

# This Is Just To Say ...

Collected Poems from the Girls' Poetry Class – Spring 2015

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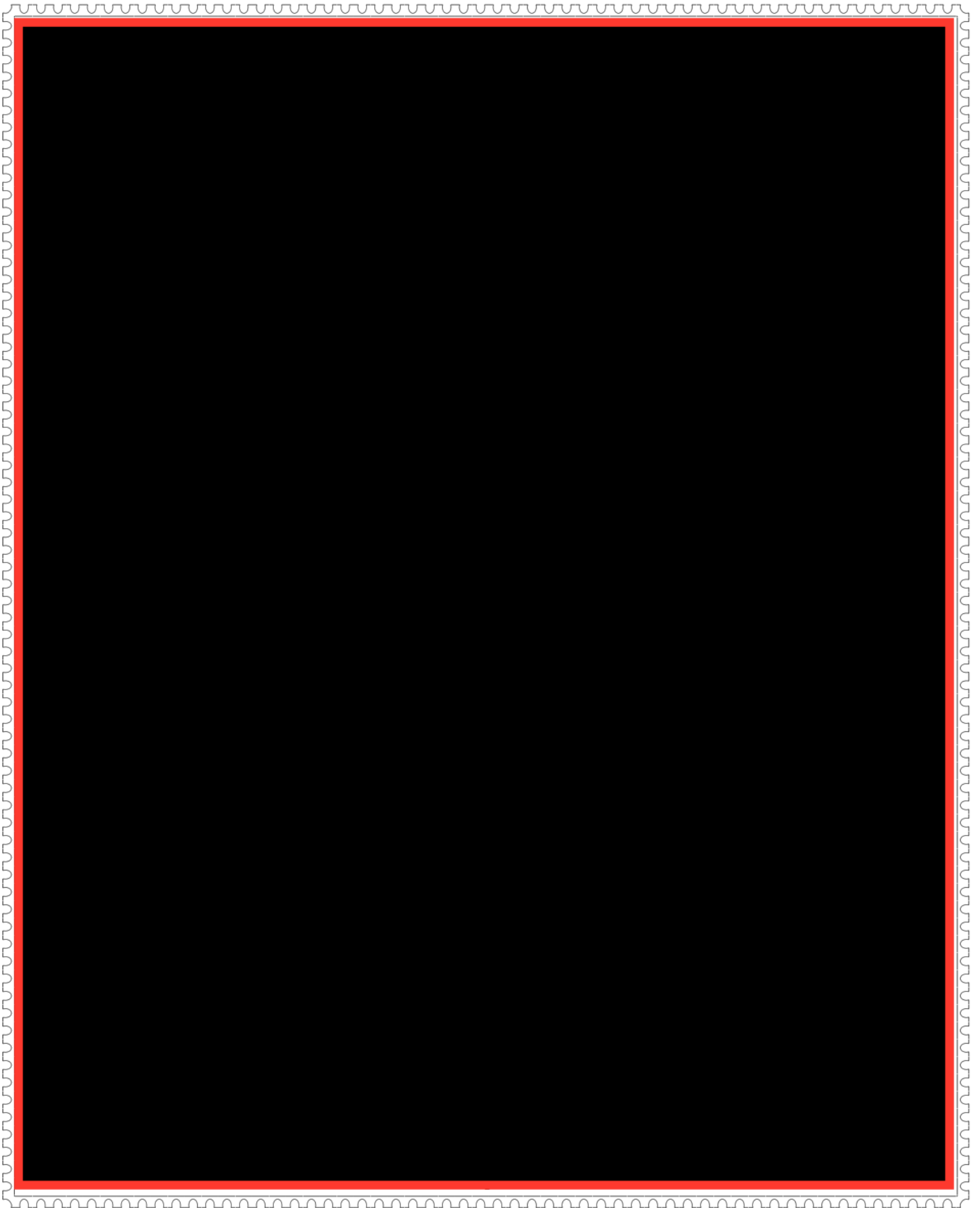
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## Bliss

Gazing at a dolphin  
Watching her leap into the air;  
Majestic, beautiful,  
A waterfall, she dives.  
I follow  
Holding onto a fin,  
No need for air,  
Blissful and jubilant.  
She glides soundlessly through the water  
Like a silver arrow  
Then swirls,  
A spool of thread unwinding  
Spirited and carefree.  
She speaks to me; I understand.  
And then I'm twirling and splashing in the water  
Rising to the surface  
With this sleek, graceful animal  
Gentle and serene  
A dolphin.



