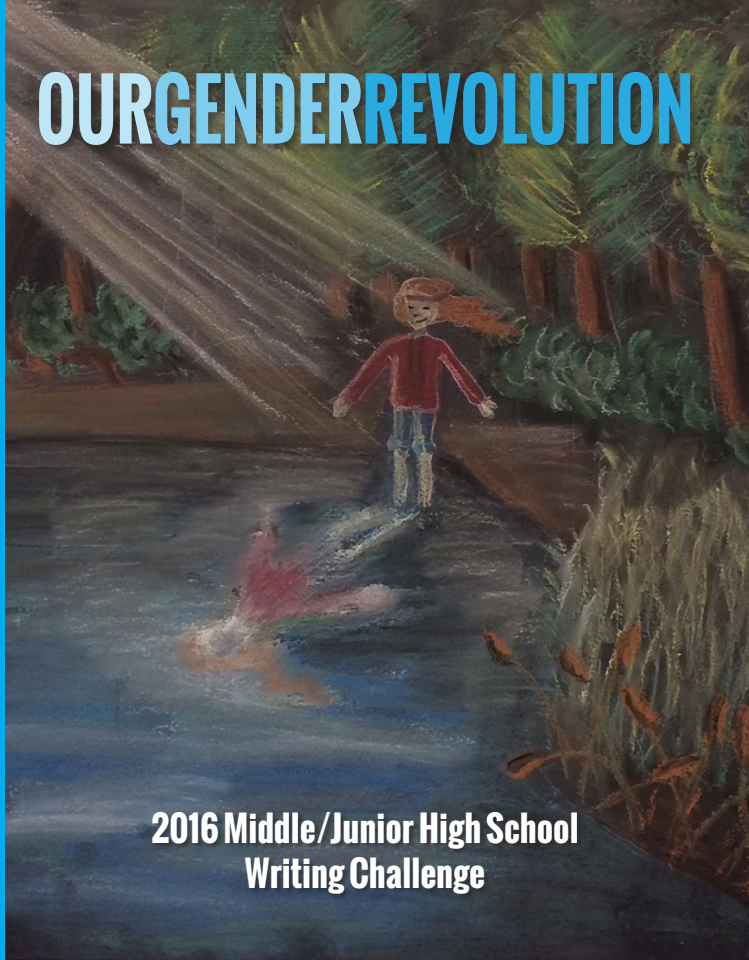


OURGENDERREVOLUTION

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www.ourgenderrevolution.org



2016 Middle/Junior High School
Writing Challenge

Each year, the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence engages young people to join the movement to end gender violence – abuse and sexual assault – by writing about what matters. What would the world be like if we were all truly equal to each other? Do you think boys are more valued than girls? What happens when boys are seen as more powerful than girls and gender-nonconforming youth?

This is the 7th Our Gender Revolution (formerly Love What's Real) publication, compiled from over 3,000 student submissions for the Our Gender Revolution Writing Challenge.

Congratulations to 100+ Idaho student authors whose selections are published in this book – as well as the Our Gender Revolution Award Winners who displayed the highest levels of critical thinking and excellence!

A special thank you to Idaho's teachers who encouraged their students to write about gender equity and to the many judges who read the amazing submissions by thousands of young people.

— Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

OURGENDERREVOLUTION

www.ourgenderrevolution.org

We want to end gender inequality—and to do that we need everyone to be involved.

– Emma Watson

Our Gender Revolution

believes in a world where everyone can thrive and fulfill their real potential.

Unfortunately, our history of unequal power between men and women has resulted in discrimination and gender violence – like abuse and sexual assault – against girls and women, transgender, and people who are gender non-conforming.

Violence against anyone is wrong. We know it can be different. Our vision for a better world begins with you!

Promote Gender Equity as a Way to End Gender Violence - Call to Action!

Action 1: Value characteristics like compassion and respect more than characteristics like domination or control. Strength comes from caring, not control!

Action 2: Connect to one another as human beings – be supportive and nurturing.

Action 3: Understand that gender inequity and gender violence are human rights issues for all of us. Everyone needs to be involved in creating gender equity and ending gender violence in all its forms. All persons – no matter their gender – deserve to be free from discrimination and abuse.

Action 4: Disrupt or confront anyone who is disrespectful. For instance explain why a discriminatory, sexist, or homophobic remark or joke is harmful and not funny.

Action 5: Be accountable for your thoughts, language and actions. Challenge yourself to ensure your actions and beliefs promote equity.

Action 6: Believe your friends if they talk about discrimination or violence they have experienced.

Action 7: Watch the videos of Idaho youth speaking out about ending a culture of domination and violence at www.ourgenderrevolution.org

Action 8: Watch the YouTube video of Emma Watson speaking at the United Nations on being a feminist and gender equity.

Action 9: Invite a community or tribal domestic and/or sexual violence program to lead the **Our Gender Revolution Conversation** in your class, club, or school. Download the guide on www.ourgenderrevolution.org.

Action 10: Movements begin with conversations – speak to your friends, family and community members about gender equity as a way to create a better world.

She
Is a monarch
In a room full of bees
She
Stands up for others
But no one sees
They
Taunt and Torment
Covering up insecurities of their
own
She
Defends them
Dodging sticks and stones

Layla Bagwell

*West Junior High School
Jennifer Carlsen – Teacher*

They
Shame her
For being the protagonist
She
Ignores them
Because she's just so passionate
They
Think she's "lame"
For being an activist
She
Refuses to drown
In her own passiveness

Fight Like a Girl

“You fight like a girl”

This guy must be fighting very well, then.

Since when did fighting like a girl become a bad thing?

Since when did being a girl become a bad thing?

Ever heard of Bethany Hamilton?

Harriet Tubman?

Rosa Parks?

Oh, right.

Girls are only meant for looking “pretty”.

Or being “popular”.

Us girls need to be heard.

We need to stick up for each other.

Don’t fight like a boy.

Allyssa Dillon

Fairmont Junior High School

Adam Phillips – Teacher

Libelous Labels

They say attractive, well-shaped, unaware.

I hear weak.

I have never been, nor will I ever be, the uneducated, “airhead” woman that you see.

I am strong-minded and intelligent.

I am a warrior.

I’m not afraid to get dirty in order to fight for what I believe.

Can they see the fire in me?

Labels, labels, libelous labels. . . . How they eradicate your spirit like sun on ice cream.

