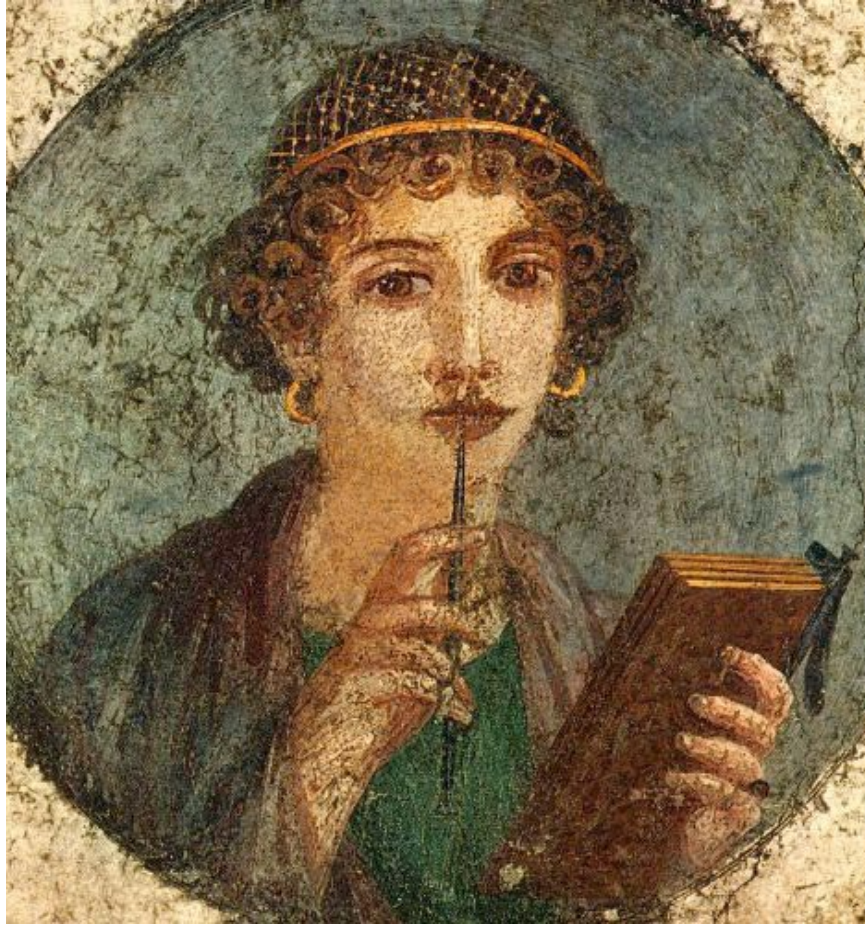


The Tenth Muse



*Science Park High School
Literary Magazine
Spring 2009*

The Tenth Muse

**“Be thou the tenth Muse, ten times more in worth
Than those old nine which rhymers invoke.”**

—Shakespeare

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Mr. Presuto

The Tenth Muse is dedicated to all of
Mr. Townsend’s students.

Florentine Reflections

by Mr. Townsend

The waning sun deserts the orphaned river

Grown progressively opaque with time.

The solemn bells of monasteries chime,

Calling the pious brothers to deliver

Benedictions, wafting heavenwards.

A couple strolls beside the Arno, past

The closed Uffizi, moving through the hordes

That survey street-side souvenirs en masse.

The Ponte Vecchio remains secure

Under the steady beat of foreign feet;

The crimson Duomo sparkles in the light

As Giotto's tower braves the summer's heat.

For these majestic monuments endure

Although obscured from cloistered David's sight.

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Dissolution

by Marian Calle

Disguised is ruin. Through beauty he will hide,

But charmed was I by him, "The Arsonist."

I brooded over what his name implied,

Afraid to fall next victim on his list.

I kept a distance, yet always behind

Was he, not one dissuaded in pursuit.

My pledge was (to his words) my heart decline;

He broke the walls I built; I fell subdued.

His pleasance false was! I grasped as the flames

Climbed up my body. I thought of his lies.