## An escape

A defiant cat  
On a biting winter day  
Bolts from the house  
Smug and triumphant.  
Rushes forward then stops  
Trapped knee-deep in snow  
Affronted and appalled by this offense.  
Shakes a snowball of a paw.  
Snow still clings.  
Looking wildly around,  
Spies a protruding rock.  
Slowly makes her way towards it,  
Like a shipwrecked sailor  
Stuck paw by stuck paw  
Clambering up to safety, victorious!  
Then peering around at the sea of snow...  
Tail drooping, defeated,  
Marooned on a tiny island  
Hopelessly searching for a way out  
None to be found.  
Then a figure  
Trudging towards her  
Scooping up a bedraggled cat  
Carrying her home  
Indignant, yet relieved.



## New Year's Eve

I wait eagerly;  
A spark flies  
A red shooting star  
Gliding noiselessly through the air.  
Then BANG!  
An eruption of color,  
Magical jewels in the distance  
A handful of glitter tossed at the frigid sky  
Expanding, then shrinking into nothingness,  
A mere shimmer of red.  
Then a flash of light  
Rocketing through the crisp, cold air.  
POP! CRACKLE!  
The sky is filled with dazzling stars  
Sparkling like Christmas lights.  
A moment of silence  
A few sparks remain  
Like dragonflies flitting about on a still pond.  
Then a whistle and a BANG! BANG!  
An explosion of swirling birds  
Soaring with open wings  
Frolicking among the stars.  
CRACKLE, BANG!  
The sky is filled with radiant color  
A whirlpool of blazing paint,  
Dancing flowers  
Twirling, leaping, pirouetting across the sky.  
I stare in awe  
Watching this magnificent show of fire,  
Fire that's welcoming the New Year in.



