

An artistic painting featuring a woman's body with a man's face. The woman's body is rendered in shades of grey and blue, with red streaks on her shoulder and neck. The man's face is positioned above her head, also with red streaks. The background is a textured blue. The overall theme is gender transformation.

OUR GENDER REVOLUTION

Stories of Transformation

2017 Middle/Junior High School Writing Challenge

Beneath the Surface

Beneath my eyes are tears

Beneath my smile is sorrow

But I know I'm not alone

Beneath his laughter is a cry for help

Beneath her sleeves are scars she doesn't want you to see

So why don't we forget society's rules

And love one another

Before we break each other

Bailey Arendt

Fairmont Junior High School

Emily Morgan – Teacher

Cover art inspired by "Beneath the Surface".

Treasure Valley Mathematics and Science Center – Artists: Brynne Coulam and Ny Kim

Teacher: Reid Spain-Strombom

Stories of Transformation are poems and writings that help us discover new insights - from revealing our deep connection to all living things to understanding how much of gender is socially and culturally constructed to envisioning a world with courageous love and mutual respect.

At the heart of these writings, we seek to end our culture of domination, extraction, and violence and create a world with social equity and collective liberation for all human beings - a world rooted in interdependence, resilience, and regeneration.

The 8th *Our Gender Revolution* publication was compiled from over 2,000 student submissions. Congratulations to Idaho's middle school and junior high school student authors whose selections are published as well as the *Our Gender Revolution Award* recipients who displayed critical thinking and excellence.

A special thank you to Idaho's teachers who encouraged their students to discover new insights through writing and to the judges who read the amazing submissions by thousands of young people.

— Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

OURGENDERREVOLUTION
www.ourgenderrevolution.org

We Choose All of Us

Unfair treatment, harassment, or discrimination based on gender or gender expression is wrong and creates the conditions for gender violence - abuse and sexual assault - to occur. We also do not live single issue lives: we see the limitations of single identities of gender, sexual orientation, race, ability, class, religion, immigration and refugee status. We know that discrimination against any person hurts all of us. We choose to interrupt and end all forms of hate, oppression, and violence. We want to create a world where everyone is valued for their full selves.

Gender is one of the core ways we learn to identify and expresses ourselves. Gender is socially and culturally

constructed — it's something we learn — not just something we inherit though our biology. We learn and create our gender through our relationship to ourselves and our interactions with the people around us. But, even though gender is socialized, it is still very real. It shapes each of our experiences in profound and different ways.

When identities like gender, race, religion, and many others are linked to power, control and domination, many people are devalued just for being who they are. When people are devalued we can create harm, including hurtful words, discrimination, and eventually physical violence.

The good news is that we can change this by redefining what gender means to us and valuing everyone in our diverse communities.

Stories of Transformation **writing prompts**

- Describe the part of yourself that already understands its deep connections with all living things. What does this self want you and others to experience, understand and feel?
- Tell the story of your people. Who are your people? Where have they been and what has happened to them? What has been the source of their resilience? What has or could healing look like in and beyond your community?
- Envision a radically different world rooted in courageous love and mutual responsibility. Where do you see signs that this new world is “already on her way”?
- None of us are truly free from violence and domination until

all of us are free. Write about why and how this is true.

- Your choices have power. By choosing how you respond to behaviors or statements that objectify or devalue girls and women or people who are gender non-conforming, you make a statement about what you value. Write about a moment when you made a choice about gender.
- Much of our understanding and experience of gender is socially and culturally constructed. As children we learn what to be, think and do based on the gender we are assigned at birth and the culture we live in. Yet to be whole, we all need to have access to full range of human emotions and behaviors, regardless of our gender. Write about your experience of this.

Superpowers

I'm not like most people,
Who wish for superpowers.

To fly away.

To run as fast as the mind races.

To be able to ignore people's privacy,
And invade their thoughts.

But me, what do I wish?

What's so different?

Why wouldn't I want those powers?

I want what most people have naturally,
And don't have to wish for.

I wish to be a girl.

My superpower.

But maybe wishing,

Is all I'll ever do.

Alex Anderson

South Junior High School

Tyler Bevis – Teacher

Our Gender Revolution Award

strings

we are connected by strings
not like puppets
not painfully
but by heartstrings
the part of me that feels alive when running barefoot through the snow
or is most at home surrounded by dogs
we're all made of the same elements
surrounded by the same things
and i hope we can all one day
feel the tenacious wind in our hair
and realize there's more to us
than our differences
and learn
to love

Layla Bagwell

Riverstone International School

Amanda Micheletty – Teacher

Not Here

Everyone's happy with their lifestyle
There's no war or violence
Everyone's equal in the laws and in the eyes of their peers
Everyone has a roof over their head and food in their stomach
This could be our world, but instead
it's poverty and homelessness and desperate struggle
everywhere the eye can see
Here ... inequality abounds
In our gender, sexuality, and our skin color
Help be the change
help us get from Here to There

Austin Barfell

South Junior High School

Tyler Bevis – Teacher

Just imagine

We are free
To love
To be ourselves
To be happy
Not be ridiculed
For what makes you, you
Another world
Where we
Are not sad
Shamed by our peers
Words cutting deep

Unable to be silenced
Another world
Where we can choose our
own path
Not try to survive
In a life
Fit for someone else
The life assigned to us
As soon as we enter this world
Imagine being
Free

Madison Belknap

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany Van Arsdel – Teacher

A New World

Her shadow flickers
in the corner
of a million smiles.
Her gentle breathing
is heard behind
every speech for change.
Every peaceful rally.
She fights side by side
with humanity
for freedom.

She is acceptance.
Equality.
Hope.
She is waiting.
She is watching.
She is ready.
We must be
the generation
to set her
Free.