In beauty hid he; I lone feel the blame.

My life was over with classic demise.

It's wise to hold instinct above allure,

Lest flames consume a soul once held secure.

Dreaming a Lie

by Catarina Pereira

I've never seen such goodness in a heart;

I've never seen such mesmerizing eyes;

I've never seen such a work of precious art,

But when I see his face, I see his lies.

I've never heard such an inspiring word;

I've never heard such an impassioned sound;

I've never heard such things be so absurd,

But when I hear his oh sweet voice, I'm found.

I've never felt such fingertips on me;

I've never felt such butterflies inside;

I've never felt such a touch so carefree,

But when I feel him near, I rather hide.

Although he makes me want to shout and scream,

He has been nothing but another dream.

The Forsaken Parting

by Bhriana Smith

In the graveyard, I see the lonely tomb,

The only thing that proves she did exist.

Although I feel emotions such as gloom,

Lost in my thoughts I'm forced to reminisce.

I hear her sweet voice in the depth of night,

I feel her touch when the wind passes by.

She comforts me in weakness and in fright,

Her hands did dry the tears that I did cry.

My dearest grandmother was my best friend,

It is no lie that I do miss her so.

Though she journeyed through life and met her end,

I cannot find myself to let her go.

I understand goodbye is not your way,

Beyond the skies I shall meet you some day.

Just Live Your Life

by Eugenia Hermo

It is my fear that time will pass me by,

As quick as it was handed down to me,

I fear that I will have to say goodbye,

For I must live my life so full of glee.

It has been said that things can change a lot,

Although they might not have been all that great;

They might have changed my life around or not,

But it was meant to be about our fate.

Remember life does have its twists and turns,

And that it will never be all that fair,

For you we'll have to have our own concerns,

But at the end of time, they will all be bare.

Just live your life and make a happy dance,

For you will only have one life to prance.

Imagination

by Alana Aranjó

Deep in the land of pure imagination,
The creatures in your mind run unrestrained;
They fill your head with a divine sensation,
Without any reality left maintained.

Waking up to a sky with flying pigs;
Watching as the cow jumps over the moon;
Large bald men are seen sporting purple wigs,
All while the dish runs away with the spoon.

Cinderella rushes to the Grand Ball;
Cats and mice are the very best of friends;
Thinking is fun in spring, summer, or fall,
No telling where imagination ends.

Beneath the surface of reality,

Your mind is a delightful place to be.

Believe

by Ana Carreira

Flimsy dreams lie in their own silent sleep,

As visions of this dark day hide my eyes,

Like gloomy clouds concealing the bright skies,

Reason is locked like the secrets I keep.

Expecting to be woken by a beep,

So my young limbs now have the need to rise,

Awaiting moments of my deep surprise,

When my own faith decides to take a leap.

I have received a look at this large world.

Where sad or happy is just what I feel,

And friends exist among all forms of life,

As our society becomes unfurled,

Or broken by the secrets they reveal,

Time goes on so we can forget the strife.

Disguised Love

by Emilio Fiallos

He may have flaws that follow east to west,
That's simply just the way that he was made.
He wants the worst, yet he can have the best;
He loves that girl, but does not want her aid.
She is the sun, but he will screen his skin,
To free himself from her, to shield her face,
So darkness stays to hide his cunning grin,
Where he is free from her compelling grace.
She is a gem, but rocks he'd rather own,
For he does know the treasure of her love,
Not rich is he and stuck with that false stone,
Her love for him will make him rise above.

He wants these feelings to be all but true,

A change that he has yet to make anew.

Sweet Death

by Giselle Reinoso

When I appeared to you during the night,
Your face was overwhelmed with sudden fear;
Your feet did tremble at my very sight;
The looming figure wrapped in death was near.
You felt your body cool as I moved in;
Your silent pleas became delightful cries,
As bones so white replace where skin had been,
Your thoughts did fade as you stared in surprise.
Though you knew life was no longer a friend
Had you not been first to bid him farewell.
Was it not you who said, "Is this the end?"
Embracing the darkness under my spell.
Why not accept this bearing gift of mine,
For I reveal an afterlife divine.