## Holding Beauty

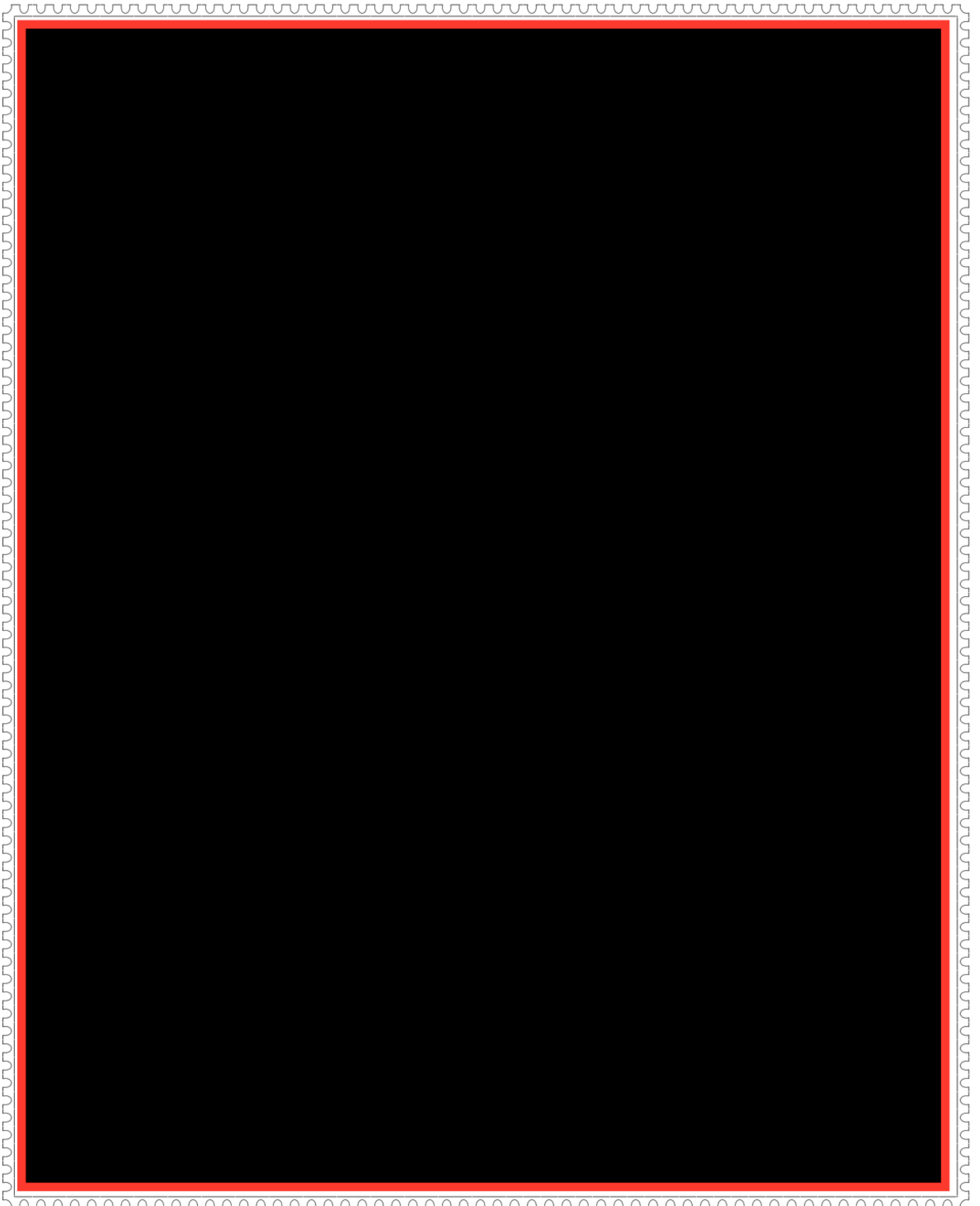
Stooping,  
A fragile seedling in my hand,  
I dig.  
Kneeling, the warm earth against my knees,  
I ease its trembling stem into the ground,  
Adjusting the soil like a blanket around the roots.