Maddy Bunn

Vallivue Middle School

Gaylene Simones – Teacher

Never More

My people were oppressed
Churches once saw us as sinful.
 We were once mistakes,
 once tempters,
once devils
 We were told to keep quiet
 "Be Pleasant"
 "Be Humble"
 "Be Pretty"
Though few men respected us
Humanity would not
Survive without us
 Yet
We were still patronized.
Never more.
My people were oppressed.
My people are women.
Sexism will live
Never more.

H.L. Lay

*Fairmont Junior High School
Kirsten Mohler – Teacher*

Better World

Looking down onto my surface crime's happening
robbing, theft, beat-downs many more
It hurts to know I can't fix
But if I could many things would change
They don't understand when they put garbage all over my beautiful land
I would change the way people treat me
The mountains are my bones, the rivers my veins
The forest my thoughts, the stars my dreams, the ocean my heart
They don't realize they're slowly killing me

Dakota Munoz

Riverglen Junior High School

Gretchen Schulz – Teacher

Our Gender Revolution Award

I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
My soul glistens – my curly hair sways
I know who I am
And who I want to be
And I know what the boys say about me when I leave
They worship my body
push my character aside
All this unwanted attention – my annoyance denied
But I know who I am
And who I want to be
And it's not what the boys say about me when I leave

Darby O'Conner

Riverglen Junior High School

Stefan de Vries – Teacher

The Ever Changing Spectrum

There was a time
When pink and blue
Represented girls and boys
Realistically
There is a variety of
Colors
An ever-changing spectrum
Going beyond two genders
People are evolving in their identities
Between masculine and feminine traits
But is the human mind
Open enough to follow?
With all the sorrow
And hatred
In this world
Will we ever come to a place
Where we see the
One
Common color
We share on the inside?

Brook Rios

*Fairmont Junior High School
Nicole Jones – Teacher*

Defying Gender

Boys and girls	And he's exceptional
Are being influenced by society	My sister takes care of herself
Boys were raised to believe	And needs for nothing
Baking is	Their example defies gender roles
Gay	Doing as they please
Feminine	As should you
Unmanly	At the end of the day
Girls were raised to believe	You're only human
They need men	And that's the only label anyone
To care for them	Should ever
My brother bakes	Need

Brook Rios

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

Change

Change isn't an adjective

And it's not a noun.

It's everywhere.

Expectation and custom don't define a being.

Change does.

Changing for a brighter future

A safer place.

A glint of hope.

Paths aren't meant to be walked

They're meant to be explored.

They're meant to be changed.

Fear and hate force us to walk the path.

Compassion and diversity drive us to explore.

Change isn't an adjective

And it's not a noun.

It's hope.

Lydia Ruth

North Junior High School

Timothy Rowe – Teacher

Imagine

Imagine a world where
everyone is needed
and is loved.

Everyone
has a say in the world,
is noticed and heard.

Imagine a world where
people can't live
without each other's love.

What if our world could be that peaceful?
World peace can only start with us.
It is time to change
our hateful ways,
and let the light in our hearts
shine and be seen.

Krystal Tracy

*Crossroads Middle School
Robert Zumbrun – Teacher*

In just a moment
Everything changes
Those who used to be girls
Were boys
Boys were girls
The straight friends
Came out as gay
Or bi
My mind skirted around all the
possibilities
Straight
Bi and lesbian

I wasn't comfortable
I couldn't handle it
Always with people saying they can
Love more
Be more
Now I've found myself
I am
Male
Female
I love more
I am Gender Fluid
I am Pan

Ava Tyler

*Hillside Junior High School
Sabrina Schroeder – Teacher*

The Color We Bleed

Promoting segregation against foreign nationality
is a depiction of a mind that lacks rationality.
Demanding discrimination against genders and roles,
is accepting the future of political and economic peril.
Insisting complications against sexual orientation,
is denying the concept of human connection and relation.
We shall revolt against the bloodshed of hatred as we lay
our weapons amongst the ruins;
and on that day, we will fall to the realization that we are
all indeed human.

Samantha E. Wiss

Riverglen Junior High School

Gretchen Schulz – Teacher

Free.

with all the war & famine
The people dying because of skin color
women & men being sexually assaulted
We need to find a better place
but as we know people don't change
It will go back to normal until we are all gone.
We need to stop making our home a war zone.

Rachel Alonso

*Fairmont Junior High School
Adam Phillips – Teacher*

It is important for people to remember where you came from so you know you. Knowing our stories shapes us as people by knowing what you're strong enough to do and what you can't. The stories of our ancestors also shape us as people by showing what they would do and what they did wrong so we don't repeat ourselves in history. Our ancestors also taught us to stand up for what we believe in.

Alexsis Armstrong

Sawtooth Middle School

Roger White – Teacher

We Are Strong

We are strong. We have dragged ourselves up out of the dust into this corrupt world we live in today. We have fought, battled, and protested over and over again to gain the rights that any human should be given at birth. Our people were the first to walk the Earth, yet, people hated us, tore us down and put us to work for them in dirt. Yes, it's the race rising up, Blacks.

Josh Aydelotte

*Sawtooth Middle School
Roger White – Teacher*

Be Yourself!

My dad wipes away my tears
He says, "don't believe what they say
you're smart, beautiful, amazing, your own
individual." He doesn't know why I'm
crying. They think I should wear makeup,
obsess over boys, and care about my
appearance because I'm a girl. And
they think boys should be jocks,
be jerks and be perfect in every way.
NEWS FLASH! You're a real
person not a stereotype! Love
yourself for who you are!

Jade Baker

*Sawtooth Middle School
Roger White – Teacher*

In elementary school
They always said the same thing
Over and over again
Engraving it into our hearts and souls
"Be yourself"
Those sweet words
Floating around
Though as we grow older
Those sweet whispers fade away
Disappearing
Then we wake
A pit in our stomachs
A lump in our throats
"Be yourself"
Better translated to
"Be society's approved version of yourself"

Madison Belknap

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany Van Arsdel – Teacher

Just a Tree

Everything is changing. New flowers bloom. Even I am changing.