Molly Elliot

North Junior High School

Donna Hale – Teacher

In A World

In a world of ice she burns
In a world of straights she turns
She isn't accepted by her peers
But she'll prevail and face her fears.
They think they'll win with meaningless lies
How wrong they are; her spirit survives
She's a bird reigning free over skies, over seas
Warming them in her wings against the breeze
In a world of hate she chooses to love
In a world of darkness she rises above

Gracie Foutch

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany Van Arsdel – Teacher*

Pacific
words come through
like waves.
ripping through
her heart.
sand-washed
and worn out
by expectations.
putting doubts in her
pretty little head.
“it’s too much,
I’m drowning”

a weight rests on her
like heavy rocks
in the sand.
until one day she had
carried them enough.
throwing them into the
shimmering water lake
was magical
and breathtaking;
because then she
became me

Rylee Graves

*Fairmont Junior High School
Nicole Jones – Teacher*

Our Gender Revolution Award

How it Feels

Open hearts and clear minds
Uninfluenced by the world's opinions
clothed in hope for the future and lessons from the past
Our generation tries to encourage others to see what the
eyes cannot

Shields from chains and swords that have been
sharpened on empty promises
An army, unafraid to offend, a sign unfolding silver letters
demanding a revolution.
Hands intertwined, every shadow of the human
spectrum marching, every footstep shaking the
misconceptions of our ancestors.

Skyleigh Hall

*Fairmont Junior High School
Nicole Jones – Teacher*

Everybody's something,
Nobody's nothing.

Your flaws are beautiful,
far from the usual.

Stretch marks,
crooked smile,
split ends.

Your scar lines,
shouldn't define.

Crooked teeth that
smile,
still have a shine.

We are all made
beautiful,
like the skies and the oceans.
All the little things
we don't have
aren't missing.

But, beauty isn't
what you look like.
Beauty is who you've
become.

Cyla Irish

*Fairmont Junior High School
Nicole Jones – Teacher*

Basketcase

I am not different
Or original
I am clay,
I conform
Any bit of myself
That leaks out
Is cleaned
Up right away
Because being different
Scares me

H.L. Lay

*Fairmont Junior High School
Adam Phillips – Teacher*

Media and My Father: Gender Revolution

A Google Search

Search Bar: Differences between guys and girls

A pit of despair opens

They say guys are more violent

While girls are clean freaks

This is just the first page

My father believes that girls should be tidier than guys

He looks disappointed

My shoelaces are untied

They have been for a while

He shakes his head

Why do people see a divide?

Why couldn't they have been born being color blind?

Devonne Mayamay Busoy

Sawtooth Middle School

Roger White – Teacher

Gender Stereotype

I am a girl and I
wear tight leggings
so they say,
I am a bad girl
I have a charming personality
so they say,
I'm seductive
I'm friends with everyone
so they say, I seek popularity
I play football
so they say, I am gay
My favorite color is blue
So they say, I am not a girl
I say I'm a girl
But I'm not what everybody expects me to be

Halima Mkoma

*Fairmont Junior High School
Emily Morgan – Teacher*

Avalanche Voice

One small stone that falls,
One quiet voice that speaks,
An avalanche starts with One stone,
An idea starts with One voice.

One voice starts revolutions,
One voice makes A change,
but who's to say who has that One voice?

destined to make A difference,
A change to be made,
A choice to be chosen,
The future to be molded.

young and immature,
but wise and incredibly strong,
with the ability,
to change Everyone's Lives.

Kyle Morgan

*Fairmont Junior High School
Emily Morgan – Teacher*

Our Gender Revolution Award

Worth

When you send a girl home
because her
"Skirt is too short,"
or her
"Jeans are too tight,"
you are sending her a message
with your scowls of disapproval.
That her confidence,
is worth nothing
next to a boy's education.
We shouldn't be punished
because boys can't control themselves.
Embarrassed, she has to break away
from her peers
just to change her clothes.
It's important for her to know
that she
has worth.

Rebecca Muse

*Moscow Middle School
Tiffany Van Arsdel – Teacher*

Chalkboard

They say
the White House is a man's job.
Women were not meant
for politics and
I would most likely
break a nail,
sharp and jagged,
on the harshness of it all.

Even if they chose me
to lead,
they would be more concerned with
my new haircut
and the short blue dress
I wore during the State of the Union address
than how my broken nails could
tear the fabric of our nation.

Emma Waddel

*Fairmont Junior High School
Emily Morgan – Teacher*

Life.

Why

Do we set high social norms
almost impossible to achieve naturally?

Why

do we make fun of people
who don't fulfill those norms?

Why

do teens feel the need to be one of the cool kids?

Wanna know why?

Money, greed, hate, and insecurity.

We should accept ourselves.

Be happy that you are you

and no one else.

David Aggrey

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

As a femme transgender boy, I am very aware of gender roles. A lot of people rudely ask us, "If you're a boy, why do you dress so femininely?" The simple fact is, though; makeup and clothing are for all genders; whether you're a boy, girl, both, or neither. You are and should be allowed to wear what you want without degrading comments.

Peter Airheart

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany Van Arsdel – Teacher

Gender Revolution

Stereotypes

“What it means to be girls & boys.”

“The way people are supposed to think & act.”

We are who we are.

You cannot go off of what others say or think.

You cannot judge someone for their looks.

We are who we are.

YOU are who you are.

Sonia Aleman

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

I like who I am

I may be shy
And have trouble socializing
But I like who I am
I may have a weird voice
And I may not have cute clothes
But I like who I am
People may not like me
Just because I'm different
But I like who I am
I am unique in my own way
And that's what counts
Only because I like who I am

Rebecca Anderson

*Burley Junior High School
Mindy Haws – Teacher*

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

HE CAN TOO

I'm going to stand up for myself
That doesn't mean he shouldn't too

I'm going to speak out for my rights
That doesn't mean he shouldn't too

I'm going to have courage and be strong
That doesn't mean he shouldn't too

Just because
I stand tall as a woman

Doesn't mean
I put down men

Bailey Arendt

*Fairmont Junior High School
Emily Morgan – Teacher*

Break the Rules

She's blue and he's pink
She goes out ready to play the game
What would they think?
As he gets ready to go cheer
Why can't we do this without fear?

We can't help but judge
The little things in ourselves
Or hold a nonsense grudge
To the ones who don't follow the 'rules'
Please accept us
For us

Saterah Argyle

*South Junior High School
Tyler Bevis – Teacher*

Secret Strengths

Everyone thinks she's a little mouse,
Without any strength or individuality.
Many think he's a strong elephant,
With much might and personality.
They never try to prove society wrong.
They conceal their God given gifts
And those 'awful' quirks are hidden inside.
Making them believe they can't change.
But one trait he hates,
She loves and desires;
One she dislikes,
He loves and wants.
The world needs their secret strengths
To make something great.