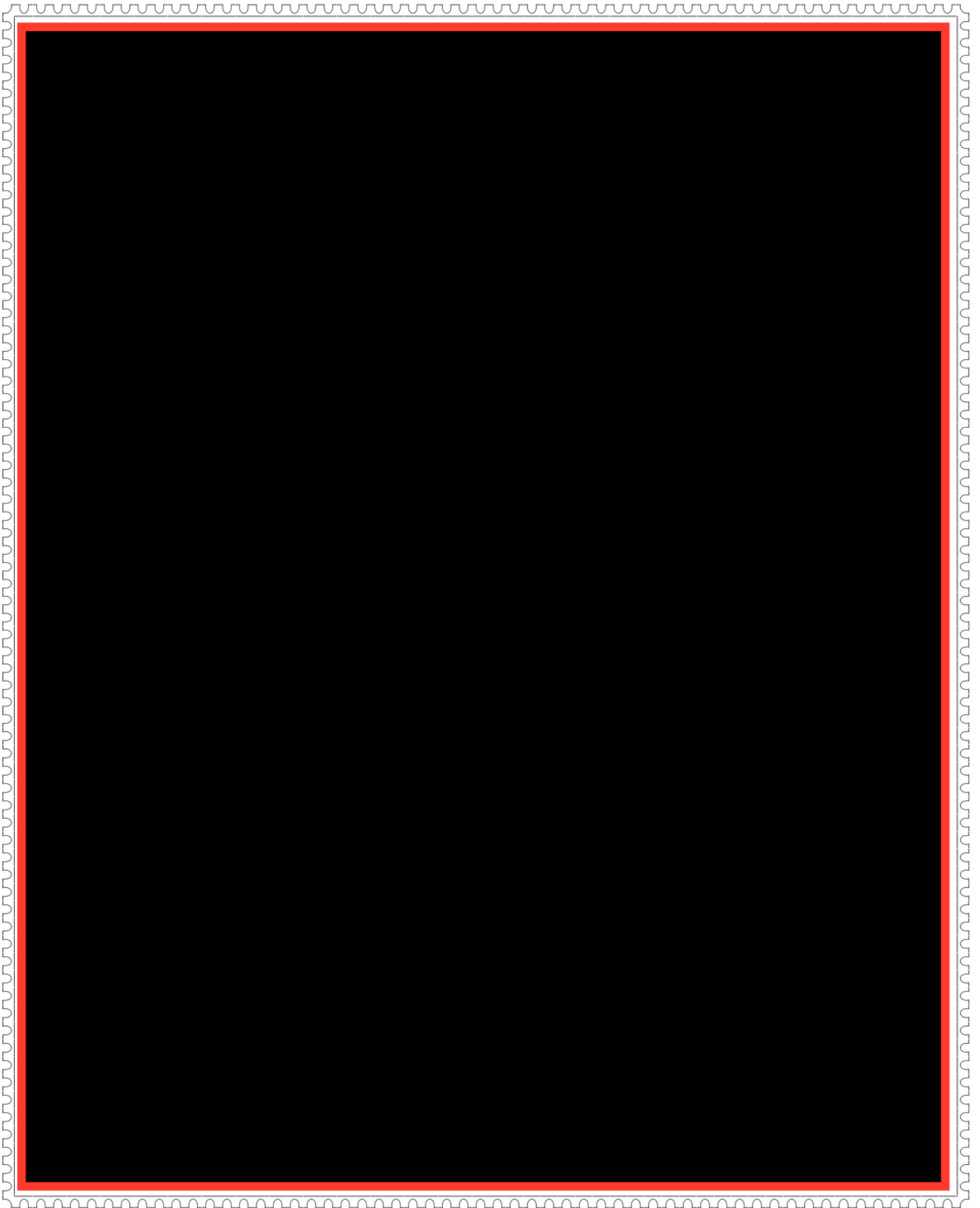
I love it dearly.  
Scorching day upon day I feed, weed, and water,  
Watching proudly as it flourishes, lush and robust.  
My cheeks flush with pleasure  
When the first delicate flower pokes her head out  
Yellow as the summer sun.

I joyfully greet each new blossom,  
A thousand golden butterflies!  
And my heart nearly bursts  
When a tiny fruit appears.  
First green, then ruby red and glossy.  
I pick it  
And place this long-awaited jewel in my palm.  
I'm holding beauty.  
Holding beauty in my hand.









## Joy (haiku)

Romping and frisking,  
Cat on a blustery day,  
Stalks the swirling leaves



## The Roses

Like priceless treasures sinking in the sand  
Radiant roses who have blossomed all summer  
Are shriveling up and dropping their petals.  
Roses who have perfumed the air with their heavenly scent,  
Displayed their rich colors for all to see  
Are crumpling and melting away,  
Turning from pink and white and luxurious red  
To an ugly shade of brown.  
The cold is biting,  
The roses submit to the frost  
Winter winds howl as the snow comes down.  
But in the spring, when the snow surrenders to the sun,  
Buds will open and the roses will return.



# Luca Rudenstine

## Girl At the Window

She sits at the window every night  
She dreams there  
She thinks there  
She hums and sings there  
She plans there.

...

Looking through the window  
Watching every dust flake  
Watching every star  
Every Light  
Every girl  
Every boy  
Every Woman  
Every Man  
She dreams there  
She dreams about a world  
Far from here but yet so close  
It's her secret place  
A place where all is equal  
Every boy every girl  
Every color  
Every home  
Every family  
A place where everyone has a voice  
Somewhere she wants to be  
Not locked in her room  
Not stuck doing all her brother's chores  
Not trapped in a world where there are more superiors.

