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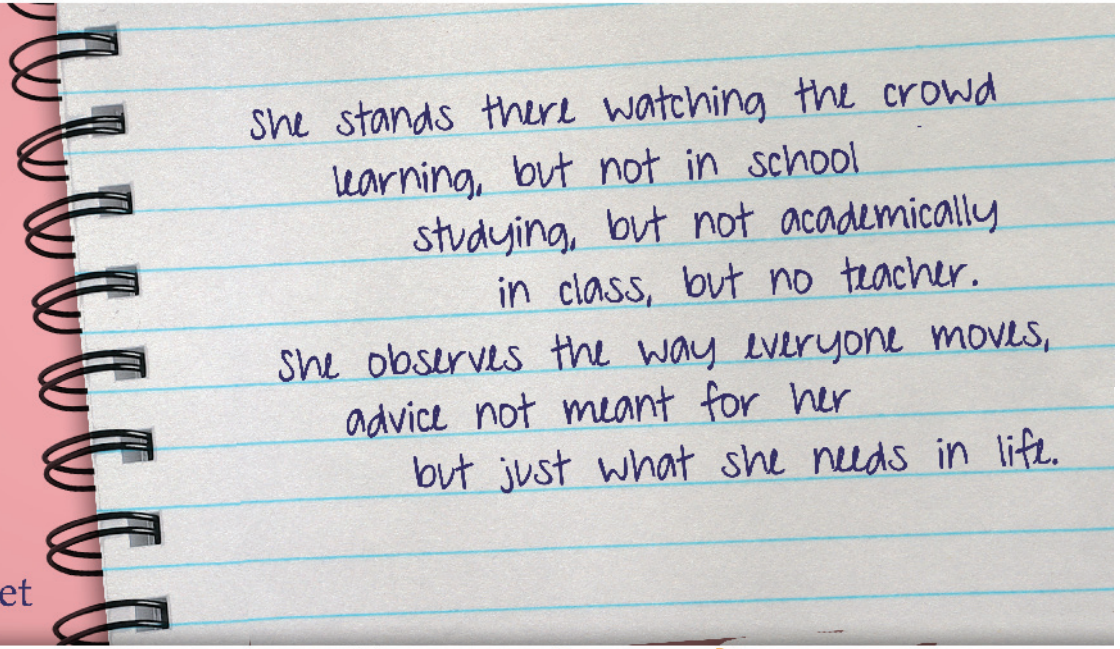
Untitled

Brittany, age 13

Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Magnet



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Y'all Don't Know

Shadonta, age 13

Jere Baxter Middle School

Y'all don't know what it's like
to have half your heart crumbling
like a crust of bread, your Momma crying
out loud for the women and men she lost
to death. You wonder why it repeats
like a broken record. Y'all don't know
what it's like to feel where I'm from.

You just don't know.

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I'm Freedom

Taz, age 14

Brick Church Middle School

I'm that butterfly out of its cocoon
I'm that troubled kid let out of his room
I'm that criminal out on bail
I'm that innocence freed from jail
I'm that man let out of his cell
I'm that great meal you think you can smell
I'm Freedom!

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Life as a Garden

Alexis, age 13

Cameron Middle School

My life likes its place.
The Venus flytrap shouted when I was born.
Throughout my life I hid like a tree
hides its roots; the roots are its scars.
I know myself better than my own sunflowers.
Why am I committed to something I didn't do?
I can do anything. I can achieve. Everyone can.
You've just got to let the flowers bloom.

