

POETRY IN MOTION®

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THE USUALS

Andrew, Age 13

Meigs Academic Magnet Middle School

Rainy rush to the McFerrin

#1 Express / #17 / 12 South via 10th

Making connections cut cross the city

The usuals: long nails lady

The man with bags spilling over two seats

Beats poundin' the back

While one way conversations drift down the aisle.

Psssh -- pressure released.

Freedom cracks open

At the end of a long day.

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Riding

I open the window and wind tussles my hair

A Kroger bag passes the windshield

I hope it never falls down

One mile to the comic book store.

RADIOLESS

Aidan, Age 17

Hume-Fogg High

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WHERE I'M GOING

Quincy Harris, Age 14
Hunters Lane High

Dedication and Determination

Helps me decide where I'm going

Mixed with hope and motivation

Makes my life something worth owning

So, to get it you got to earn it

Step by step, pushing through, and being hard-working

Gaining knowledge on the way

From people who are showing you how to achieve greatness

Because I won't ever stop learning

Myself...

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THE HEART

Eboni Croney, Age 17
Nashville School of the Arts

I'm going to the heart

To find out what makes it hurt

I want to go to find out what makes the heart shake

Why it's so easy to break

I'm going to see what the heart likes to hear

What is pleasing to its ear

When I go to the heart

Do you want to come with me?

I'm pretty sure you'll be surprised by what you see

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How did you look at me when I was a child?

Death, is just sleeping, closing your eyes for a while

I noticed you were leaving

but you being gone, I found it hard to believe it

Dad, where are you going? Are you going to a better place?

You always taught me to start and finish a race.

ANOTHER DESTINATION

Taleya Turner, Age 15
Hillwood High

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FUTURE TENSE

Lemuel Robertson
Youth Poet Laureate Finalist

I will explore Earth

From ocean to ocean, I'm flowing

Life is a race, I'm going

Dusting these haters, can't slow down

They want me six feet underground

Want me silently dying, no sound

But I'm going for the crown

I'm going hard with lyrical content

Neurologist from the future

Just dropped the knowledge.

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STOP THE BUS, I WANT TO GET OFF WITH YOU

Lagnajita Mukhopadhyay
Nashville Youth Poet Laureate

Yesterday is far away and tomorrow is lost.

Unknown faces and stranger humans,

The seat is colder than unsaid feelings.

Beyond the spaces lurk

A half formed man and full formed heart.

The driver never slows down.

He only stops to think.

I want to go some place where I know you'll be.

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5th grader curled on the bus

Looking out the window, but his eyes are the glass

Two teenagers

Snicker at an acne girl with a broken backpack strap.

Her baby face will turn hard after too many sinking suns.

His voice will turn

Harsh like those teenage boys.

Leaving a son who's only in 5th grade

With his eyes becoming glass

Thinking... where are you going?

WHERE IS HIS FATHER?

Cassidy Martin
Youth Poet Laureate Finalist

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