Now the little girl is a woman  
Her opinion is stronger,  
She will fight  
No more dreaming.



## I Am Very Sorry

I am very sorry,  
I am very sorry you had the impulse to break my nose.  
I am very sorry that you thought it would be nice to bite me.  
I am very sorry you thought it would be fun to put glue in my shampoo  
I am very sorry dear cousin.  
You have to go,



## Milk

I HATE MILK  
Well I have never tried milk,  
But I just don't like it  
It looks like puke,  
Well not really.  
And it smells like cows,  
I have never actually smelled a cow though  
My friends love it  
Well I don't have many friends.  
My doctor says I will love it  
But doctors can be wrong sometimes  
I will never like milk!  
But you should never say never  
Hmmm  
I think I will try it.  
...  
Hmmm  
I kinda like it  
Maybe my doctor was right  
Maybe I was,  
Maybe I was wrong  
I LIKE MILK.

## Perspective

### Kid's perspective

You Hate it in the winter  
You Desire it in the summer  
In fall you think it is only a dream  
But in spring it's a bad thing

You watch it drift from your window  
None are the same  
Each more delicate  
White silver gray and bold  
Big small or tall  
Collecting on your nose  
You just want more  
But then school is canceled...  
And you're happy  
But  
Not when you're Homeschooled.  
You sit there mad and sad  
Watching kids sledding  
Jealous and you know it  
Papers and pen are falling around you  
But,  
But that's not snow, its just not the same  
You wait and wait for your mom or dad  
to say go in the snow  
And then they blow "GO!"  
You run out the door to find there's no  
more  
You've missed your chance for the  
sledding hill is almost no more  
Not a space for you, you are too new.  
And then you see someone  
A face unlike any other  
You rush over, light in your smile  
Maybe this day is ok

### Adult's Perspective

It haunts you till December 21<sup>st</sup>  
It is coming  
It is coming  
You over plan  
You cry you scream  
You do not want the day to come when  
When  
When the shovels come back.  
Their shiny plastic is a sin  
Crossing your fingers hoping  
Just hoping that this will be the year  
No this will be the year the snow stops in  
New England!  
But that's not possible  
You sulk  
Why do kids love this?  
It's hell but cold  
You glare you snare  
It's snow  
It's like Halloween but every day in  
winter  
It bottles up inside you like an illness  
Taking over your body  
You get lazy  
Kids are whining, they are cold  
You don't want to deal with this  
I JUST WANT FREAKING SPRING  
You think but then you look out the  
window  
It's so pretty,  
You can wait.

## Mountain Stream

Moves and dances across a rock  
Swirling down the Mountain  
Curling around a tree  
Footsteps  
Climbing and crawling  
Knee deep in mud  
Hands stained brown and green  
Scratches on one arm  
Light beating down on your forehead  
Finally  
You see a rocky terrain  
You have made it  
The air is dry  
Sweat beads on your cheek  
You notice water spilling down the mountain  
Reaching into the cold liquid  
It slides over your cut hands  
You bathe yourself in the small stream.  
Soothing your sore hands and cleaning your muddy feet  
The Mountain Stream has helped you  
Travels, yet never out of your reach  
The mountain is strong and still  
But  
The stream is a dancing accessory  
The mountain is a jungle with many different surfaces  
Stream, an add-on but even more a part of the Beautiful Mountain  
The stream loves to travel but never leaves the side of the Mountain  
I follow the Stream  
It carries me down the side of the mountain  
It starts then get smaller  
It is almost gone  
I am now running to see where the last strand takes me  
I fall down  
The stream has sunk under the earth  
I try to run up the Mountain  
The Mountain understands me  
Placing trees and rocks in my favor  
The stream is forming again.

I have learned a river or stream is as much a part of the mountain as the earth itself.

