

Works by Kaitlyn Leister

Kaitlyn Leister

Abstract

Presentation of creative writing pieces written over the course of the Spring 2023 semester for WRIT 471 with Dr. Caleb Corkery. Three poems were all written in the span of a week, each covering the different aspects nature has to offer. More details into the thought process behind the pieces are given in the "Creative Process" section.

When I was asked to share for Made in Millersville, I knew I wanted to share poems I had written throughout the school year. There have been poems I have written either while waiting for class or in the middle of the night while sleep evades me. I found during this period of time, I enjoyed writing short and long verse freestyle poems, so it was best to work with the medium I grew accustomed to.

While I have written small poems before in the past, I was drawn to writing more poetry specifically this semester. As graduation approaches next year, I find myself in a whirlwind of emotions. With the increased workload, I have very little time to write long and drawn-out stories to express my emotions through a third-party character. Poetry allows me to take my emotions and have an outlet in a shorter and less rigid structure. Whenever I found myself in an emotional standstill, I would write out a poem to help me center myself and get

myself out of the creative funk I was in for a few months.

All my poems follow themes of nature, something I love and hold dear. Also, after the effects of the global pandemic from 2020-2021, and into most of 2022, we could all use a change of scenery in life from the blandness of the four walls of our homes.

My first poem revolves around the ocean and was the first in the set of poems to set the theme. I have always loved the beach, and this poem was done with a prompt of three words given in a creative writing exercise; blue, sharks, and lifting. I had started it being about the beauty of the ocean, everything I loved about studying it as a child, the creatures I wanted to meet in person. When I was almost finished, I thought it would be a good idea to consider the negatives of what is affecting the ocean today. The pollution, the stripping of resources, and the destruction of the vast

water of our planet we still do not fully understand.

The second was another thought after writing about the ocean, what was next? The earth of course, is ever present as the symbol of mother nature. Again, following the same pattern of positives flowing into negatives, though starting with describing various landscapes. Normally, many only think of lush green for mother nature, but she embodies all of earth, which varies more than just greenery. Again, it is brought to a close of how humanity has started destroying the mother that had brought them to creation and fruition, destroying her beauty in the process.

The final poem takes a different route, following the sun and moon, a necessity to the way of life on Earth. I fit normal associations of the two, lovers apart from each other, the lights that separate out the days, how we favor the sun over the moon, and so on. This piece is much shorter than the others, but still holds as much influence as the others. Just like the other two poems about the ocean and mother nature, by the end the inevitability of humanity's need for these elements is shown, stating how the sun and moon are needed in order to survive.

Poems

Ocean Blue

Ocean Blue

A loved home

Miles and miles

Never seeing the bottom

Ocean Blue

Sharks and minnows

Countless creatures

All this place your home

Ocean Blue

You lifting the sky

Horizons are yours

To make a true beauty

Ocean Blue

Once an endless danger

Now a peaceful escape

To all that witness her

Ocean Blue

Waves and Typhoons

The feeling

Across the toes

Ocean Blue

How we have hurt you

Please forgive us

As we pollute your precious depths

Ocean Blue

How we have forgotten you

As now you are nothing

But our used trash

Ocean Blue

How we are stripped you

Your home almost barren

Your sleek creatures almost all dead

Ocean Blue

We still worship you

As we still

Are destroying you

Mother Nature

Mother Nature

We sing to you

Soft green grasses

And lush dense forest

Mother nature

We sing to you

Hot and harsh deserts

And cool and refreshing oasis

Mother nature

We sing to you

Snow-covered mountains

And ice slick ground

Mother nature

We sing to you

Rocky cliffs

And smooth sandy beaches

Mother nature

We sing to you

Your boundless harvests

And your barren fields

Mother nature

We sing to you
The wild animals that roam
And the ones we have long forgotten

Mother nature
We sing to you
The song of who you were
And who you are

Mother nature
We sing to you
Of how you have birthed us
And of how we have killed you

Sun and Moon

Sun and Moon
Lovers intertwined in a cycle
Fate keeps apart
To keep the word spinning

Sun and Moon
Both beings of light
Zone keeps the time we spend in day
The other hours lost in the night

Sun and Moon
One celebrated
One forgotten
Yet both are respected in time

Sun and Moon

Mother nature's source

One energetic

The other calm

Sun and Moon

You both have been worshiped

Humanity knows

Without you, we are nothing

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