There are no more of me. All gone, cut down, collapsed.

And why leave me?

Why cut down all the others?

And leave me?

I am just a tree.

A tree that lives in the city,

full of despair and sorrow.

Grief and bitterness, hatefulness.

Words like those fill my head.

And I can't change it.

I am just a tree.

Just a tree

Sadie Berry

Meadows Valley Middle School

Devon Barker Hicks – Teacher

This self.

This self lives in silence.

This self cannot be heard.

This self will speak, only to nothing.

This self, connects to only silence.

This self has a deep connection with the lost.

In the woods, deep into the trees,

This self figured out how to be me.

This self has figured out to be open.

This self learned how to break.

This self learned many things.

This self has learned to be me.

Alina Bertagnolli

Riverglen Junior High School

Gretchen Schulz – Teacher

The Refugee's Story

I left my country for the unknown
I left my family for those I don't know
I left the home that I grew up in
All for what seemed like something better
I really had no choice
I met people I will never forget
I send my mother what money I can
I send her the hope that I still have
For most of it is lost,
like my heart

Shukuru Birungi

*South Junior High School
Tyler Bevis – Teacher*

Now

We must act right now.

We must treat people fairly.

We won't last like this.

Jonas Bourne

Meadows Valley Middle School

Devon Barker Hicks – Teacher

Change is Great

To change is something many fear.
Really look around and see the change needed
Answers will come with change
Now be the change against discrimination
See that other races should not be treated different.
Form an equal heart
Other genders should not be discriminated either.
Remember we are all the same in different ways
Much more is accomplished being together
Remember the right thing is to make friends with everyone.

Isaac Brusso

*Meadows Valley Middle School
Devon Barker Hicks – Teacher*

The Artist

The girl, creative, imaginative, and intelligent, softly drew each line perfectly.

Her eyes were bright, her hands free, what had she done to be taunted?

The other kids chuckled, ignoring her talents.

She wasn't pretty, she wasn't popular, so she was nothing in the eyes of her peers.

Where could she hide from those judgmental eyes?

Each stroke took her to a new and better world.

A world where everyone was proud to be different.

Mackenzie Burt

Riverglen Junior High School

Gretchen Schulz – Teacher

We came here for a better life
But we keep getting sent back, denied
We are trying to escape our hometown to seek a better future.
They see us as rapists, killers, drug dealers but in reality that's
Not what we really are. We are hard-working people
who come to seek something we will
Never get in our hometowns. Americans are lucky to
already have opportunities.
Why are you sending us back?

Teresa Macias Carabez

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler Wright – Teacher

We Define Our Self

People judge

People avoid

Others do nothing

We confront

We help

They push us down

We get right back up

We don't stay down

We work past our obstacles

They don't define us

We define our self

Lizzy Christle

Crossroads Middle School

Rob Zumbrun – Teacher

When I imagine another world I imagine a world without poverty-stricken families suffering from the sickening pains of hunger. When I imagine another world I imagine a world without dispirited teens thinking that nobody desires them in this world. When I imagine another world I imagine a world without individuals saying wounding words to other individuals because of their body shape, gender, or color of skin. I believe that this imagined world is possible.

Peyton Cochran

Orofino Junior/Senior High School

Michelle George – Teacher

My Origin

I'm from the United States of America
But my blood and soul belongs to Mexico
I come from Nayarit, Mexico.
An outstanding land with an amazing beach
I've never seen my Grandma, Grandpa, or my Uncles and Aunts
I hope that one day I'll get to see them
My goal is to take my parents anywhere they want around the world
Success takes sacrifice!
Only way to accomplish anything in life is by
Working hard

Dario Cortez-Perez

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

Change.

I dream of a world where hate crumbles at the sight of kindness.
Where we are all profoundly in love with everyone and everything.
A place where courage is our first thought and defeat the last.
Where no hesitation is shown in order to help.
Where everyone feels wanted and cared for.
You leave no one behind and turn to one another.
I dream of a world not quite like the one I'm in.

Vanessa Corza

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

I want to live in a world where any Muslim walking down
the street isn't made fun of.
Or a trans man can enter any bathroom he chooses.
Where a woman as a C.E.O,
is just as accepted as being bisexual.
If you are African American,
you shouldn't feel different from others.
But that is not the world I live in,
it is a world I hope it can become.

Lindsey Crandall

Fairmont Junior High School

Adam Phillips – Teacher

Another World

Genders don't matter to anybody in this place
Everybody deserves respect for what gender they are
They are that gender for a reason
And I think that reason is to change how people see genders
Everybody always thinks that girls are weak and boys are strong
And transgender, a joke
I want a place that respects every gender that exists
A place a person can call home

Akari Michelle Davis

*South Junior High School
Amber Strickler – Teacher*

Dissimulation

They preach

 We're all the same

Empty speech

 Won't diminish our shame

I absorb your flaws

 And the color of your skin

Make judgements

 Let our story begin

You are unique

 Look deep

Find talent and technique

 Travel path to self-love no matter how steep

What we need is allegiance

Despite our difference

Embrace your beauty and tenderness

Proscription of discrimination

 Is encouraging us to shrink

Hasn't brought liberation

 But masking of instinct.

Zoe Day

South Junior High South

Amber Strickler—Teacher

You Are What You Need

Let me tell you what you are

A whole person, A full heart

Brilliance in your memoir

I promise, you are art.

Listen up real close

Don't you dare deflate

Find where inspiration flows

Prosperity is what your talent will create.

You have unfathomable beauty in your soul

Release it in writing, movement, or prayer

Contentment makes you whole

Connection is there.

Beauty is you,

Beauty is she.

Beauty in him,

Beauty in me.