## Patting of the Rain

Have you ever just slowed down?  
Stopped to listen  
Listen to the patting of the rain  
On your skin.  
Just slow down,  
Concentrate  
Feel your hair  
Your hair flattening to your head  
Feel the damp earth under your toes  
Smell the wet sidewalk  
Slow down  
Inhale  
You can feel everything  
The world  
The people  
The buildings  
The cars  
The trees  
The earth rotating  
Can you feel that?  
The patting of the rain?



## The Icy Cage

Locked  
Locked inside  
They have shoved me in  
Limiting my contact with the world  
It is cold  
Icy  
Never ending  
I dream of spring  
When my cage will melt  
To sprout flowers  
And leaves  
And bees  
Bars cold to the touch  
Floor freezing  
Massachusetts  
That's what they call this place  
Massachusetts.



## When The Cliff Ends

My toes squish in the dirt  
I feel my body going forward  
The palms of my feet have left the ground  
I Soar  
Hurling through the moist air  
I am a winged Eagle  
I hear the ocean below me  
The wind around me  
The sun laughing at the water  
Laughing at me!  
My body starts to tip  
I am flipping through the air  
Diving and Turning  
I am a dying plane  
Falling  
My body plunges into a different world.  
An underwater world  
My throat burns  
I feel limp  
I am not a bird anymore  
I get Heavier  
and  
Heavier  
My eyes start to close  
Then I feel my self slipping  
Slipping away.



## You

You are everything,  
You are the one who brushed out all my tangles  
You are the one who would rub my back when I was sad  
You were the one who wiped my tears away  
You were the one who cleaned my cuts and bruises.  
You are the one who picked me up when I was too tired to walk,  
You were the one who spent hours trying to teach me to read  
You were the one who will always be there  
You are the one who can tolerate me when I am mad  
You have been with me every second of my life  
And I just can't afford to lose you  
Not now,  
Not ever,  
I love you.

# Miriam Lurie

## loneliness

is a tiny mouse  
scurrying along the floorboards  
in a big empty house  
overlooked by all



## Theft

I am so sorry  
I have stolen  
the glory  
that was in  
the victory  
and which you probably  
were saving  
for yourself.  
forgive me  
it was so wonderful.  
so brilliant.  
so glorious.



## **Annoyed**

Annoyed you got a D on your test.  
Annoyed you can't go to Florida this year.  
Annoyed you can't draw a picture.  
Annoyed you have siblings.  
Annoyed your chair is too hard.  
Annoyed you sing too loud.  
Annoyed you can't have a car.  
Annoyed it rained today.  
Annoyed your favorite shirt is dirty.  
Annoyed that your cat is so lazy.  
Annoyed you don't live in a castle.  
Annoyed you're too short.  
Annoyed you have asthma.  
Annoyed you're not famous.  
Annoyed you're annoyed.



## Under Ice

Sleeping silently.  
Grey ash and dust surround me.  
A child under ice

The child under ice  
Rises up with eyes on me.  
No one will help me.

I run in terror.  
His bones are so white and strong.  
One snap and I'm gone.

Tears flow down my cheeks.  
I'm cornered in a skate park.  
with nowhere to go.

I surge up a ramp  
As I take one final leap  
And close my eyes tight.

I imagine me  
Flying far away from this  
On a Pegasus

I open my eyes  
I am on a Pegasus  
Flying far away.

## Jellyfish poems

I

Oh, I wish  
I had a jellyfish.  
but I can not,  
for my mother eats them as a dish.

II

Jellies of the earth.  
your colors are perfect.  
floating high and low.

III

Angels of the ocean  
their silky skin glistens  
as they float around.  
Their strings of punishment  
hang by their side  
ready to serve out  
Pain to whomever  
Deserves it.

IV

Why do I watch jellyfish day and night.  
mindlessly bobbing among the seaweed  
why do I take pleasure in seeing them  
catch their tiny prey  
and see them shimmer all day long  
Because they are my  
Mysterious,  
Sparkly little diamonds  
Majestic  
Immortal  
Undiscovered jewels  
And I love them.