Katie Asdell

Lewis and Clark Middle School

Debbie Bennion – Teacher

The Ugly Duckling

The Ugly Duckling was judged, and made fun of
the other ducklings laughed, and laughed
and he realized that he was different

He tried many ways, to fit in
the other ducklings looked the same
he wanted to be one of them

looking at himself in a pond realizing he's a swan
accepting his image
he loved the way he is

no matter his size, color, and shape
he was special in his own way.

Sandra Avelar

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

Play Like a Girl

We separate girls and boys sports
Based on assumptions that girls won't be as good as boys
We devalue girls every day
Using sexist slurs, all because of preconceived notions
That men are stronger and more powerful
But I'll tell you
I'm going to do everything like a girl
By that, I mean powerfully, strongly, and confidently
So yes, I do things "like a girl"
And it's a good thing

Layla Bagwell

*West Junior High School
Jennifer Carlsen – Teacher*

Our Voice

Which outfits you determine are “distracting” to a boy in school dress code

The right for transgender students to use a bathroom of choice

The separation of male and female sports

Distinction between locker rooms

All of these decisions are made by those who do not understand how this affects the youth

So, if these laws and rules are affecting us,

Why not ASK us?

If it's our lives,

it should be our voice

Layla Bagwell

West Junior High School

Jennifer Carlsen – Teacher

Perfection?

What is perfection?
It could be you and me
Stand together
Perfect equality
Stereotypes
All in my head
If only I was that girl?
Never tall enough
Never skinny enough
It's not just me
It's you, too

That boy in the hallway
Never feeling good enough
These
Stereotypes eating at
Equality
We only see the picture
Perfect
Magazines
Saying how it should be
We think those people
are perfect
Perfect is just you and me

Serena-Jo Bahmer

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

Gender Revolution Poem

It doesn't matter if you're
gay, straight, boy, girl,
we all have the right
to be us, and nobody
can take that from you.
Stand up for each other
so we can all be heard and
no matter what,
we all have a say, especially
the girls and boys
who are constantly harassed
or aren't allowed to do something
just because they are themselves.
So stand up and join the Gender Revolution!

Tristan Barber

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

Emotions

As men we hear this,
Your feelings don't matter,
Crying shows that you're weak.
When in reality,
Crying means you've been strong for too long.
We have feelings like women,
and should be able to express it,
No matter what.
But men don't share their emotions,
Because,
Their pride would be tarnished,
If they cried for,
A lost love,
A broken heart,
Or stress.
Men's emotions are bottled,
and are waiting to explode.

Edward Black

*Fairmont Junior High School
Emily Morgan – Teacher*

Playing, throwing, and talking like a girl. All insults, right? When someone is told they play like a girl, feelings and pride are hurt. We, as a new generation, can fix this harmful connotation. If we change our attitude towards gender differences, perhaps what used to be an insult can actually become a compliment. "Playing like a girl" has always been negatively used, but our new generation can change it to a pleasing compliment.

Lauren Broadhead

Lewis and Clark Middle School

Debbie Bennion – Teacher

Changing

Carefully changing the world

Hoping for a better future

Against sexual and domestic violence

Never giving in to the pain

Gaining not money or fame but hope and joy

Everyone can help succeed in change

Wyatt Browning

Meadows Valley Middle School

Devon Barker-Hicks – Teacher

Change

Why do people judge others by their genders? Why do people hurt each other? Does anyone really know why we judge or harm each other? Most people don't truly know what it feels like to be the one being hurt. They truly don't know what it feels like to be judged for things they can't change. Judging people because of their gender only hurts them more. Change is needed.

Wyatt Browning

*Meadows Valley Middle School
Devon Barker-Hicks – Teacher*

the best compliment
out there.
A girl is strong.
A girl is fierce.
She's independent,
she doesn't need anyone
to tell her what to do.
Most importantly,
She's beautiful.
She's perfect just the way
she is.

They think they hurt me,
knock me down.
I feed off of the words.
I build stronger from them.
Saying I'm
like a girl
Makes me better,
because no words
describe
how amazing a girl is.

Madelyn Bunn

Vallivue Middle School

Amy Meiser – Teacher

Loving myself.
The hardest thing
I ever have to do.
I'm never good enough
Compared to everyone else.
Others though,
They see me differently.
In my mistakes
they see my potential,
while I am considering
Giving up.

My flaws,
My judgment.
Both are too hard.
I do realize,
Deep within.
I'm perfectly
Perfect
The way I am,
Because I'm me.
And no one,
On this whole planet,
Can ever replace me.

Madelyn Bunn

Vallivue Middle School

Amy Meiser – Teacher

Her flaws stick out
when she stares
into the mirror.
She can't keep up
with the world's expectations
where hiding herself
to fit in
is accepted.
As time passes,
she begins to see a girl,
who was blind,
who recognizes
the ignorance
of the world itself.

Madelyn Bunn

*Vallivue Middle School
Amy Meiser – Teacher*

She knows she's beautiful
without a doubt.
She's outgrown society,
and nothing
can hurt her
anymore.
She realizes
loving herself,
most important
of all,
will never
let her down.

How to Treat People

Are boys really made of Snips and Snails
What's the deal with a Puppy-Dog's Tails?

Are girls really made of Sugar and Spice?
No person can be Everything Nice!

Is this something society's trying to force on us?

Mankind is complicated; you can't just say half of
the world's population behaves this way or that!

You have to treat someone as who
they are, not as a Boy or a Girl.

Ethan Carnahan

*Fairmont Junior High School
Emily Morgan – Teacher*

She who is told

“Women belong in the kitchen”

Is the girl who hates cooking.

She who is told

“Women must clean”

Fails to keep her room clean.

She is the girl who shall not be limited to things girls are expected to do.

She shall go far and not be limited to your expectations of women.

She who is told

“She will go far.”

Will.

Abbigayle Christison

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

I am a Girl

Gender roles playing in my head
Gender roles a play in my head.
What I can do.
What I cannot.
Is this a question?
Or a statement?
"You hit like a girl"
I am a girl.
That if you're a girl
You are judged for any interest you have
The real you no longer exists.
Locked away with fake smiles and faded eyes.
We all play a role
Doesn't have to be a gender role.