Zoe Day

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler Wright – Teacher

Spectrum of Humanity

A silky veil covers adventurous eyes, walking blind.
Oppressed by their own kin. People seeing black and
white where the daring see a rainbow of opportunity.
When the veil is lifted, punishment is futile. But change
always comes, and freedom will be broadened.

Alton Dean

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler Wright – Teacher

Sick

Clogged nose full of snot. Fog clouding my thoughts.

Air claws through my throat whenever I breathe.

"You look sad."

Am I supposed to smile all the time?

"You look tired."

Well, I haven't slept in a few days, should I look wide awake?

"You look mad."

I'm unable to breathe, it hurts to talk, I can't think, and I can't sleep. Of course I'm mad.

I'm better now, sorry for... being me.

Aida Delic

Riverglen Junior High School

Jeanette Griggs – Teacher

No Breaks

He catcalls and yells
I walk by
Pay them no mind I remind myself
He tells me I should learn how to take a compliment
He turns and looks
So I walk faster
But he follows after

My mind turns into knots as I try to forget
I feel dirty
My skin crawls
Don't tell anyone
The words bounce around in my head
You're weak they tell me
But no
I am not

Olivia Dunstan

Riverglen Junior High School

Gretchen Schulz – Teacher

A Wonderful World

Warm smiles
Happy children
Loving families
Perfect Peace

Where everyone is welcome
No one is turned away
Any can come
Everyone can stay

Where everyone is different
but no one is judged
A place where peace is ever present
where love hasn't budged.

Kelsee Eardley

*Vallivue Middle School
Gaylene Simones – Teacher*

A New World

She heard the shouts and fists of others,
Head filling with the negative words
She dreamed of a world,
Where people came together,
Like each unique snowflake combining as one.
As she grew older the noises got louder.
Not able to help, not able to help,
But in her dreams, she flew higher.
To a world, with desire.
These snowflakes not willing to budge,
not willing to break.
They were all together combined as one.

Siena Jean Everhart

Riverglen Junior High School

Jeanette Griggs – Teacher

A Great World

I live in a world
A world of love
love is courageous
love is strong

I live in a world
A world of responsibility
It is fair
It gives us freedom

Some believe these things bind us
but in reality they free us
Love gives us hope
Responsibility gives us a purpose

I think this world has not appeared
But I believe that soon it will
And when it does
That day will be great

Jasmin G. Fryer

*Sawtooth Middle School
Roger White – Teacher*

It's still something

My mother said you couldn't cure depression.

That taking pills wouldn't fix me

That more pills

wouldn't speed up the process.

Then I met

someone who tasted better than Prozac,

made it easier to get out of bed,

And I was something to someone.

The black and white world

He filled with colorful aspirations.

Then in the end

He left.

We love not to love,

We love to feel something.

For that I'm truly thankful.

Samantha Garcia

South Junior High School

Tyler Bevis – Teacher

Stand Up for What You Think is Right

People always get messed up from getting picked on. It can mess up a person's life really bad. When I see someone getting picked on I do the best thing that you can do, stand up for them. If you can stand up for people that are getting picked on then something good will happen to you. It only takes a little to do the right thing. So please help when people need it.

Andrew Gaudlip

*Riverglen Junior High School
Gretchen Schulz – Teacher*

What If

What if the world wasn't as we know it today
As if it was another place ...
Where no one could hurt you,
what if we all got along ...
a place with no violence or wars ...
A place where our families would
be valued by who they are and not
by who others want them to be
We can make the world this way
We can do it by not discriminating
Or judging others by looks.

Sandra Gonzalez

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

We're Not Different

Born unknowing
Thoughts now flowing
I am a girl
My heart said no
It's wrong
My mind said yes.
A boy trapped,
Within a girl's body.
Set me free from the cage
Of torment and anguish
I want to be free
To be me.
People look at me weird.
I'm left out and confused
Left to wonder if I should feel like this
Pain inducing dysphoria increasing
Maturing
Being called 'young lady,' 'girl'
Freedom.

Kelzi Hamilton

Riverglen Junior High School

Gretchen Schulz – Teacher

R.O.L.E.S.

From the moment we are born,
Our lives are already planned out,
From birth till death,
If you're a girl, you're supposed to act like a lady,
And boys are "messy,"
We have these R.O.L.E.S.
Ridiculous Overwhelming Life unEqual Standards,
The thing is people are not seeing the real point,
We are not defined by our R.O.L.E.S.,
We are defined by who we are,
And until we realize that we will be nothing but,
R.O.L.E.S.

Jordyn Hausman

Fairmont Junior High School

Kirsten Mohler – Teacher

Equality

Imagine a world based on respect
Where everyone is treated as an equal
Everyone, in their own way, is perfect
No discrimination, very peaceful
Now open your eyes to the real world
The place we really live in
Our opinions different and swirled
We all have deep roots within
If we could learn to be proud of who we are
We could start to change
Everyone would be a star
The world could rearrange

Natalie Hepworth

Burley Junior High School

Mindy Haws – Teacher

A Way to Change Racism

Racism began when I wasn't even born. My people are African American and have been separated because of the way they look. Their skin doesn't look the same as others. Even though some of my people were not captured they kept on looking for a better life through hard times. I long for a better future for my community where nobody can be treated bad and we have peace and freedom.

Baho Herve

*Fairmont Junior High School
Kirsten Mohler – Teacher*

Our new world is on its way
Soon people won't be scared to
Be part of the lgbt+
Be their type of race
Say what's on their mind.
Our new world is on its way
It'll have
No war
No violence
No discrimination
Peace instead of all of that
Our new world is on its way

Taily Jara-Chavez

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

Only boys play video games
Only girls wear makeup
Girls wear pink & purple
Boys wear blue & green
Everything is placed in a restricted gender
Well what if I want to play video games & wear blue?
What if a guy wants to wear makeup & wear pink?
We will wear what we want
Play what we want
Stop putting genders on
Clothes
Activities
Colors
We are all equal.