Chains

by Ivelisse Tirado

Let freedom ring or so that's what they said;

Your spirit locked in chains, and yet you're free.

You turned your back after that man fell dead;

I do refuse to let you lie to me.

Simplicity in complicated form

Makes life more difficult than it may be.

By foot, by ear, by heart, which mine is torn;

You realize that there is more to see.

Extravagant and boastful, cocky sighs,

Thus break the chains beneath your tired feet;

Befall your timid, hungry lustful eyes

That liberate you from your own deceit.

By night or day, for all you've done, I'm here;

Deceit, betrayal, leaves dreams to disappear.

City Colors

by Christian Orozco

The sun gleams through the clear and cloudless sky,

Lighting the street like silhouettes of gold.

A car horn sounds so fine and loud nearby,

The colors of this sight are being told.

The city life is all so rich and full,

Of abstract people who shed their own light,

For black and white is nothing far from dull,

The colors stay through sunshine and through night.

And as the moon appears to us to greet,

The city people never go to sleep;

The city lights turn on like a new fleet,

The city life is one I'd like to keep.

And as I sit, perched on this balcony,

The city life does not want to keep me.

Mommy and Me

by Aladekemi Omoregie

When she first met the one who stole her heart,

She never knew that she could feel this way;

It was the dawning of a brand new start,

A love no one could ever take away.

She looked with pure delight and there it was,

A little child who gave her lots of love;

One who can't possibly have any flaws,

A perfect gift from heaven up above.

This wondrous child had love for her as well,

Most of the time the child did show it back;

Of this true love, she was under a spell,

A love that she now never wished to lack.

When looking at her now, anyone can see,

That this devoted child is truly me.

Nightmare Fright

by Diana Paiva

The darkness comes, no warning of attack;

The wind, it whispers nightmares in her head;

Tonight, the rose does turn to raven black;

She is alive, but hanging by a thread.

To whom it may concern, the end is near,

All thoughts of life and things that could have been.

Oh, don't you wish you could just disappear?

She holds all things she felt so deep within.

It's hopeless to remain where once she stood,

No use in dreaming, life just does not change;

Please put those thoughts behind you, if you could,

To find out truth would surely be so strange.

She seems so lost but it will be okay,

For every night there is a brighter day.

You Bring Me Pain

by Devi Nakrani

As you do pass, you see into these eyes,
Flash back to things that we once had before;
It must be so much easier for guys
To let tears drop to the pitiless floor.
That once red rose turned raven black is dead,
Yet you search in me for a fresh new start;
Others think that I have moved ahead,
But you know you still reside in my heart.
Show me how I could wipe away these tears,
Your dear love will no longer go to waste,
And no longer can this heart keep its fears,
Because my love for you my heart has faced.

I came to realize your love is true,

And want nothing more than to be with you.

Without You

by Jennifer Chabla

Please tell me how can I go on some more

When all my dreams are so hard to pursue?

I've stumbled on a rock and hit the floor;

I need your help, for that is very true.

Why can't you see the things you do to me?

Without you life is dull and colorless;

The birds no longer sing upon a tree,

These feelings are thus hard to so express.

Please tell me how I'll live without sweet you,

As you smile bright and yell my name aloud;

Of course, you tell me that we are now through,

But this didn't affect me for I was too proud.

These years you have so done me very wrong,

Yet two in one is how we so belong.

What I've Lost

by Jennifer Anandarajah

When all the tears that I can cry are gone,
And all my fears have taken shape and life,
When I no longer see the light of dawn,
My world is filled with sorrow and with strife.
The sun no longer shares with me its flame;
The moon has also turned its face away,
Both hide away as not to see my shame,
The day you left my world became so grey.
The pain of losing you may never fade;
Your dying words will echo in my ear;
The farewell on your deathbed that you bade,
Forever in my heart will I revere.

To lose you was a pain I can't deny;

But though you're gone, your love will never die.

The Thing Before

by Fatimah Tareen

At night, I watch the stars slowly lose light;

The horizons break free of all their pain.