Jasmine Croyle

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany Van Arsdel – Teacher

A Person Made of Flaws

My flaws don't break me.
They don't tear me apart,
don't rip me to pieces,
don't leave me feeling raw,
or exposed,
or disheartened.

Instead, they build me.

They create my bursts of anger,
my cold glares and hurting heart.
But they also create my kindness.

They make my large smile,
my loud laugh and bitten fingernails,
crooked teeth and squinted eyes.

My flaws are things that show who I am.

My flaws create me.

Ari Dengler

*South Junior High School
Amber Strickler – Teacher*

I Love Myself

I am not perfect.
Just like everyone else on this universe,
I have my insecurities,
my weaknesses.
But amidst all my flaws,
I still love myself.
Through the hurt and pain, through the hot tears and cold gestures.
Through the joy and love and bellows of laughter.
I love myself.
It doesn't matter whether I'm short or tall,
Fat or skinny.
Light skinned or dark skinned,
Proud or ashamed.
No matter what, I love myself.

Myla Dengler

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

Perfect Imperfection

She
doesn't realized her piece is needed in the puzzle
to complete the picture.
Though it's anything but smooth curves on her puzzle edges,
Her piece somehow fits into her neighbors'
She
doesn't realize how incomplete everything seems when she's missing.
How everything seems...
empty-
when she's gone.
She
doesn't realize that even her flaws are needed
to help complete the perfectly imperfect puzzle.
She doesn't realize how much she matters.

Myla Dengler

*South Junior High School
Amber Strickler – Teacher*

Raise Your Voice

When you raise your voice, some people don't listen.

Raise it louder. Make yourself heard.

Your opinion is important, too.

It might not be "popular", but
If that's what you're worrying about,

Forget it.

It's easy.

Speak for yourself.

Be loud

Be heard.

Be strong.

Be persistent.

Be human.

Allyssa Dillon

Fairmont Junior High School

Adam Phillips – Teacher

Gender Equity Haiku

I'm equal to you
Neither of us are greater
Different but equal

Michael Duckett

*Fairmont Junior High School
Emily Morgan--Teacher*

How a Girl Plays

"She plays like a girl"

A demeaning phrase

But not today.

We will show them what a girl really plays like

A girl

Runs fast,

Plays hard,

Shoots straight,

Reaches her goals,

And

Does her best.

She is loyal to the game

She doesn't play for popularity,

You use it for ammo

But it is really not

So go ahead say it,

"She plays like a girl"

Katelyn Dummermuth

Vallivue Middle School

Amy Meiser – Teacher

I Choose Me

I hear the people
surrounding me
telling me
convincing me
that I'm not good enough
I choose
to be
my own person
not to follow
the majority of
society
It's my choice
to be me
and that's one thing
that will
never change.

Kelsee Eardley

Vallivue Middle School

Amy Meiser – Teacher

Which Pronoun?

I wonder why
Pronouns come in only two genders
When people fall along a continuum
When you are between genders
Neither pronoun feels right
I don't like being called 'She'
And I don't like being called 'He'
For now, the only pronoun that fits is 'Me'

Isabelle Early

*South Junior High School
Amber Strickler – Teacher*

Us

Make a difference in the world

Everyone can do it

We can make a difference

Each of us can help

You can stop discrimination

Our world picked us

Undo the bad

Brittany Eldred

Meadows Valley Middle School

Devon Barker-Hicks – Teacher

Pink

Known for having dolls and his love of pink,
Made fun of because he didn't play ball and didn't stink.
He usually ignored them because isn't ignorance bliss?
But how happy can you be when you're always last on teams' lists?
Never offered a helping hand,
Never given a chance,
It could all change,
If we just try to see beauty and understand.

Erin Farmer

*South Junior High School
Tyler Bevis – Teacher*

Love Yourself

Being who you are is no longer a bad thing. In fact it can be one of your best traits.

We all hide behind a wall of fear of people knowing who we really are.

But I say no longer do we need to hide our true identity.

Maybe we all need to let our wall down and show everyone who you really are.

Skyler Farmer

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

This Is Me

Dancing is my passion
And music makes my world go round.
Give me a good beat
And watch me stun the crowd.

I'm not a perfect girl,
I have many flaws,
But I was once told
"Our flaws are what make us perfect"
In this crazy little world.

Just a small girl I am
In this big huge universe
But give me a chance
And watch me climb the highest
Of the mountains.

Mariah Fuentes

*Burley Junior High School
Mindy Haws – Teacher*

Destroy Stereotypes

Models can't be overweight.

Guys can't wear makeup.

Love is only for straight people.

What if it's different?

It's okay to be you.

It's okay to dress how you want.

It's okay to like what you want.

Love yourself for who you are.

Don't let society tell you what's right.

It only counts when you say "This is okay."

Alyssa Furman

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

Raise up my Voice

Can't you hear them
Calling silently
Can't you hear the silent calling
The call of those barely seen
Can't you hear the silent war
The screams aren't no more
Can't you hear the clumsy ninja
And see them more than ghosts alone
Can't you hear the inner child crying
And let them know they're not alone
Can you hear my battle cry,
The cry for voices that can't be heard.

Anna Gamel

Fairmont Junior High School

Adam Phillips – Teacher

The World Needs You!

Without you, the world would be sad.

Without you, the world would be short thousands of people.

When we are short thousands of people,

The world would be empty of joy.

If the world is empty of joy,

The world would be like there is no life left on it.

Remember the world is rooting for you.

You can make it!

Angela Gepford

Riverglen Junior High School

Jeanette Griggs--Teacher

Me

Why won't the world

Let me be me

I love to read

I like to play basketball

Why won't the world

Let me be me

I like to cook

I like to sew

Why won't the world

Let me be me

I like to play volleyball

I like to play with Legos

Why won't the world

Let me be me

Clara Gerratt

Burley Junior High School

Mindy Haws – Teacher

As a child I remember walking through stores looking at the girl and boy toys. I felt like I wasn't allowed to play with the other toys because I wasn't a boy, but I was confused by dolls and frilly dresses and how to play with them. For the last ten years of my life I've pretended to enjoy playing with girl toys to fit in.

Tristen Green

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany Van Arsdel – Teacher

Born a Doll

The girl was born a doll.
She was intelligent,
with words spilling out of every edge of her.
But since she was young,
she was told to play dumb
and give up her right arm to anyone who could take care of her.
The limbs she lost
never caught her off guard.
Because she was taught to bat her eyes
and twirl her hair even if she was dying on the inside.