Taily Jara-Chavez

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

Quiet

you expect me to be quiet while you verbally
bash everyone, including me.

you expect me not to say a word while you
call me a disgrace

you expect me to sit still and not stand up for
those you call ugly, gross, and dumb

And what if I do stand up?

what if I deny all those words?

what if I'm not quiet?

Well that's a chance I'm willing to take.

Jessica Jefferson

Sawtooth Middle School

Roger White – Teacher

We all are the same,
Like childish fools,
Point our fingers and laughing,
And hence their shame,
We all are the same,
As most people tend to forget,
We all are human,
And we live in this world,
A world with racism, sexism, and hate,
We are broken,
But if we all know,
That we all are the same,
Maybe then, we can fix us.

Daniel Joseph

*Fairmont Junior High School
Adam Phillips – Teacher*

I am connected by my differences,
To the people and world around me,
But also by what makes me the same,
I laugh,
I sneeze,
I cry,
And my tears sink into the Earth,
And perhaps help another to thrive,
I am me and no one else,
And all the better,
Others share my interests,
And likewise, some do not,
But that is how we're all connected,
To this Earth and to each other

Daniel Joseph

Fairmont Junior High School

Adam Phillips – Teacher

Connections

We live on this Earth together

We need to act together

We need to connect with each other

We need to be whole

We need to care for each other

We need to talk to each other

We need to communicate with each other

We need to be with each other

We are one

We are together

We are for each other

We are communicators

We are beautiful

We are humans

We need each other

Emma Kashyap

Sawtooth Middle School

Roger White – Teacher

Boys and girls classified strictly as
boys and girls
Girls are meant to wear dresses
like pink
play with dolls
Boys are meant to be dirty
Squish bugs
Scare girls
Each one appropriate to each ones' standards
But some girls and boys are inappropriate to those
standards
Some girls appreciate the bugs
like the mud
reject the color pink
Some boys play with dolls
Dress up
Sing songs
They are meant to lead this world

Keegan Kirby

Saint Mark's Catholic School

Nicole Schuette – Teacher

A Whole New World

I stepped in, and everything was different
It was a whole new community
A whole new society
A whole new landform
A whole new world
A world where everyone is equal
Everyone is loved by someone or something
People are compassionate
Bound to do something great
To change the lives of people into something much greater
This is another world
The world that our world strives to be

Haiden Kouba

Sawtooth Middle School

Roger White – Teacher

Me

Feminine though I may look,

Masculine though I may act,

I am neither.

I am only me.

I am not a female.

I am not a male.

I am only me.

And I am all I'll ever be.

Liliana Krigbaum-Horn

Meadows Valley Middle School

Devon Barker Hicks – Teacher

You Get What You Get

"You get what you get,"
What a peculiar phrase that is, wouldn't you agree?
Do we really have to, "Get what we get?"
Maybe it's time to change,
To break from these prison cells.
Maybe it's time to be who we really are,
Not who the world makes us out to be.
It's time to be you,
Because you are beautiful.

Liliana Krigbaum-Horn

Meadows Valley Middle School

Devon Barker Hicks – Teacher

Loving World

Imagine a world within this world
There is love that exists that you can't imagine
Love that you have never experienced
A circle of warmth wraps around you
Every word said on this world is said with love
You can feel love, see love
The sound of love is blossomed with every breath you take
Can you imagine a world like this?
If you can, then create it

Mia Ledesma

*Fairmont Junior High School
Kirsten Mohler – Teacher*

In this world your life is a train
moving quickly along a track
until the end of the track comes
and everything goes black.
Until my track ends
I will continue along
as far as it will take me
Until the daylight begins to fade
and the train starts to slow to a stop
but the light will come back
and the train will continue along
on the fast ending track.

Bren Legarreta

South Junior High School

Tyler Bevis – Teacher

I used to love the color blue
That is until people judged
Everyone assumes pink is a color for girls
And blue for boys
I can't wear green basketball shorts
I can't wear pants that aren't tight
Unless I want people to think I'm weird
We shouldn't be classified to begin with
But being weird takes it up a level
What does weird even mean
Have people not seen that everyone is different and unique

Micaela Lima

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

I Dare You

Tell me it isn't okay to be "boyish" again, I dare you

Tell me I can't play football because I'm a girl

Tell my nephew he can't own a Barbie, I dare you.

Tell him that he can't cry because that's "girly"

Tell us that we are wrong for doing what we know should be right

Tell us we are doing it wrong

I dare you.

Jordan Long

Meridian Middle School

Verna Angstman – Teacher

Same eyes, same nose.
They shaped me into
what couldn't be held longer.
Watching me grow,
explaining the future.
Terrified they pushed me.
Unprepared they pushed me.
Femininity.
A world of war.
A world of inequality.
They pushed me.
For I wished a future.
A future of greatness,
a future of peace,
a future of freedom.

Braelynn Marks

Fairmont Junior High School

Adam Philips – Teacher

Reflection

Every instance that
I gaze into my glassy eyes
My hair gets rattier
The pimples get bigger

I am my own worst enemy
Critiquing every square inch
Inspecting every minor detail

But I stop
And ponder the useless mirage
Of what-ifs and doubts
And really stare

Behind the façade
There is virtue and passion
And meaning to this frail frame

Beyond brittle bone and spongy skin
Lies truth and value
Exceeding any ideal of perfection

Sawyer McCloskey

Riverglen Junior High School

Jeanette Griggs – Teacher

a world without fear, letting an anxious bird out of a cage
a place where a woman doesn't have to be afraid to walk alone at night
a place where a woman doesn't get blamed for being raped because,
"she was asking for it"
a world without hate
a place where people aren't murdered for loving someone
imagine all the amazing things we could do in a world like that

Sadie McMichael

Riverglen Junior High School

Jeanette Griggs – Teacher

Dreams

I dream of a world where looks and appearance do not matter,
Where gender does not define who you are,
Where ethnicity is embraced instead of neglected,
Where personalities are bound together,
Where we see each individual as equal,
Where it is okay to be different,
Where we grow as one,
My glimpse of this dream is very rare,
So let us make it a goal to dream everywhere.