Holding back my feelings from the sun's reign,

You find no truth in my voice so I write.

Living in a nightmare being a knight

How many wars do I force through my veins?

It seems as though your love has been so feigned,

Sometimes its darkness that makes you lose sight.

I've been holding on to you for too long;

All this time, I've been half way out the door.

It's true, I am not who I was before;

It's true, I have forgot where I belong.

But I will find who I am at the core,

Till then it's just Fatimah__underscore.

Lost Hope

by Alexis Lovelace

With every minute that does pass on by,
I watch as you do fade away from view.
Your promises have turned into a lie,
And I have lost my faith in precious you.
I've cried too many tears over all of this.
But you didn't seem to notice at all.
Something so painful now was once pure bliss;
You chose to divide us and build a wall.
You took my heart and shattered it into
Tiny broken pieces with no hope.
I didn't know what to do without you.
At that time I didn't know how to cope.
 'Cause of you I have learned that life goes on,
 And in the end I was the one that won.

Bound

by Alexandra Melara

I give myself to darkness that is you,

Your evil touch and kisses that I hate.

Yet I give in to pleasure, that is true,

With you, I am yet bound to spend my fate.

This love so deep cannot be good for me.

It tears at me and buries in my soul.

Once from your love I wanted to be free;

Without your love, I feel I am not whole.

You are my dream, my dream that's yet come true,

But each dream you'll awake from in some time;

We'll save ourselves from darkness that is you,

Here comes to pass our death in this sweet rhyme.

In this last kiss, there's love I'll never show.

I fear that it is time to let you go.

Emotions

by Eduardo Echegorri

Happiness is a simple righteous feeling,

And feelings change and change again with time;

One day you wake and see how you were dreaming

And then starts your eventual decline.

Some days you wake and see the bright sunrise;

Some days you walk to see the dark sunset;

Then you see just how you were so unwise,

Then comes the truth that life is not a threat.

Then come those times that go perfectly well.

Where you feel completely fulfilled and pleased

While in the past you can no longer dwell,

Your happiness can no longer be seized.

No emotions mean that no harm could be done,

With this new mind your life has just begun.

The Searching

by Suliat Olusanya

She walks so gently through the daunting trees,

And in her hand does rest a lifeless book,

The wind did turn the pages without ease

While peaking angels mock her with a look.

She tries to push the pages back anew,

The wind did try to fight against her will,

Confusion washed her face; she has no clue,

The unawareness kept her body still.

She found herself in a book so tattered,

What she could never find in all the land,

She looked at the pages and was shattered,

Her own eyes stare through the pages so bland.

She discovered herself as it was bound

And never could explain the love she found.

Sing Summer

by Kathy De Oliveira

It will only come around once a year,
Summer, oh summer, how tranquil and fun.
The time where delight is under the sun.
The bright blue skies make happiness appear.
As flowers dance on the garden frontier,
Bread feeds the birds as dogs are free to run.
Soon this would all be a memory done,
For nature will soon face its greatest fear.
When trees begin to cry out as they shed,
The wind will whistle in the chilly air,
And the sunset will come moments too soon.
Under one's footsteps the leaves crack in red,
But summer time will return again to where
Nature sings a lovely tune greeting June.

My Sweet Love

by Natanael Santos

The joy I get when I look upon you

Is greater than the feeling of true love.

My mouth drops low when I see your debut

It is as though you were sent from above.

When I'm before you, my blood starts to flow,

Just like rivers heading to great oceans.

Feelings for my love seem to overgrow,

Even though I am shunned, for this notion.

My love is strong even when you're afar

These feelings for you never seem to fade

When you leave me, you leave a painful scar.

Fear not my love, you will not be betrayed.

In that oven, I watch you slowly bake,

Oh how I love you, sweet vanilla cake.

Ice Cube

by Jancey Taveras

Celli, sitting across from her brother, could not suppress her feelings any longer.

“Were you the one helping him when he was sick. Were you there? Celli bellowed.