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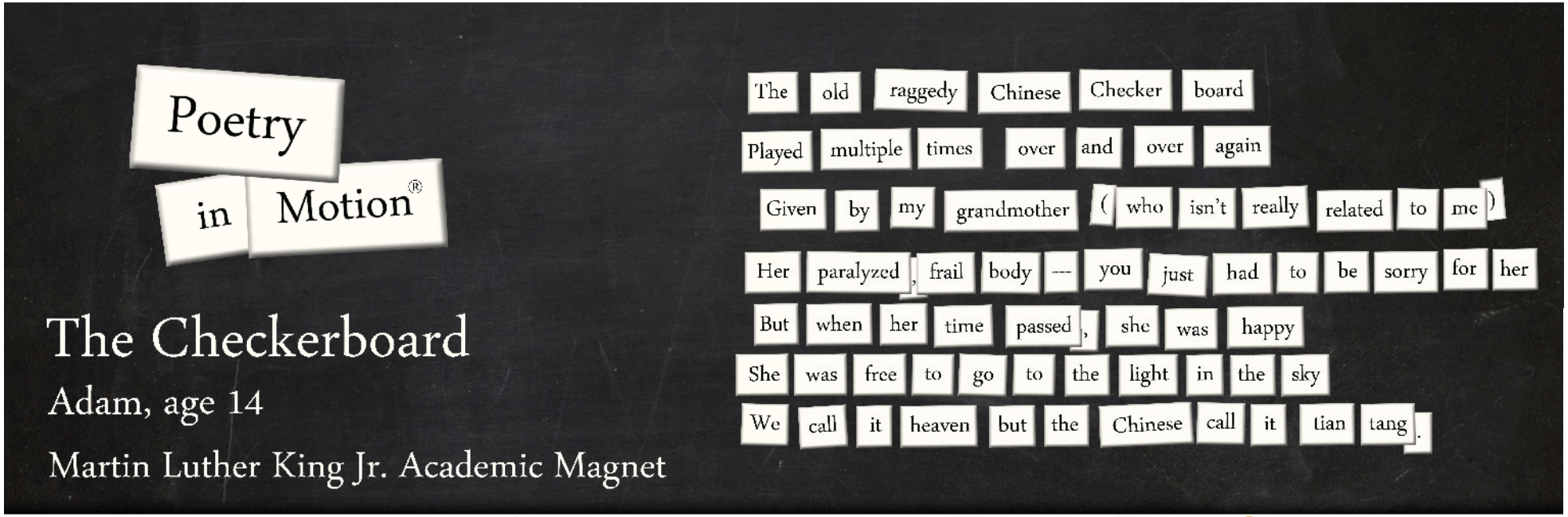

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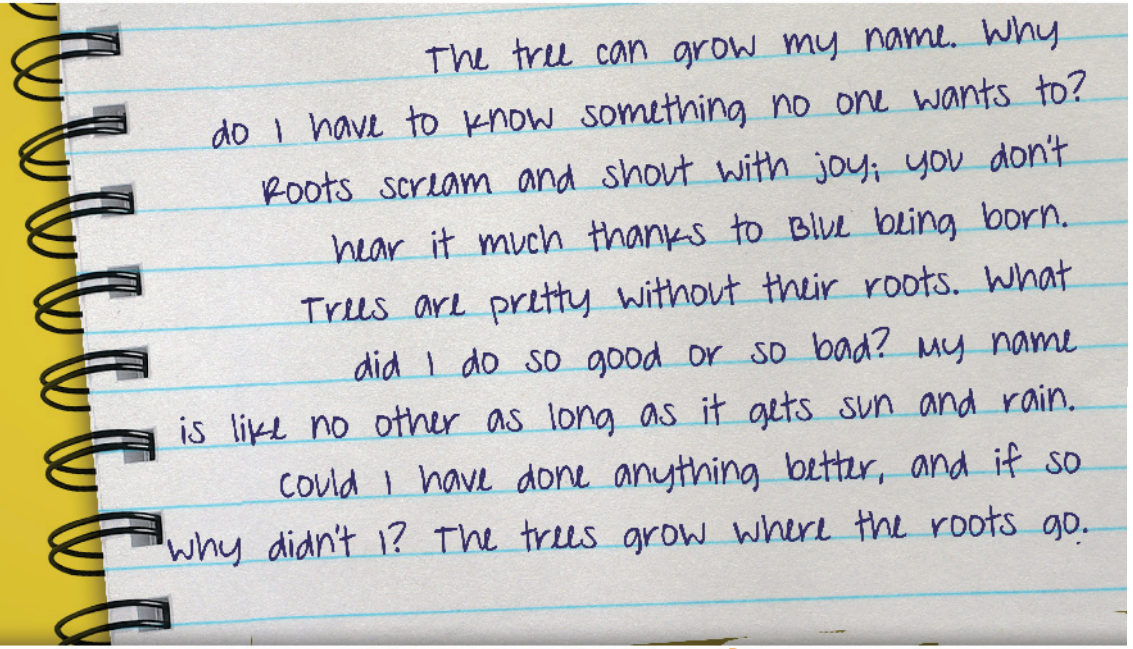
Questions for Taylor