Jaeda Moyer

*Meadows Valley Middle School
Devon Barker Hicks – Teacher*

Times of Change

Who I am today
I am adopted from China
My posterity is yet to be explored
History does not come easy to me,
I know nothing, not one thing from before,
Yet, I do not let this define me,
I am who I am today and that is the best I can be,
So accept me if you please,
My people are here,
They are my past, present, and future.

Jaeda Moyer

*Meadows Valley Middle School
Devon Barker Hicks – Teacher*

Why?

"You, clean!"

The room goes silent

There are 3 other boys that are totally capable, why me?

A chill went down my spine

I felt sick to the thought of women being treated as an object

I have no intent on being a mop with no meaning

Or a spatula with no feeling

Since when are girls supposed to be maids, why us?

Women need to be acknowledged as independent

Not dependent and weak

Bre Norris

Riverglen Junior High School

Gretchen Schulz – Teacher

Another World

Imagine a world,
No violence,
No domination and
No extraction.

There would be
Peace, Love, and Freedom
We will be free.
No chaos.

In reality,
The real world you're in.
Were you happy, the way it is?
If not, change the world,
To what you want it to be.
Make a change.
Don't just imagine,
Make it happen!

Camille Ocampo

*Fairmont Junior High School
Kirsten Mohler – Teacher*

We Are Who We Choose to Be

We are who we choose to be
But what does that mean in our society?
We are human and we try to categorize
So when someone is different
we tend to criticize
We have this idea of social order
If you want to be different
this acts like a border
We are who we choose to be
So we need to change our society

Erik Otero

*South Junior High School
Tyler Bevis – Teacher*

Pressed Against the Glass

My body, an object
Portrayed in the media as a prize
My other qualities
Hidden under a disguise
I didn't choose to wear

I was born with my mask
Breaking free
My unsolicited task

I've learned,
Accepted
I am beautiful just like you
Not only on the outside
On the inside too

I rise above your labels
I am strong, brave, kind
That's not on my body
It's inside my mind

Aspen Palmer

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany VanArsdel – Teacher*

Little Bit of Everything

People ask me what I am,
Not answering
I slump my shoulders and walk away
Later I ask my dad
He says we're a little bit of everything
The next time I'm asked what I am
I smile and say
I'm a little bit of everything
They look at me in confusion
Walking away my head is high
I'm part of almost every culture
With ancestors from Europe, South America, and more
And I'm honored

Ashley Pope

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany Van Arsdel - Teacher

Timeless Soldier

Boy made of steel
From hatred over the years.
Beat down by society,
Robbed of his self-esteem.

Not a tear is fallen.
He is told to stand as a soldier,
To speak when spoken to,
To have a heart of stone.

He wonders how we can keep calm
And stay at bay with so-called men
Shouting in his face, "You cannot
Cry, you're a boy."
The timeless soldier.

Tapanga Raines

Fairmont Junior High School

Kirsten Mohler – Teacher

Feeding US

Over and Over
Nature has spoken
Over and Over
She stays broken
You say you'll fix her,
But have you succeeded?
Nobody was there
When everyone was needed
Losing her grip
She slowly falls apart
Nobody helps her,
Nobody has the heart
Hospitals are for us,
But she is the one broken,
And with loud mouths,
Nobody has spoken.
Nature feeds us,
But she's taken for granted
As people, we fly;
But have we landed?

Kya Rairdon

*Fairmont Junior High School
Kirsten Mohler – Teacher*

What Do They See?

Looking at my reflection
There's only me,
Olive skin, big brown eyes

I have often wondered
What do they see?
Some people would say a happy kid,
While others see differently

"Where's my taco!"

"Where's your green card?"

"You can't be smart!"

It plays over and over in my head
After all, the reflection is clearer,
It doesn't matter what they see
I see me.

Isaac Nathaneal Ramirez

Riverglen Junior High School

Jeanette Griggs – Teacher

I remember as if it was yesterday,
and now I can see I have never been through something more gray
All a faded memory as I look back on it now,
smile running away from her face
A tear sheds from my eye as I know it's time
First time I had seen my dad cry
The barking dog went silent

Jackson Anderson Reed

Riverglen Junior High School

Jeanette Griggs – Teacher

To Find One's Self

There will come a time when you have to disconnect yourself from the cruel, unforgiving world and connect to yourself. When you close your eyes and listen to the own, steady beat of your heart. When you find your true self, somewhere in your mind. Though, it takes a journey. A long journey. A journey of a lifetime.

Emme Richards

*Meadows Valley Middle School
Devon Barker Hicks – Teacher*

Stop It

The thing that causes hate.

The thing that causes death.

Fire in the streets,

Riots breaking out.

Violence is a major thing

That makes this world unsafe.

You see it everywhere,

Even in your sleep.

It will never stop,

Unless we do something about it.

So let's work together,

And try to make a difference.

Because if we don't,

Everything will be gone.

Joshua Rosen

Fairmont Junior High School

Kirsten Mohler – Teacher

All around me I see smiles but
My people.
They're sitting in a corner on the floor somewhere.
My people.
They're hurting
My people.
Sing to express their thoughts and
My people.
I feel them
My people.
you know what they feel because
My people
They are
Your people.
His people.
Her people.
Their people.
Our people.
My people.

Joey Rosenberg

*Fairmont Junior High School
Adam Phillips – Teacher*

I am unlike the boys of my time, I don't play sports, don't bet on the flip of a dime. Instead I sing, I bleed my soul right into song. Of course, for boys they say that is WRONG. So, my voice is silenced when out and about. My spring of music in an endless drought. Soon I shall rise above their judgment and see it as adoration.