Seung Grizmala

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

Personality

Many have a different type of personality

Weird, funny, shy, you can name it

Personality is what makes us unique, makes us different

From others. No one should feel like they would need to change

Themselves just to impress one another or a guy

People should like you for who you are and

If they don't then it's their loss.

Destini Guerrero

Fairmont Junior High School

Adam Phillips – Teacher

Compliments

Hey throw the ball over here,
Alright man it is coming near,
Wow, you throw like a girl,
Hey, thanks for the compliment.

Graden Guest

*Meadows Valley Middle School
Devon Barker-Hicks – Teacher*

Kayak like my teacher
Always try like a girl
You know they are great
Always work like a girl
Kayak like a girl

Like a girl is the best way
In and out of holes they play
Kayak like a girl
Every stroke so swift and smooth

Always paddle like a girl

Girls know their way around
Interesting ways they float and fly
Rolling over in their boat
Losing never when they float

Graden Guest

Meadows Valley Middle School

Devon Barker-Hicks – Teacher

Many have tried to stop her
All have failed
Loving school enough to give her life
And saving others from this hardship
Loves physics
Always working to change the world

Graden Guest

*Meadows Valley Middle School
Devon Barker-Hicks – Teacher*

We Can

The world can change
I know that much
Parents tell us that we can't understand
Adults tell us we have no business here
But no matter what they tell us
We all have one thing they don't
We have a fresh mind.
The world needs to be thought out differently
We are a new mind
And we can change the world.

Ben Hansen

Burley Junior High School

Mindy Haws – Teacher

I am

I am not the coolest girl in school, I am not a girly girl,
I don't spend time on social media,
I don't like to do my nails or go shopping,
Instead I just walk around school,
Not the kind of girl you would notice,
I spend time playing sports,
I'm just a girl who wants to be herself and not be judged for it

Natalie Hepworth

Burley Junior High School

Mindy Haws – Teacher

Being superior does nothing,
Stereotyping puts you in a little small box crushing our possibilities of
going beyond you.
Beyond your sexuality.
Beyond your color.
Beyond the boundaries that make you different.
Instead of you being the one to limit yourself, celebrate those
differences and go BEYOND.

Alondra Hernandez

Fairmont Junior High School

Adam Phillips – Teacher

Society

Blue, green, red
You girls can't wear that
Pink, purple, yellow
You boys can't wear that

Society tells us
What we need to know
What we need to do

And to be an individual is risky
To do something special is a challenge
But it must be done
To make you, you

Tessa Herrmann
South Junior High School
Cotton Ward – Teacher

Stereotype

Why can't you be like her?

With her hair tied up

Makeup'd and smiling,

In a dress and heels,

Why can't you be like her?

Why can't you be like him?

Tall and strong

Star of the football team,

A ladies' man,

Why can't you be like him?

Why can't I be me?

Happy in my own skin,

Smiling and laughing,

Not being forced into a stereotype,

Why can't I be like me?

Emina Hodzic

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

Stereotypes

Boys can cry

Girls can play sports

Boys can wear makeup

And care about how they look

And do their hair

And do whatever they want

You can do whatever it is you aspire

Regardless of gender

Boy

Girl

Non-Binary

You can be yourself

Abby Johnson

Fairmont Junior High School

Emily Morgan – Teacher

Being Me

I'm not always in style
I'm quiet and anti-social
I have a quirky personality
I mess up and embarrass myself
They think I'm weird
They may not like me
But it's okay that I'm not perfect
I'm fine just being me

Annika Johnson

*Burley Junior High School
Mindy Haws – Teacher*

Her

Her crazy hair
Her gawky form
Her mismatched clothes
Her worn-out shoes
They stare and point
They laugh and tease
But she doesn't care
Because all she sees
Is her beautiful smile
Her willing spirit
Her strong mind
Her sense of humor
Her awesome personality
That's what's important
It's what makes her
And that's what she loves

Annika Johnson

Burley Junior High School

Mindy Haws_ Teacher

Being a Girl

Everybody thinks because I'm a girl I can't play soccer as well.

Everybody thinks because I'm a girl I couldn't win a race worth my life.

Everybody thinks because I'm a girl I can't play in the big leagues.

They're wrong.

I can play soccer as well as all the guys.

I can run a race with the guys and win.

I can play in the big leagues because I'm a girl.

Megumi Jordan

Fairmont Junior High School

Adam Phillips – Teacher

Barbie Doll

They see a picture of someone I'm not.

They don't see the real me.

I was told I don't fit society.

but I'm NOT me.

I'm a plastic Barbie.

Society has made us ashamed of who we are.

We show more to look like everyone else.

All to fit into society, but we are considered plastic.

We're plastics, because we recycled the real person

we are what society tells us.

A plastic Barbie doll.

Isabel Juarez

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

When Gender Didn't Matter

Him and Her,
He and She,
Us and Them.

These words have discriminated people for centuries.

Two races,
Two religions,
Two genders
Two "different" people.

While countries were going through war on ethnicity and skin color,
there was a fight against our Family,

Friends,
And loved ones.

Millions of years ago,
When everyone had a job,
When technology was a rock or a twig,
back then,
was when gender didn't matter.

Noah Kowatsch

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany Van Arsdel – Teacher

Society's Definition

Why do I pretend to be someone I'm not?
It's like I'm living a lie and about to be caught.
I try to be handsome,
And football's biggest fan,
I've got to be tough to be a real man.
Don't show emotion.
Work out, and get big.
Because I want to be the kid with all the friends,
I lose myself and become my peers,
All driven by the greatest of fears.

Tyler Kramer

South Junior High School

Tyler Bevis – Teacher

On the Inside

"Hey leave him alone," one said

"Why? He doesn't care," said another

On the inside I feel *Why me? Why me?*

I have feelings, too. I cry when the dog dies.

I'm a guy and have an inside

Dude, you don't play sports? Really? You play chess?

On the inside I feel *Why me? Why me?*

Yes, I may not hunt, or like the sight of blood

But I'm still a guy

Don't judge

Sam Kunzler

Burley Middle School

Mindy Haws – Teacher

The Generation to Prove

She must cook, clean, and look pretty doing it.

She must be smart, but not smarter than him.

He must be tall, buff, nice, and smart.

He must be sympathetic, except he can't ever cry.

These stereotypes define us, and when we don't fit them we think
there's something wrong
with us.

But there isn't.

It's okay to be different.

We're the generation to prove that.