“*No!* But that’s not the issue here!” Kent preached.

“Then, what is? Celli slammed her knuckles down on her frail table.

“I am his son too you know.” Kent revealed vehemently.

“The type sister that deserves her part—all of it, in that case—for quitting her job and staying, and taking care of her dear *father* in the moments when he needed it most.” Tears cascaded down her face.

“That still does not change anything. Fifty-fifty or...,” he almost finished.

“Or what?”

“I don’t know!” Furry conquered him. He hurled his cup of soda to the floor.

“So what is the right question then. Huh?”

Kent took steps toward Celli. He answered.

“Why are we fighting like this? He had two children, and it clearly states it in his will that we split everything,” he pleaded.

“But that’s not fair! You weren’t even here for his funeral, not even to say good bye. And now you’re here because to you it’s all about money. You’re incredible. I cannot believe you’re my brother,” she yelled.

“Whatever!” Kent stated as he left the apartment.

Her eyes narrowed. Her pale cheeks became crimson-pink. Celli stared at her coffee in silence.

Haikus

by Trisha Kiston

Spring

The bright sun came up;
It melted the snow away;
The flowers appeared.

Summer

Hazy summer days,
Wasted away on nothing;
Hope school never comes.

Fall

Leaves are falling fast;
Colder weather approaches;
Golden hues arrive.

Winter

Trees shiver, snow falls;
Icy breath, cold hands touching;
Winter comes tonight.

The Old Guitarist

by Trisha Kiston

Hey man, why so blue?
You say you have neither money nor a wife;
You know that the world isn't waiting for you,
So get up and live life.

Hey man, do not care about what others say!
Ignore the lies, cries, deceiving smiles,
There's going to be a better day,
You have to travel those glorious miles.

Hey man, look at what you have in your hands!
Take pride, make music, let it flow through their ears,
Don't settle for the demands of those unoriginal bands;
Make them wish they had not abandoned you those years.

So, come out from that blue seclusion,
Redeem yourself with that guitar;
Step out from your current confusion –
Trust me, you'll go far!

Uncertainty

by Bryanna Jimenez

Through the sunshine, I can see the clouds,
Slowly approaching, in search of destruction.

Born with high expectations,
But with the fear of rejection, I was.

Pain lingers, making its way through these clouds.
So I ask, What should I do when it rains?

Bitter Warmth

By Jose Morel

How does she paint with such vibrant splendor,

With nothing but her vivid yellow eye,

Sheparding all the sheep with hands so slender,

Her face emerges as they move aside?

In her company, a green sea rises,

Like the moon, she has control of its tides,

And out explodes hundreds of surprises,

The color of her face, intensified.

Why does she walk away ignoring me,

Sea of green dying, cursed with such blight?

The cold wind biting, I'm ready to flee,

Mountains of ice turn green to white.

She looks back, the ocean slowly shifting,

And cries while I wait for her face, so uplifting.

Her Angel

by Renata Ribeiro

Descending from the clouds, he did save me.

His snowy white wings glistened in the sun,

And his warm brown eyes were all I could see;

He was there to save me. He was the one.

Making his way into my life, he was

My salvation. My pain was gone for good.

I was on cloud nine, and he was the cause;

I had fallen in love; I understood.

But after all this, why is he leaving?

Why do I see his halo in the sky?

He has left me unprotected and grieving,

Would this be our last and final goodbye?

He has not left me. He's letting me grow.

I 'm coping with my own pain down below.

Peaceful Dreams

by Halina Henry

When I do toss and turn in fitful sleep,

I do recall the actions of this day;

To ease my mind, I count the woolly sheep,

More fun for me to ease the thoughts away.

My mind drifts off into another place,

Chasing the woe and bringing back more glee;

The pace of this new place do I embrace,

Driving away the thoughts from which I flee.

For peaceful dreams I must request to stay,

With cares of this harsh world to stop my dream,

Yet in my thoughts do I so happily play;

My mind at joy and bright like a jewel's gleam.

My heart and mind at slumber's restful peace,

And thoughts of worry now will always cease.