.

I know what I can see,  
but maybe  
someone hypnotized me.

I am so sad,  
I don't know what to think  
It makes my head feel like an earthquake.

*Tyrik Brown*

## Dancing

Girls in violet shoes  
dancing down the street.  
The girls came down the hill  
and find a jaguar on a sunny day.  
Then the girls see triangle stars  
turning into blue-green dandelions.  
The sun went home  
and they're talking, having fun,  
and dancing.

*Tasheanna Johnston*



Wa'Kenya Middleton

## My name...

Tasheanna smells like  
sand in the desert,  
a new shampoo, like white rain.

Tasheanna feels like  
a ball of string,  
or a soft bunny.

Tasheanna tastes like  
teriyaki rice,  
spaghetti sauce.

Tasheanna looks like  
a professional tennis player,  
or a cheerleader.

Tasheanna sounds like  
a singer, like Tina Marie,  
or a movie star, like Denzel Washington.

*Tasheanna Johnston*

## Words

I saw a blue cat  
with a cone and flowers on its head,  
running in the sun.

The cat was howling,  
and the blossom on his head  
was red.

And the cat grew  
big white wings  
and flew away.

And it was amazing.

*Tamiya Dudley*

## What I Am Called

My little sister calls me nightmare  
because I make her life miserable.  
My big brother calls me splinter  
because I'm a painful person to him.  
Raven calls me loving  
because I'm nice to her.  
The police call me echo  
because I copy his every word.  
My father calls me weep  
because I cry when I don't get my way.  
My mother calls me memory  
because I remember everything.  
My friends call me float  
because I'm very light.  
My teacher calls me Quenita  
because that's who I am.

*Quenita Simms*

## Lost

It feels like I'm lost  
in a tiny world  
with nobody here  
but me and some small houses.  
It feels like the world  
has fallen without me.  
I seek for people  
I talk while I walk  
I say *hello*, there is no response  
Next thing you know  
I am gone.

*Devon Hudson*

Quenita Simms



## I Am Powerful

I'm a flexible, fast, and smart person  
I like to take dance lessons  
I can move my hips  
I can stomp my feet  
And I can make the dance compete.

I died years ago  
But no one really knew,  
I came back alive in one year or two.  
I modeled down the fashion runway  
And everyone jumped and cheered Hurray!

Hurray, hurray, and I said okay  
I shined my hair  
And fell off the stair  
But no one really cared.

*Quenita Simms*

## What I saw

I saw an orange dog  
using a blue tree,  
a car with square tires.  
When the sunset came,  
I saw a cow jump into it.

*Devon Hudson*

## The Cat in a Kaleidoscope

A cat flies  
in a yellow circle  
and jumps  
into a red hot sun.  
It runs into a flower  
blossoming in a heartbeat,  
and it was  
an illusion.

*Kennard Brown*

## How wonderful I am

I'm wonderful, look at me  
I'm beautiful  
When I look in the mirror, I see  
a girl with brain, with game, with change  
I express my feelings  
I'm just me  
Last year, I was a model for the fashion show  
I was moving my hips so bad  
that everyone had their eyes on me  
I had a pink dress  
it looked like I was at a prom  
when I walked on the stage modeling  
I was nervous  
Then I remembered that I was beautiful  
and then I said, okay, I can do this  
I know I can  
I smiled, my teeth were shiny,  
it looked like a sun in the building  
When I got home I screamed.  
It seems that I can dream.

*Monique Boyd*



Tammya Dudley

## My life is in the sky

My life is in the sky  
You are in the sky  
You are in the light  
Your life is in memory  
My life is a dream  
It will never end  
I try to go around it,  
But it will never end  
It's like a window  
It never ends  
I am in the world  
I try and try  
It just will not end.

*Kennard Brown*

## Untitled

Boxing through sunny rain  
cloudy sky that has beauty in it  
color that smells like cherry red on a bridge  
with blossoming flowers blooming through the air  
they feel like a heartbeat, glistening in the sky  
they drown with beauty, silky delicate voices  
becoming an echo of the beauty's  
texture in a nightmare valley  
that had been unseen,  
people waltz day and night.

The howl, in a black memory  
that seemed to be the worst nightmare  
then I humble myself  
and say that a dream  
just has to be unseen.

*Monique Boyd*

## Anger

Anger got up and ate nails, boards, and anger soup.  
He had five kids that were born really bad.  
They threw rocks, ate cars, carried gasoline  
and poured it on trees and lighted them.  
They even beat up Happiness' children.  
Anger wears bad things, like spiky shirts.  
At night, he goes to sleep in a bed with spikes.  
He and his kids don't have nice dreams.  
Instead, they have nightmares.

*Jay Jordan*

## Swimming

I picture someone swimming in water.  
When I see this person in my mind,  
it makes me think of myself.  
But there is something important about this person.  
He can see plants and life forms under the sea.  
He sometimes floats above the sea.  
He always wears his lucky boxers, number three.  
He thinks that the sea is the sky.  
He thinks the water is his mirror.  
He can always see his reflection.  
When he dives into the water,  
he can feel the nice cool breeze.

*Jay Jordan*



Montique Boyd

## My Poem

I had a nightmare.  
I saw a red blossom.  
I can't believe it.  
That blossom just ran away from me.  
I heard my heartbeat.  
I used my memory,  
And I remembered pink  
snow is going to fall.

*Ashley Boston*

## Anger

When anger gets up in the morning,  
he eats a glass cup.  
He gets mad every day,  
soon as the children get home,  
he beats them for nothing.  
He lives in a dark cave with flies.  
When he drives to work, he drives inside his job  
instead of going to open the door.  
Every night, anger gets mad,  
so his wife left him for a rich man.

*Ashley Boston*

## Calm

I feel like I am rolling in the ocean  
and I feel like I'm up in a cloud in heaven somewhere.  
I'm feeling happy, and I'm feeling like everything is alright.  
Some things are azure and cobalt.  
I feel it is beautiful, and some things are scarlet red.  
Everything is luxury.  
Everything is just right, and nobody is bothering me or messing with me.  
I feel like I'm on a cloud.  
I feel like I'm in my own little world.  
Nobody is there with me, and I am by myself.  
I feel like a little snail, slugging on the grass, minding my own business.  
The things around me are azure, cobalt, and scarlet red.  
There are so many things around me,  
I don't know what to look at first.

*Armani McKinzie*

## Monique

My name smells like a newborn poodle.  
My name sounds like a famous gymnastic teacher  
Saying, "Do your best!"  
My name feels like a shooting star  
And someone is going to wish on it.

*Monique Boyd*



Curtisha Fletcher

## Your contributions help make *Simon Says* possible!

The D.C. Creative Writing Workshop is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality creative writing instruction to students in economically underserved areas of Washington D.C. One hundred percent of every donation goes directly toward our creative writing programs at Charles Hart Middle School, Simon Elementary, and Ballou High School, allowing our students to work with professional writers-in-residence in the classroom, the Drama Club, the Writing Club, and the Literary Magazine Club.

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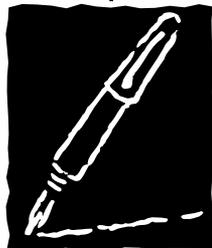
Junior League of Washington

Philip Graham Fund

The International Monetary Fund

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