Alexa Lilley

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

Loving Yourself

Loving yourself

Expressing yourself

Express who you are

Express what you like

Your personality matters

Don't try to be what society wants

Fit into what you want

Cause in the end

It's just a short time

Before the cool kids become losers

When you feel like falling

Grab a hold of something that gives you hope

Never give up

Love yourself

Jacob Lolley

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

“Sit like a lady,” my mom whispers, as she taps my shoulder. How come I need to sit like a lady? Sometimes your head just feels so heavy and you just can’t sit straight. Sometimes you just want to slouch. But just on the other side of her my brother is slouching and half off his chair. I shouldn’t need to sit any different. Sitting up straight has nothing to do with being a girl.

Libby Loomis

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany Van Arsdel – Teacher

Reality

Women aren't weak they're stronger than you think,
women can work hard and lift heavy things,
but that doesn't make them less of a woman,
women can have muscles and it doesn't mean they want to be a man.

Men have feelings, they can be more sensible than you think,
men can cook and clean, but it doesn't make them less of a man.
men can do things women do, but they're still men.

Israel Lopez-Nava

*Fairmont Junior High School
Emily Morgan – Teacher*

Magazines

Magazine after magazine,
They are only skin and bone.

They want us to look a certain
way, be someone we are not.

Staring at the mirror,
hour after hour I'm not,
likes those girls.

Hating myself for years,
being brainwashed to be,
someone else.

Magazine after magazine,
they are only skin and bones,
I am not like them but
I love myself anyways.

Rachel Lynn

*South Junior High School
Cotton Ward – Teacher*

Youth in the Jungle

Youthism, childhood; adulthood

You criticize young people for not having knowledge

We are inexperienced and are still learning.

Our world is like a jungle,

filled with mysterious things, places, and people.

Us innocent and small, are different and innocent.

Teach us, guide us, and don't lie to us.

Don't fire us up and make us want to run.

Teach us right and we won't run wild in this jungle when
we're ready to be released.

Aaliyah Martin

Fairmont Junior High School

Emily Morgan – Teacher

Defining Myself

Accepting my flaws though I don't always like them
Realizing people who only see my face will never truly know me
Knowing that I do possess beauty
Standing by my beliefs
Loving the scars that made me who I am
Remembering that the only person who defines me is me

Claire Martin

*South Junior High School
Amber Strickler – Teacher*

A Smile

A smile
Hiding sadness
Hiding sorrow
How can I love myself
When I'm hated
I'm told
"You're ugly,
Fat,"
Things taken to heart
A smile
Hiding sadness
Hiding burden
Set on me by my "friends"

A smile
With teeth like knives
Lips like death
Eating away at who I am
"You're ugly,"
Just smile
Walk away
Am I supposed to love
myself
When around me
They long to bury me
A smile
Hiding me

Rachael Metzgar

*Anser Charter School
Shannon Twenter – Teacher*

Play Like a Girl

The stereotype of saying that someone plays like a girl is a common and misused stereotype. To a lot of people, this may seem offensive, but as a girl I have learned to take it as a compliment. They are not wrong when they say that I play like a girl because I am one. But I'm a girl who "plays" aggressively with determination and grit, which is the most important thing to me.

Brenna Murphy

*Sawtooth Middle School
Roger White – Teacher*

Be Yourself

Beauty is inside you.
Encourage yourself.

You are you.
Open your mind.
Unleash the happiness.
Release the real you.
Start over again.
Endure yourself.
Love yourself.
Free yourself.

Camille Ocampo

*Fairmont Junior High School
Adam Phillips--Teacher*

Changes or Choices

You don't choose who you are,

You just come that way.

The thing is, you can *change* yourself,

Become who you want to be.

I am a boy who likes to be me,

But sometimes I have to change my appearance just to be seen.

You are who you are, don't ever change.

It's your life.

Be who you are,

Take control of your life and be a star.

Don't listen to them.

Seamus O'Connell

Naomi Goldberg

Community School

It's Our Turn

Why push us around
You've had your turn
You work us like a hound
Do you know how much it burns?
How come you make all the choices?
I want a say, too
All we hear are your obnoxious voices
Being your "property" I think not, "boo"
We have the power too you know
I want a chance to change the world
And you say I can't just because I'm a girl

Madison Oparnico

Fairmont Junior High School

Andrew Phillips – Teacher

Equality

Equality means we are together.

Moving together, working together, helping together.

Equality establishes teamwork.

Grouping together, planning together, building together.

Equality we need to grasp.

Holding tight, never letting go.

Adam Park

Vallivue Middle School

Amy Meiser – Teacher

Invisible

A misfit.

A person unpopular and spurned.

A shadow in the midst of other shadows.

An unseen.

A wisp of nothingness.

A ghost.

A veiled, obscured individual.

A no one.

Adam Park

Vallivue Middle School

Amy Meiser – Teacher

Defy

makeup, high heels, short skirts
relationships and drama
click clack of high heels on hard floors
echoes of insults on bare walls

sweatshirts and converse and black jeans
acting, music and friends
the thump of my bare feet on pavement
melodies in my every corner, filling my soul

defying, flying high above normal
defy, never cry, different is beautiful

Carli Pickett

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

Canvas

Painting a white canvas
Bland grey colors
Strokes precise and perfect
Always the same
For it is an unspoken "Law"
Staring around
Everything is the same
Monotone of strokes
But it's repetitive
And you are born different
You grab bright colors
Buckets filled to the brim
Brush forgotten
You tip the buckets
Puddles and splotches
A flurry of colors
By standing out
You have become an original
An original beauty

Michelle Quinn

South Junior High School

Amy Strickler – Teacher

Play

I stand here proud and tall.

I play just as hard as them all.

I am still insulted

Hurt

I am told I cannot be like the boys

I cannot play as hard

I am weaker

Yes, I may be built differently

I will not "sit this one out"

Nothing gets in my way

I will do what I love

Even if it means being one of the boys

Tapanga Raines

Fairmont Junior High School

Adam Phillips – Teacher

Throw Like a Girl

Mo'ne Davis
said, "I don't win games.
My team does."

She was the best player
in the 2015
Little League World Series.