Nica, age 14

Cameron Middle School



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Fading Away

Cassidy, age 13

Jere Baxter Middle School

Fading Away
is like your brand new Sharpie, inkless
no words to speak to people who need me
white page out the window and sharpie on the floor
faded, forgotten, and free from busy hands
now gone, I choke and convulse around my words violently
clutching my throat and chest I can't breathe
my breath, my air, escapes tight lungs
Why can't I find those never written words?
Will I become a Sharpie, inkless, forgotten, faded?
Do Not Be Faded. Speak Out.

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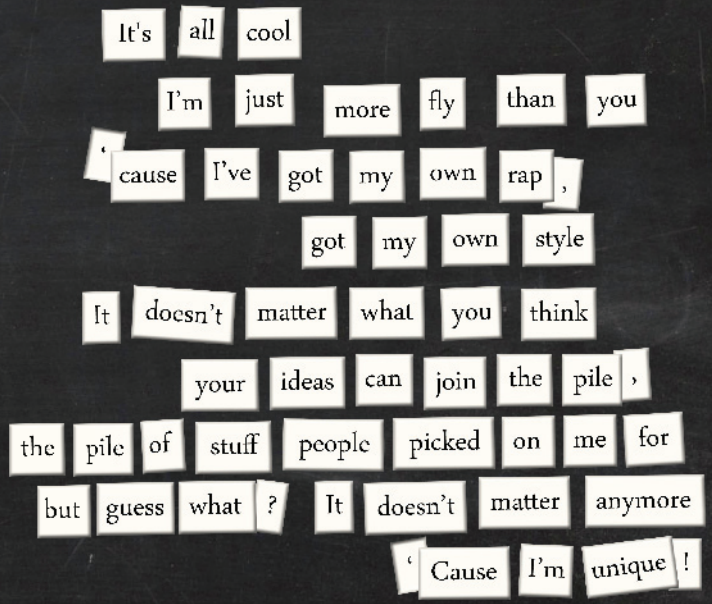
Unique

Peyton, grade 6

John Trotwood Moore Middle School



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Cliché

Rachel, age 16

Songwriting workshop at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum

I know this is ridiculous
So ridiculous in fact it can't be reality
I'll stop making a cliché out of this
As long as you don't make a cliché out of me
How can you be hated
If you're dumb and isolated?
When you find you're insecure
And it doesn't even matter anymore.
It's the same old game
Little worthy to be played
Maybe lessons here and there
But I'm going nowhere

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Another Door

Emma, age 12

Songwriting workshop at Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum

Always by myself, carrying a book
They're teasing, joking, being mean
But they should take another look
I've broken my shell, leapt out of place
Started a new day with a confident face
I'm not who you think I am
Or who I was before
Shy, timid, unusual
I'm through another door