Kaleb Royter

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

Mountain Child

My story begins with a fallen tree
Birch consumes my soul.
Tears threaten to fall
I let them come because I know I'm safe.
I'm home.
A presence watches me.
Warm eyes looking down.
Hands pulling me up from the earth.
Birch now lay still on the forest floor.
Old life goes out, new life comes in.
My life.
Forged from the mossy bed.
I am proud to be a mountain child.

Lydia Ruth

*North Junior High School
Timothy Rowe – Teacher*

Another World

She laid on damp grass
Tired eyes shut
She drifted away
Leaving this world of hate
Her anger, sadness, violence depart
Pure as a river
Her toes sink into warm sand
People smiling all around
Spreading love and happiness
Deep inside there was a spark of joy
Then her conscience began to start
To realize
It was only a dream

Melissa Andreea Savu

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler Wright – Teacher

Another World of Right

I believe in not bowing down and fighting for a good cause
I don't believe in listening to the bigger man
I believe in fighting for the right cause
I believe ignorance dictates everything
I believe in what's right
I believe that some things don't need to be there
I believe that good will always prevail
I believe that the world is corrupt right now
I think the world needs a revolution

Anthony Smith

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

Wholeness and Gender

UNMADE

A baby is innocent, untouched by the sun's ray
And born, she is gullible to a life she won't make
She'll be told how to be,
Sit still
Look pretty
And fed by the hand of a world
Lost, with no pity
Look World! She's gone already, dull eyes, afraid.
Fed by society's raves and "hit" for mistakes
So lost is a world from cradle to grave
Punished and pushed into a life lived, unmade

Annika Snow

*South Junior High School
Amber Strickler Wright – Teacher*

cycle

I'm a woman

But because I am, I shouldn't be degraded

Why is it just because I look slightly different than your ideal girl

It's okay to judge?

These days you get put down for your

Gender, race...

You name it...

You can't escape the harsh realities

Everyone says they don't like being judged but they are the ones

Doing the judging

Bimta Subba

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

New World

All I want is peace,
Instead I get violence
I want a better world.
A better version of us,
But when will this world
Be all better, that's a question
You should ask yourself.

All I want is peace,
Instead I get violence
I want a better world.
A better version of us,
But when will this world
Be all better, that's a question
You should ask yourself.

Damir Susak

*Fairmont Junior High School
Kirsten Mohler – Teacher*

Boys and Girls

Why must
Girls wear pink
While boys wear blue
Why must a boy work on cars
And play a sport
But if a girl does it's "un-lady like"
Girls must love playing with dolls
But we judge when boys do
We need to take a huge step back
And recheck how we are raising our children
How we are raising ourselves

Brooklyn Taylor

Fairmont Junior High School

Kirsten Mohler – Teacher

Gender Roles

Today's society is making it so that when a girl is born, she must always have a prince that saves her. Before she can speak, she has gender roles forced upon her. Yet, even when gender roles are too much we continue to push people into thinking certain races and religions are bad. That you should be this specific person. The people who think this is right, need change, not you.

Alyssa Thomas

*Fairmont Junior High School
Kirsten Mohler – Teacher*

Paradise is Approaching

There is a paradise that we all imagine.
A world full of hope and peace.
Where war is something of the past.

Many hope for this world.
But do not know how to create it.
Some believe it doesn't exist.
How can it?
Our world is war torn, destroyed.

I believe that it does exist.
It is on its way.
We must believe in hope
Remember transformation is happening
Never let evil win.

Abigail Claire Thomson

Riverglen Junior High School

Jeanette Griggs – Teacher

World Peace

World peace,
a thing people talk about.
They toss it in the garbage,
and say, "Let's go create a war."
They fight, kill,
and for what purpose?
For religion or race.
People lose their lives just because,
they are different.
What can we do?
STOP.
Stop the violence,
STOP the racism.
STOP what you're doing and thinking.
LET us be different,
LET us be us.
LET us have our religions, and
LET us be kind.

Nevena Tulilov

*Fairmont Junior High School
Adam Philips – Teacher*

We walked by the other students in gym
They yelled to us
"There are only two genders"
Yes
Biologically
But they've never understood
How some
Were meant to be born
Male to female
Female to male
It doesn't make them special
Just different
Made in the wrong body
But they have the right mind

Ava Tyler

*Hillside Junior High School
Sabrina Schroeder – Teacher*

barco de papel

Con la mitad de un periódico
hice un barco de papel,
En la fuente de mi casa
Le hice navegar muy bien,
Mi hermana con su abanico,
sopla, sopla sobre el
Buen viaje, muy buen viaje
Barquichuelo de papel

Edwin Vargas

*Meadows Valley Middle School
Devon Barker Hicks – Teacher*

“Give Up” is Not Our Thing

If we look where we are now and we think about where we came from, the people will understand why.

My people have been attaining their goal even if some other people try to stop them.

We encourage each other, making a powerful force that no one will destroy.

It wasn't easy and it will be even more challenging now but “give up” is not our thing.

My people are Latina and it is amazing.

Melissa Virgen-Velazquez

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

Children that Never Grew Up

You can't be equal when
one is greater,
for we need to start acting like we're older than ten.
It's really not okay,
for grown men to treat others poorly
all because of the color of their skin.
The time has come,
for our world as a whole to grow up.
Right now we are a child,
that never grew up.

Isaac Walker

Fairmont Junior High School

Kirsten Mohler – Teacher

After all these years of neglect,
Missing the children that once played within our branches,
They returned.
We sang blithely, ready to relive those blissful memories
only to find their heads turned to wealth and treasure.
They lacerated us, as I tried to remind them of years past,
bringing our mighty forest to a brutal end,
never to be loved once more.

