There are words written on the tip of my tongue
yearning to be heard and waiting to be sung
these words that fill my thoughts, that fills my dreams,
they are starting to uncover the dark corners inside of us
but as we open our mouths only silence forever heard.
How can we change the world without violence?

I cry for the people who passed on during the night.
Is life all about killing innocent people?
I, as in we, can change the world
by moving far away from the pain that we are all going through.
We can change the world by helping the people get over their fear.
We can change the world by moving away from the violence.
We all know how it feels to hear a gunshot every night.
We can change the world by making it a better place for people and children.
We know how it feels to live on the streets because of what we feel and read.

What happened to our nation?
What happened to Rosa Parks helping us fight to change the world?
How could we let violence come between us?
What did we do wrong?
What happened to the world?
We need to change it.

Why are kids afraid to walk home at night because of the crazy violence going on in this world?
How can we change the world?
We can make a change by gathering people up
Let people talk about what they went through in life.

The world deserves better so let’s get together
And change the world that people are dying in.
We can change the world by sticking together
And making a change for the people and children
Who are dying for help.
Let’s all change the world for the children.
All we need to do is stop the violence in this society.
The violence is the conflict
And changing the world is the solution.
This world is coming to an end
And change the world
For the dying children.

Second Place Winner

Cynthia Hillyard – Henry School 7th grade - Teacher – Francesca Cantarini

The Dream Lives On

Dr. King once spoke his dream,
It stated, “I have a dream that one day my children will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”
I, too, have that dream.

I have a dream that I can show people,
That color is not everything
You have to look under the hood.

I have a dream that what my ancestors fought for,
Equality, everyone could have.

People need to understand
Your color or race can make you
No better or worse than anyone else.

I have this dream that
I could just show people
How strong of an impact racism has,
That racism is not just someone saying they
Dislike you because of your race.

It destroys lives,
Keeps them in poverty,
People will try to better themselves,
And their families, and put themselves
In better situations but can’t
Because of something as simple as their ethnicity.

Racism leads to many harmful things,
Such as depression, and all types of violence
Even to wars extent.

I have a dream that one of these days
Everyone of every color would hold hands
Around the world and stop racism

Racism has a very strong ripple effect
It doesn't affect just one person
It affects their whole life!

Racism is just that strong
And can start with only one word.

And I have a dream that one day
The ripple affect will stop,
The falling dominos,
That started with one word will be still,
And that all racism will come to a peaceful halt,
And we can all live in harmony and unity.

Honorary Mention (8 winners)

Ronieq Buxton-Kellam, WG. Smith School -Ms. Cunningham

Bullying

What will I do to change the world?
To keep the world as a Pearl?
I would stop the bullying because it's bad.
It makes a lot of people sad.
It indulges secrets and creates suicide
But, you don't have to run and hide.
Just ask for help when you are bullied,
Because bullying does happen in South Philly.

Bullying is hurtful and it becomes annoying,
It could turn a person cold and they could begin destroying.
Bullying can happen during school or outside.
It's not okay to run, sit and cry.
But please don't say you want to die.
You can always tell your parent or guardian that someone is bullying you
Don't make it a guessing game, don't just give a clue.
Bullying can make you feel unwanted,
It can scare you, creep you makes you feel haunted.
Like you’re scared to come to school or even to the park
Come to the light, don’t stay in the dark!

Bullying is a form of aggressive behavior that is intentional and hurtful and threatening and persistent.
Bullies have low self-esteem, that’s why they are inconsistent.

When you get bullied and pushed around
You don’t want to even make a sound.
Many victims are embarrassed, many are shy,
But don’t stay low, stand up, get high.
Getting bullied can be very devastating.
It can make you unstable it could be depressing.
Say something positive and don’t give them a label.
I’d say, “live life to the fullest and live your dreams”
Make the victim a warrior and root for his team!

Sometimes bullying happens when a kid is new
in a school, at the park, and around the way too.
What if the tables were turned, and the bully becomes the victim?
You think he’d like it if somebody smacked him?
Punched him? Kicked him?
And took his lunch money?
Who’s laughing now? That crap is not funny!
How would they like it? Now who’s the dummy?
Let’s put an end to all this mess.
Treat others with respect and hope for the best.
Think of it as studying before a hard test.

I wonder will there ever be peace
The bullying in this world has to cease.
I’m tired of people getting teased and hurt
People feel like they’re falling to the curb and grounding into the dirt.
Would the world be better if it weren’t any bullies?
I think about it often, I’d say “yes”, is that silly?
I want to go to school where I’m free to walk, run and play
I want to be safe at home, school and at play!

