

## H-E-B Youth Poetry Contest Winners



*The poems below are the winners of the second annual H-E-B Youth Poetry Contest, sponsored by Voices de la Luna and H-E-B. We received many wonderfully creative poems, but the following four were judged the cream of the crop. Thanks to all who submitted! We will publish poems that won honorable mention in the May issue.*

### First Place

#### **Liberate**

*Meghan*

*10th Grade, North East School of the Arts*

When I was a girl,  
I loved the ocean  
The soft, motherly wind  
That seemed to sing  
The childish ocean  
Into a calm sleep.

I loved drifting  
Into the soft blue  
Until you could almost  
Disappear from the world.

I loved how thin  
The shoreline would seem  
Way out where fish  
Flutter under your belly,  
A pale thread wrapped  
Around the water's body,  
Making it finite.

And I think maybe  
The sand is keeping  
The water from slipping.  
I think it's scared  
To let go.

I remember seeing the ships  
With their loud conversations  
Talking toy boats, bobbing  
Through the foggy sunlight

And I would start to panic  
As I slipped closer to their armor.  
And I remember just existing  
Among them,  
The long stone dock  
A silent boundary.

And I'd pull the bottle  
From my elastic suit  
With the small, discolored  
Paper poem, wrapped  
In old red string  
From past birthdays.

I'd grip my flimsy,  
Inflated boat for safety  
And I'd toss  
The bottle into the open;  
Watching it fly—  
Taking my story  
Into another world,  
Where maybe  
Things made sense  
And maybe  
They didn't.

But I know  
No one will ever read it.  
It will find a way  
To demolish itself  
As I have.  
It will find a way  
To sink  
And never to come back,  
To melt into  
Other plastic people,  
Other stories.

My words,  
They won't be seen  
By anyone  
Who wants as badly as I  
To be saved.

### Second Place

#### **I Wish I Had a Sister**

*Nimsi*

*11th Grade, Sidney Lanier High School*

I wish I had a sister.  
I wish I had someone I could trust.  
Someone I could play with.  
Someone I could fall out of bed with.  
Someone I could play tag with, whom I could blame everything on.  
Someone who would hide my secrets.  
I wish I had someone to push me off the slide.  
Someone who would ask me what's wrong when I cried.  
I wish I had someone who would help me build houses with blankets.  
Someone whom I could make a mess with when making pancakes.  
I wish I had someone whom I could do ugly makeup on.  
Someone I could draw a mustache on when she's asleep.  
I wish I had a sister.