Lydia Anne Walker

Riverglen Junior High School

Jeanette Griggs – Teacher

Confidence

When waking up in the morning,
I look in the mirror.

I remind myself that I'm a strong,
Independent,
Woman.

I'm proud of what I see.

I walk the halls,
don't care what people think of me,
I hold my head high,

I hear the snide,
Rude comments,

And I don't care,
Because at the end of the day,
I will look in my mirror once again,

And be proud of what I see.

Cassidy Wilbourn

*South Junior High School
Amber Strickler – Teacher*

Girl or Boy

She looked up, tears stinging her eyes. The boy looked down at her, “You’re a girl you can’t do this, you’re just not strong enough.” He spoke with venom in his voice. I’ll show him! She thought. She pulled up her sleeves and with confidence walked past the group of boys, who were pointing and laughing, and she proved to them that she can do anything a boy can do.

Megan Wood

*Riverglen Junior High School
Gretchen Schulz – Teacher*

* Our Gender Revolution Award
+ More than one poem

Burley Junior High School

Burley

Natalie Hepworth

Crossroads Middle School

Meridian

Lizzy Christle

Krystal Tracy*

Fairmont Junior High School

Boise

Rachel Alonso

Vanessa Corza

Lindsey Crandall

Sandra Gonzalez

Jordyn Hausman

Baho Herve

Daniel Joseph+

H. L. Lay*

Mia Ledesma

Braelynn Marks

Camille Ocampo

Tapanga Raines

Kya Rairdon

Brook Rios**

Joshua Rosen

Joey Rosenberg

Kaleb Royter

Bimta Subba

Damir Susak

Brooklyn Taylor

Alyssa Thomas

Nevena Tulilov

Melissa Virgen-Velazquez

Isaac Walker

Hillside Junior

Boise

Ava Tyler*+

Meadows Valley Middle School

New Meadows

Sadie Berry

Jonas Bourne

Isaac Brusso

Liliana Krigbaum-Horn+

Jaeda Moyer+

Emme Richards

Edwin Vargas

Meridian Middle School

Meridian

Jordan Long

Moscow Middle School*Moscow*

Madison Belknap*+

Aspen Palmer

Ashley Pope

North Junior High School*Boise*

Lydia Ruth*+

Orofino Junior/Senior High School*Orofino*

Peyton Cochran

Riverglen Junior High School*Garden City*

Alina Bertagnolli

Mackenzie Burt

Aida Delic

Olivia Dunstan

Siena Jean Everhart

Andrew Gaudlip

Kelzi Hamilton

Sawyer McCloskey

Sadie McMichael

Dakota Munoz*

Bre Norris

Darby O'Conner*

Isaac Nathaneal Ramirez

Jackson Anderson Reed

Abigail Claire Thomson

Lydia Anne Walker

Samantha E. Wiss*

Megan Wood

Riverstone International School*Boise*

Layla Bagwell*

Saint Mark's Catholic School*Boise*

Keegan Kirby

Sawtooth Middle School*Meridian*

Alexsis Armstrong

Josh Aydelotte

Jade Baker

Jasmin G. Fryer

Jessica Jefferson

Emma Kashyap

Haiden Kouba

South Junior High School

Boise

Alex Anderson*

Austin Barfell*

Shukuru Birungi

Teresa Macias Carabez

Dario Cortez-Perez

Akari Michelle Davis

Zoe Day+

Alton Dean

Samantha Garcia

Taily Jara-Chavez+

Bren Legarreta

Micaela Lima

Erik Otero

Melissa Andreea Savu

Anthony Smith

Annika Snow

Cassidy Wilbourn

Vallivue Middle School

Caldwell

Maddy Bunn*

Kelsee Eardley

It was a time when the unthinkable became the thinkable and the impossible really happened. – Arundahti Roy

We Choose All of Us re-imagines communities where everyone is loved, everyone is safe, and everyone thrives. We Choose All of Us re-imagines communities where we see the humanity in all of us. Together, we can end gender violence – abuse and sexual assault – and other ways we discriminate against and abuse others. Our choices have power, begin with one or more of the action steps!

#WeChooseAllofUs Call to Action!

Here are some actions you can take to create communities where discrimination and abuse no longer exist. Our choices have power.

Action 1: Choose Community

Get to know others and value all people in your life. Protect and care for anyone targeted by discrimination and abuse.

Action 2: Respect

Value each other's opinions and thoughts.

Action 3: Choose Humanity

See everyone you interact with beyond labels. Move forward with courageous love and mutual responsibility.

Action 4: Choose Belonging

Build communities of compassion by including everyone.

Action 5: Choose Unity

Come together on issues related to gender, racial, economic, and environmental justice.

Action 6: Choose to Lead Boldly

Be accountable for your thoughts, language, and actions. Come together to overcome discrimination and abuse.

Action 7: Choose Connection

Create understanding, radical connection, and community by listening to each other's stories.

Action 8: Choose Wholeness

Know that we are all powerful and whole, just the way we are.

Action 9: Choose Liberation

Value everyone for who they are - no matter their identities or characteristics like gender, sexual orientation, race, ability, class, religion, immigration and refugee status.

Where to get help

If someone is in immediate danger, call 911. If you or a friend are experiencing hate, oppression, abuse, sexual assault or any form of violence – talk to a parent/caregiver, a school counselor, another adult you trust.

Hotline Numbers

National Dating Abuse Helpline 1-866-331-9474 or www.loveisrespect.org to chat online

National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-833-656-HOPE (4673)

Trevor Project (LGBTQ Youth) 1-866-488-7386

National Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

How to get involved with Our Gender Revolution

Learn how to get involved with Our Gender Revolution, a project of the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence, by going to www.ourgenderrevolution.org to learn about youth organizing workshops and more.

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For more information contact the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
208-384-0419 or 1-888-293-6118

OURGENDERREVOLUTION

www.ourgenderrevolution.org