Jennifer Gonzalez- DePaul Catholic Teacher – Mr. Clark

Fire (From the perspective of a mother)

I used to like fire,
before it burned my house down.

I used to like the way it changed color, 
red, orange, yellow. 
Like a chameleon.

I used to like the way you and your family gathered 
around, laughing, singing, talking and having fun.

I used to like fire, 
Before it changed my life.

I used to Love fire, 
the way it danced around in a circle, 
with rocks and sticks cheering it on.

I used to like fire, 
before it took her life.

A couple weeks later, 
I found out.

I found out how, 
she was hurt. 
A bully would kick her, 
and call her mean names.

That fire was no accident. 
To her, it was meant to make her free. 
From everything that happened to her.

She wanted it to be over, 
she gave me clues but I never noticed. 
She looked for help but everyone pushed her aside.

When she lit that fire, 
It was meant to look like an accident. 
But she wanted to disappear, 
and she did. 
Now, 
she’s gone.

Charjanet White - Wagner Middle School  6th Grade  Ms. Todd

Stand Up and Save the World
This is how it was supposed to be
now I don’t know what I see.
How did it go from
Red to black and white,
Love to hate and fights,
Free to you caught me,
Hugged to mugged and drugged,
Kissed to I hope he’ll miss hitting me with his whips,
hand and hand to
“Man you touch me and it will be man to man?”

“What I want to see is a CHANGE for you and me.
DREAMING TO BELIEVING,
ACCOMPLISHMENT NO LONGER BEING ASTONISHMENT BECAUSE YOU HAVE ALREADY
ACCOMPLISHED IT,
SO YOU’RE USE TO IT.
CHANGE, IT’S IN RANGE,
CHANGE, IT’S IN CHATTER,
CHANGE, IT’S WHAT’S EXPECTED BEYOND THE CLOUDS”

TRAGICALLY this is what others see
I want a cause and effect situation for you and me.
Killing to Dealing,
Failing to no longer being a surprised because you’re use to it.
It’s all in the bullet to the head,
Skittles and tea,
A bowl with no food,
skin with and without color.
The computer pathetically needing a single click,
only a single click.

FRANCESCA JAMEE MEARS   Wagner Middle School, Room 164 / GRADE: 6TH     Ms. Todd

DIFFERENCE: MAKING A CHANGE

Who cares about the different colors of our face
or the amount of our race or the purpose of our
religion? Yeah …..yeah....

I don’t.
I don’t care about color
I care about being trustworthy
I care about compassion, responsibility
respect and honesty.
So who cares about being different?
That’s what makes us, us
Not the same clothes, the same hairstyle
Different means expressing ourselves the way we want.
Judge by the heart, mind and soul.
Judge the inside of the book
not its cover.

I recommend you spend a little time giving out
Your heart and thinking in your mind.
No matter how old you are
you can’t waste time.
Making a change is just right.

People live life hard so give your time
A quarter, nickel, penny, or dime
If we respect one another life can be fine.

You should help to shine
You should help to make things alright.
Whether you speak English, French, Chinese, Japanese,
We can make peace in this world.
Together we are one, we own this world.
Call me when you need to get together and
We stand as friends hand and hand.

Ups or downs round and round don’t
Make a sound just listen to the pound of the
Heart
Yeah it’s mine, about time!
So make a change so make a change....

Dominique Jones - Wagner Middle School 6th grade – Ms Bloom

Stop Homophobia

When you go to school do you imagine a day of being verbally bullied? For some people this is true. For most people this is exactly what they imagine. This is an every day life for lesbian, gay people, bi-sexual, and trans-sexual. Just about eighty-four percent of LBGT report being verbally harassed (name-calling, threats, etc.) because of their sexual orientation. This kind of bullying can put a permanent affect on someone’s life.

Homophobia affects the lives of many people. Also people can be physically bullied because of being LBGT. For example a student from Wyoming was assaulted and brutally
tortured also put on a fence to die. Sooner he was hospitalized then after that he later died. According to the National Youth Association 1/3 of LGBT kids commit suicide. Now that you see our statistics you see Homophobia affect the lives of many people.

There are some groups currently working to help with the issue of Homophobia. These groups consist of Safe Schools Coalition, Human Rights Campaign, and PFLAG. Most of these groups are helping to raise awareness. Also they are raising money. Even though there are groups helping there still a lot of work to be done.