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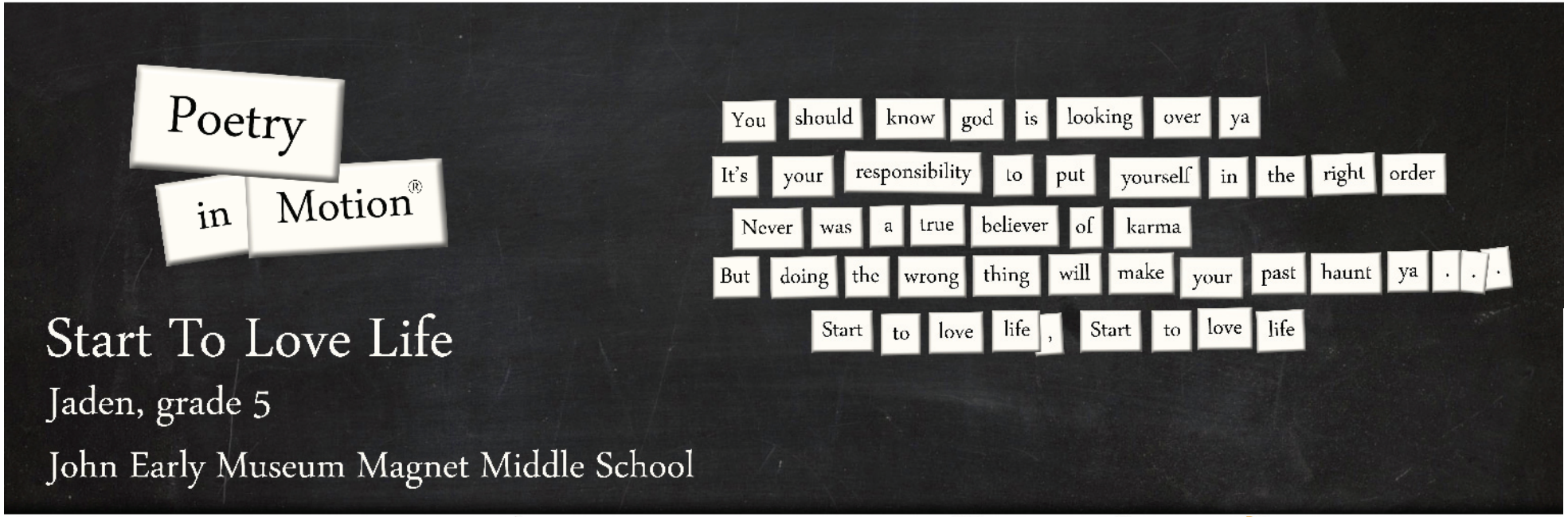

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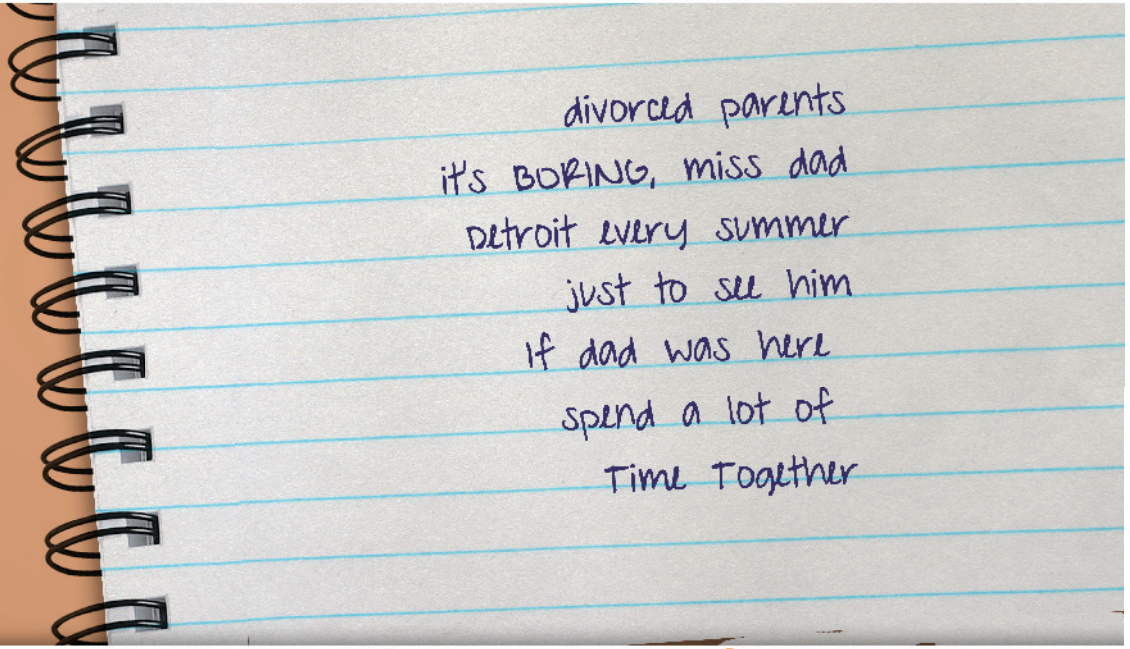
I Miss My Dad