Ariana Rodriguez

*South Junior High School
Cotton Ward – Teacher*

Reflection

her reflection
foundation, eyeliner, mascara
just to cover up the flaws
her reflection
blush, concealer, lipstick
just to cover up her flaws
her perfections
all covered up
there is no such thing as flaws
only perfections and differences
her reflection
shows perfections
her reflection
shows her differences
her reflection has no flaws

Krystianna Rogers

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

Tomboy

I'm the girl who doesn't like

Dresses

Makeup

Shoes/heels

Romance

I'm the girl who likes

Sports

Cars

Mechanics

Dark Clothes

But my parents force me to be

What I'm *not*

It *hurts*

A lot.

To be what I'm not

I hope that one day

I will finally get to be myself

Luis Ruiz-Gomez

South Junior High School

Amber Strickler – Teacher

Gender Stereotypes

Often times we lump others into groups that “define” them, even if it isn’t accurate. Take girls versus boys for example. Seems harmless enough until you realize it’s being used as an insult. Playing like a girl doesn’t mean you’re bad. Just because you’re a guy doesn’t mean you’re good at athletics. These stereotypes bind us, but if we break free of them, we can be ourselves, no matter what others believe we should be.

Jeremy Schellenberg

Sawtooth Middle School

Roger White – Teacher

Alienated

I wish to see men and women being able to do something
masculine and feminine without being alienated; let us do what
makes us happy

If we are a man and want to be a ballerina let us do so

If we are a woman and want to play football let us do so

We are all human; Gender does not matter

Zadrian Silvers

Fairmont Junior High School

Adam Phillips – Teacher

She is judged by her fake beauty
created from powders and brushes
Her worth isn't from her wits
but her waistline
She dreams of equality
and the appreciation of inner beauty
She hopes for a second
that she can love herself
and that other people can too

Gabrielle Souza

Saint Mark's Middle School

Nicole Schuette – Teacher

Only As Perfect As You Want to Be

It's not what they want
It's what you want.
No matter your gender identity
Or fitting into social norms
Who you want to be
Is your true form.
Just like a snowflake,
You are unique
No copy alive.
You are only what
You want to be.
Your best-friend,
Your parents,
Your siblings,
Your teachers,
They all know
What it's like
To be
Not as perfect
As everyone wants.

Krysantha Soward

*South Junior High School
Amber Strickler – Teacher*

Loving yourself isn't easy
Though some make it breezy.
It's those moments when you look into the mirror and say,
"I love myself today."
It's times that are rough,
and make you feel not enough.
You hold your head high,
and accept yourself for getting by.
Love yourself,
then others.
Smother others with lots of love,
because that's our deed given from above.
Don't conceal your love for you,
your love for you is true.

Lindsey Spero

Fairmont Junior High School

Emily Morgan – Teacher

Love Yourself the Way You Are

Being a girl in this world is hard,
You're supposed to live up to society's expectations
In reality no one is perfect no matter how hard you try,
I'm not going to wear makeup to make myself "prettier"
I'm not going to try to be something I'm not.

I'm going to wear what I want,
I'm going to love myself the way I am,
I'm not changing for anyone but myself

Hailie Strickland

Fairmont Junior High School

Nicole Jones – Teacher

Difference

It's the one thing that
separates us
makes us different
the thing that makes us, us
it is one of the most obvious things
about someone
and sadly people are often
too quick to judge others, a shame
because everyone has two sides
but strangers
only get to see one
the side without compassion
and the one without empathy

Brett Taggart

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany Van Arsdel – Teacher

Counter Tenor

"Why is your voice so high?"

Tape the recording

Submit the audition

Welcome to Juilliard

Seven days a week

Eight hours a week

Voice reaches higher

Welcome to France

Open the curtain

Breathe

Sing

They stand for the countertenor

They applaud when I bow

They know my name

That's why my voice is so high

Julia Tan

South Junior High School

Cotton Ward – Teacher

The Wall Called Society

His father didn't approve,

"Be a man," he said.

Her mother supported her wholly,

"You can be anything you want," she said.

He doesn't enjoy football, wrestling, or guns.

He yearns to be an actor, a poet, or artist.

She wants to be a success,

a lawyer, a doctor, or business woman.

But there is a brick wall, a solid heap,

blocking their paths.

And out of that obstacle came a low, bellowing voice,

"NO."

Carson Thiel

Fairmont Junior High School

Emily Morgan – Teacher

Love Yourself.

You need to love yourself,
in the end no one will love you,
besides you.

The only person that can change things,
is you.

The strongest person,
is you.

It only matters that you,
love yourself.

It only matters that you,
stay strong.

The only important person's opinion,
is yours.

Jazlin Tovar

*Fairmont Junior High School
Nicole Jones – Teacher*

Too young to be able to care
Too young for the musty hand of the past generation to come off
Too young to have an impact,
Too young to have a voice.
Don't worry, it'll pass,
Soon enough you'll be pressing the mute button to silence the
voices of the young.
They'll sit in silence while you whisper
Too young, too young.

Mia Trebbi

*Hillside Junior High School
Amber Tetrick – Teacher*

Only One

People say I'm odd
I really don't disagree,
I am a minority.
I love to be nerdy.
I love to be geeky.
People say I'm odd
They say odd things.
They say you're weird.
They say you're different.
That's just it,
I am different.
There is only one,
One me.

Cole Vanderlaan

*Fairmont Junior High School
Adam Phillips – Teacher*

My Friend

When she was in first grade the girls hated her.
They said she was too fast to play with them
She ignored the negative comments she heard daily.
She bravely ignored the unwritten rules and walked to the fields.
She played football even though the boys ignored her.
After many interceptions they found she could play.
Ever since her choice to change her situation,
She hasn't looked back once.

Sarah Vollmer

Moscow Middle School

Tiffany Van Arsdel – Teacher

Play like A Girl

I began playing soccer at lunch break in seventh grade. At first, it was hard because the ball didn't get passed to me since I was a girl. Boys think that girls aren't good at sports and don't try hard with anything except looking pretty. Instead of leaving, I played every day and the boys thought I was good.

"I think that's awesome that you're the only girl out there," one teacher told me.

Hailey A.C. Ward

*Sawtooth Middle School
Roger White – Teacher*

Playing Like a Girl

It's the end of an era where "playing like a girl" means being subpar. But, it's NOT the beginning of an era where "playing like a boy" means it. Maybe from now on, being told that you play like the opposite gender is a compliment. So, hey, if someone tells you that you play like the opposite gender, say thanks, because everyone is special in their own way.