Despite the efforts of these groups, there is still a lot of work to be done to help to end Homophobia. The little things make a difference like if you heard people say things like “that’s gay” and “he/she should have been come out off the closet” you should tell them to stop and think about what they just said, Another thing you can do is try to be aware yourself, don’t feel any hatred for anyone because people are people no matter what shape or size u are.

Over all homophobia is a serious matter and you shouldn’t take it for granted. I feel very touched by this topic and I’m glad I got to share this experience with you. Hopefully you will raise awareness and try to stop homophobia yourself.

Remember: “Be the Change you want to be in the World” -Gandhi

Angie Margai-Renner MEARS Wagner Middle School, Room 6TH Ms. Bloom

Hatred is Blind

Hatred is blind and carries people away
Hatred is hidden on the corner of everyone’s eyes
Hatred fades away everyday and everywhere but at the same time,
Hatred grows everywhere in every heart.
Hatred starts on the inside but as time goes by it eventually crawls through to the outside.
We are in a world filled with hatred.
Once hatred is in you, it’s hard for it to go away.
The opposite of hatred is not love it’s indifference.
Hatred at times is a shadow.
A man’s heart filled with hatred is cruel.
Hatred is a poison that kills you slowly.
Hatred is a game that’s played by tricky minds.
Hatred eats you on the inside and then seeps out your pores.
If hatred was erased, the Holocaust, the Civil Rights movement or other events of dispute, would never have been written.
Hatred leads to violence
Drive away the hate and aim for peace
The world would be a much better place.

Nisa Hardin - C.W Henry Ms. Pownall
The girl down the street

I met this girl, down the street.
She told me an interesting story.
I wanted to share it with the world
To show life isn't fame and glory.
Well here it goes, from her point of view.
Put her life in yours.
All the world should find it very interesting, for bullying is no fun toy.

"Whenever I look around,
There's never a kid who wants to be a kid.
There she goes, trying to be her.
But she doesn't fit in.
Nobody likes a "natural girl".
They have long hair
And perfect teeth.
If I don't have a curvy figure,
That means I'm not being me?
All right, so what?
I'm ugly, I'm stupid, I'm wrong.
People just don't seem to see that...
Their words are just making me strong.
The name-calling
Hair pulling
The hater-guy quotes.
All of it
Well, most of it
Just sinks into my boat.
Mom says, "They are just jealous."
Dad says, "Just ignore."
My friends say, "That's just plain wrong."
While I JUST want to fall through the floor!
Down, down, down, I'd fall.
Giving life a chance.
Humph, that would be something,
To give my dreams a glance.
Oh, wouldn't life be working,
If everybody was perfect?
But since it can't roll that way,
I guess I'm already not worth it.
People stare, people point
Saying horrible things!
I don't even know half the taunters
That make my ears ring.
I never wanted to go to school.
   Ever in my life.
   No, no, no, NO!
I wish that word could make things right.
Sure enough, praying helps me,
   I do it everyday.
Sometimes, though,
   God’s too slow
To answer me when I pray.
My family can’t even understand,
   Not even my little dog.
So most of the time when I’m depressed,
I pretend the world was lost in a fog.
   If there would be an existence
All you would find is I.
   Me, Myself, and I.
When I actually feel like living,
   Instead of being alone until I die.
I don’t know why I was born to this life,
   Would God hate me so?
The hurt, the pain, the sorrow,
   Instead of shrinking it grows.
Why doesn’t anybody ever listen?
Is it because that I never speak
   Or because my eyes never glisten?
I really want to know, why a person can be so ignored.
For obviously everyone cannot be adored.
   So, I guess that’s the end.
The end of my story?
   Oh, no, of course not.
   Only if I can tell no more.
Which I can, and won’t ever stop.
I could be as happy as the next girl.
   IF I was as pretty as she.
   IF I had everything that model had…
Those girls would accept me.
They all know that girl down the street,
   Little, ugly, and gothic.
   ‘Who are THEY?’
You might say,
Just about everyone who took my glee.
   I’m almost out of sadness.
   Sadness that I could explain.
   I’ll just remember
From January to December…
That I will always be ‘Little ugly, gothic girl’
Most probably for the rest of my days.”

#8 Megan Williams – Henry  (Artwork)
If I were to change the world, I'd start by uniting the world. Earth has been split apart figuratively and literally. There has been war after war from the beginning of time. We should all be, and act as, one accord. My picture represents everyone being together and not split apart. Hopefully in the future the issue of one race thinking the other is inferior will be no more.