Idris, age 13

Jere Baxter Middle School



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When Everything Breaks

Zoe, grade 8 & Lawson, grade 6
Isaiah T. Creswell Middle Arts Magnet School

The ocean is intoxicated
With everything we've ever hated
The constant crashing of the sea
Disperses itself itself inside of me
Forget about the silver lining
The night awaits, the perfect timing
We feel so alive alive... so alive

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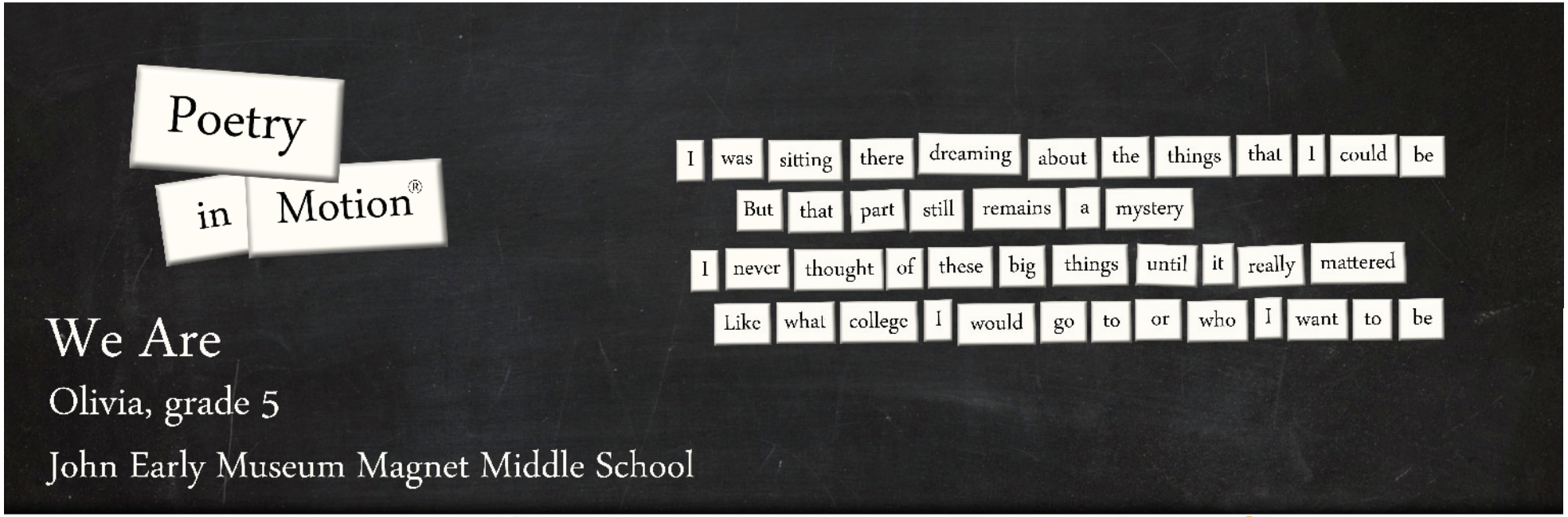

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All I Need Is You

Kailey, grade 6

John Trotwood Moore Middle School

You ever had a day
where just nothing goes right?
You ever had a day
that took out all your fight?
Where nothing turns out
quite like you want it to
but disappointment fades
when I turn to you
Your love pulls me through
'cause all I need is you

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Just Be Me!!

Kavarious, grade 6

Isaiah T. Creswell Middle Arts Magnet School

Cause I'm not him and he's not me
So don't compare me with some dude
you think I should be
Imma make you look at me differently
So watch me do my thing
and Imma spread my wings
Cause opinions are like everybody's got one
Even when there ain't asking

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