Jordan Weigt

*South Junior High School
Tyler Bevis – Teacher*

Nothing Will Change Unless

Everywhere
the people talk.
They continuously gossip about humanity's fault.
Their own faults.
Cruelty, Racism, Abuse, Murder, Starvation, Obesity,
Global Warming, Hatred, Terrorism . . .
The list of mishaps is eternal.
And that is because we are human,
but it doesn't have to be this way forever.
Unless someone starts asking, "What can I do to help?"
Because nothing will change unless you decided
to change from being ordinary to being a game changer.

Olivia Williamson

Vallivue Middle School

Amy Meiser – Teacher

Tearing It Down

They say that I'm an airhead, a Starbucks drinking blonde
They say I belong in the kitchen, because I can't possibly be smart
They tell me I'm weak, that I don't have the strength to fight back
But what they say is wrong, because I am not stupid, weak, or vain
So go ahead and tell me that women aren't equal to men
I will tear down these gender stereotypes with my freshly manicured hands

Ciera Woody

*North Junior High School
Donna Hale – Teacher*

They Were Wrong

They told me to be pretty
So I told them I was just fine with how I looked
they told me to be cheery
I told them I was angry, just because I could
They told me I was weak
I told them I was strong
They told me men were better
That they were the superior gender
I told them they were wrong

Ciera Woody

North Junior High School

Donna Hale – Teacher

Revolutions

Malala said it well, "We cannot succeed when half of us are held back." I, like many students at Lewis and Clark Middle School, are held back because we are shy. Some think we have no voice. When others raise theirs, they give me, and others, enough confidence to speak up, and be heard. They give us the ability to do what is right, and fight for what we believe. We get to revolutionize.

Christopher Zeik

Lewis and Clark Middle School

Debbie Bennion – Teacher

* Indicates Our Gender
Revolution Award Winner

Anser Charter School

Garden City

Rachael Metzgar

Burley Junior High School

Burley

Rebecca Anderson

Mariah Fuentes

Clara Gerratt

Ben Hansen

Natalie Hepworth

Annika Johnson

Sam Kunzler

Community School

Sun Valley

Seamus O'Connell

Fairmont Junior High School

Boise

David Aggrey

Sonia Aleman

Bailey Arendt

Sandra Avelar

Serena-Jo Bahmer

Edward Black

Ethan Carnahan

Allyssa Dillon*

Michael Duckett

Skyler Farmer

Alyssa Furman

Anna Gamel

Rylee Graves*

Destini Guerrero

Skyleigh Hall*

Alondra Hernandez

Cyla Irish*

Abby Johnson

Megumi Jordan

Isabel Juárez

H.L. Lay*

Alexa Lilley

Jacob Lolley

Israel Lopez-Nava

Aaliya Martin

Halima Mkoma*

Kyle Morgan*

Camille Ocampo

Madison Oparnico

Tapanga Raines

Zaydrian Silvers

Lindsey Spero

Hailie Strickland

Carson Thiel

Jazlin Tovar

Cole Vanderlaan

Emma Waddel*

Hillside Junior High School

Boise

Mia Trebbi

Lewis & Clark Middle School

Meridian

Katie Asdel

Lauren Broadhead

Christopher Zeik

Meadows Valley Middle School

New Meadows

Wyatt Browning

Brittany Eldred

Graden Guest

Moscow Middle School

Moscow

Peter Airheart

Jasmine Croyle

Gracie Foutch*

Tristen Green

Noah Kowatch

Libby Loomis

Rebecca Muse*

Brett Taggart

Sarah Vollmer

North Junior High School

Boise

Molly Elliot*

Ciera Woody

Riverglen Junior High School

Garden City

Angela Gepford

Saint Mark's Catholic School

Boise

Gabrielle Souza

Sawtooth Middle School

Meridian

Devonne Mayamay Busoy*

Brenna Murphy

Jeremy Schellenberg

Hailie A.C. Ward

South Junior High School

Boise

Saterah Argyle

Tristan Barber

Abbigayle Christison

Ari Dengler

Myla Dengler

Isabelle Early

Erin Farmer

Seung Grizmala

Tessa Herrmann

Emina Hodzic
Josephine Jensen
Tyler Kramer
Rachel Lynn
Claire Martin
Carli Pickett
Michelle Quinn
Ariana Rodríguez
Krystianna Rogers
Luis Ruiz-Gomez
Krysantha Soward
Julia Tan
Jordan Weigt

Vallivue Middle School

Caldwell

Madelyn Bunn
Katelyn Dummermuth
Kelsee Eardley
Adam Park
Olivia Williamson

West Junior High School

Boise

Layla Bagwell*

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

Are there unhealthy behaviors in your relationship?

- Calls or texts too much
- Ignores your opinion
- Has trust issues (constantly checking your emails, texts, or wanting to know where you are)
- Ignores your need to spend time with your friends and family or doesn't give you "alone" time
- Focuses on the relationship lasting forever
- Thinking you can change your partner
- Lots of relationship drama (the silent treatment, lying, cheating, jealousy)
- Other behaviors you are concerned about and not sure if they are unhealthy? Chances are if it doesn't feel right to you, it's not healthy.
- If you have recognized any of these behaviors, think about whether you should stay in this relationship.

Are there abusive behaviors in your relationship?

- Does not respect your decisions
- Keeps you away from friends or family
- Obsesses with knowing what you are doing
- Puts you down, humiliates or demeans you
- Pressures you to use alcohol or drugs or have sex
- Acts mean or gets angry quickly

The Reel of Life

I'm all alone swimming upstream not down.
But that's all right because it's my way.
I don't like the deep end, I hide in the shallows.
But I'm not really hiding,
Because someone is bound to find me.
If you don't like me, fine
I'll be someone else's catch of the day.
And I'll still be me.

Mark Stradley

*Melba Jr/Sr High School– 8th grade
Jeff Sessions – Teacher*

- You are fearful you will make your partner mad
- Follows you or shows up uninvited all the time
- Threatens suicide or threatens to hurt themselves, you, or someone you care about
- Hitting, slapping, shoving and other ways of physically hurting you
- Refuses to believe the relationship is over
- Treats you badly, promises to change, then never does
- Are there other behaviors you are miserable or concerned about and not sure if they are abusive? Chances are if it doesn't feel right to you, it's not healthy.

Where to get help

If someone is in immediate danger, call 911. If you or a friend might be in an abusive relationship, talk to a parent/caregiver, a school counselor, or another adult you trust, or a local domestic or sexual violence program. Or call a hotline:

National Dating Abuse Helpline

1-866-331-9474 or www.loveisrespect.org to chat online

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

National Sexual Assault Hotline

1-833-656-HOPE (4673) or www.rainn.org to chat online