## A whole year has gone by

New Years,  
A whole year has gone by.  
Are you sure a whole year  
It seems like a lot but yes I am sure.  
It has been one year of learning.  
One year of playing.  
One year of eating.  
One whole year has gone by.  
Years go by as fast as  
A dart zips by.  
They don't give you a break, they don't let you catch up  
Until New Years Day  
When every thing just seems to stop.  
And slow down.  
Bills can wait  
Years won't  
So don't just sit there, we've got another chance  
Let's enjoy the year while it lasts.  
We can beat the clock this year  
We can try, we can make it, we can stay on schedule this year.  
But then you realize a very important thing:  
It's impossible.



# Izzy Goodrich

## Welcome, New Year

Welcome, New Year.  
You are young without the burdens of  
The dying year.  
You are celebrated.  
You are promised upon.  
You take on the burden of strife and pain and change.  
Change.  
You are the change that everyone sees, everyone expects to see.  
You are the hope,  
Greed, happiness, suffering,  
Achievement of the world.  
No one teaches you the rules  
Of the dark, uncertain world.  
You are the teacher of yourself.  
Yet you are the learner.  
You learn to live.  
To live with the  
Pain and greed  
To turn old to new  
To learn of the pain  
Joy and goodness and hope.  
Come, Come, Come, O Bringer of Life.  
Learn, teach, live,  
Laugh, dance, sing,  
Be the life that is everyone.  
Welcome, New Year.  
Welcome little miracle.



## Where the Seals Are

On a biting gray beach  
Where the wind whispers in the sand,  
Spilling secrets like scattered salt.  
Where the waves pound on each other, angry for a reason no one  
remembers.  
And cliffs that rise from the ground against the sky.  
This is where the seals are, oiled bodies dancing on rolling waves.  
Longing hangs in the air, waiting to be ignited.  
The seals swim in the ocean's frigid embrace,  
Innocent and understanding.  
They accept you.  
Floating and at peace.



## The Apology

I am truly sorry.  
I have stolen the words that were in your mouth.  
They were so thoughtful  
So interesting  
So colorful  
So wonderfully zesty and delicious!!  
Yes, so sorry.

## Cautious

Careful now, don't get wet.  
What's that creak?!  
Is that a cough I hear? Sickness!  
No soda - thirty three grams of sugar!  
Don't pet dogs, they have rabies!  
Don't sniff flowers, they have bugs!  
Wash your hands-germs!  
Don't play with food - unsanitary!  
Is there anything more dreary  
Than the woes of a mother?



## What's in the Human Mind

Lost dreams, deemed impossible,  
and scattered like seed.  
Corners crowded with past experience  
and memories.  
A secret whispered so faintly,  
it was forgotten.  
The voice of an old friend,  
like a candle in the dark.  
Questions that were asked,  
but missing answers.  
A fleeting thought  
that might not have been.  
And the gentle brush  
of consciousness.

## Broken Promise

Shattered lies that I believed  
Fall  
And then watered with my tears  
They grow stronger.



## Winter

Green grass breaks through snow  
Old Man Winter is stubborn  
Snow falls to spite spring



## Courage is the thing with wings

Courage is the thing that pushes you forward  
Courage is the thing with a mane and flies on golden wings  
Courage is the thing that follows through  
Courage is the thing that will take on an entire army  
Courage is the thing with peacock feathers and lion paws  
Courage is the thing that stares into the face of death and laughs  
Courage is the thing that burns inside us all.

## Joy

Joy is the free bird in the sky, confident that none can catch him.

Joy is the warm sun that comes after a gray winter.

Joy is the rain after a scorching drought.

Joy is the carefree star above the earth.

Joy is the blue waves on a beach.

Joy leaps like a dolphin and sings like a bird.

Joy is the youth we have still hidden away in our breasts.

Joy is the blue sky in summer and the colors of fall.

Joy is everywhere when you look.

