

# *2012 Peace Poetry Contest*



*Alachua County and  
Marion County Schools  
Grades 1-12*

Sponsored by Veterans for Peace, Gainesville Chapter



# *2012 Peace Poetry Contest*

## *Alachua County and Marion County Schools*

A collection of the winning poems from the third annual Peace Poetry Contest in Alachua County and Marion County schools, first through twelfth grades, sponsored by the Gainesville Chapter of Veterans for Peace.



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Chapter 14, Gainesville*



# *Acknowledgements*

Veterans for Peace would first and foremost like to thank all of the participants in the 2012 Peace Poetry Contest. This year we received approximately 200 poems from students of all ages in Alachua and Marion counties with diverse interpretations of peace. Without the poetry submissions, there would be no Peace Poetry Contest and none of the dialogue that comes with it.

The purpose of the Peace Poetry Contest is to encourage young people to think about peace and describe their ideas in a creative way with no rules and no direction. The result of this process is a dialogue about peace and nonviolence that will hopefully develop into peaceful worldviews applied to real world situations when the now-young poets grow up to be the future leaders of the world.

Parents and teachers also play a large role in the Peace Poetry Contest every year by encouraging their children to participate, sometimes awarding extra credit and providing other incentives. Thank you for helping make the 2012 Peace Poetry Contest a success.

UF English professor, Dr. Sidney Wade, was integral to this year's contest as head judge of the poems. Dr. Wade also enlisted her team of graduate students to help judge the large number of submissions. Thank you to Claire Eder, Rebecca Evanhoe, Adam Stengel, Ezra Stewart-Silver, Sarah Trudgeon and Terita Heath-Wlaz for your time and effort.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville has hosted the Peace Poetry Contest three years in a row now, and Veterans for Peace is grateful for their support and continued cooperation.

With the sustained support and work of everyone involved, Veterans for Peace believes the Peace Poetry Contest will continue to grow and prosper, spreading the ideal of peace to more and more people each year.

Thank you for making this year's program a success.



Oh how I wish for peace!  
If only war would end then we could all have peace.  
Oh how we all think that war is horrible!  
It's going to have to end!  
It has to end,  
It has to end,  
IT HAS TO END!  
I think that it should leave!  
It's killing moms and dads.  
It just has to GO!  
We all need it!  
Just make it against the law to be in wars!  
It has to end, it has to end, IT HAS TO END!  
Please?

*Ryan Witzel, Grade 3*  
*Littlewood Elementary School, Alachua County*  
*Honorable Mention, Grades 1-5*

### Crazy Dog Peace

My dogs have peace at daytime  
but at night no peace.  
Molly pukes on the bed.  
Rusty farts like a bomb.  
At midnight there's peace.

*Wyatt Luffman, Grade 1*  
*Reddick-Collier Elementary School, Marion County*  
*Honorable Mention, Grades 1-5*

## I have Peace!

My mom says she wishes I could go to school every day so she can have peace.

On weekends I go to my friend Rolisa's house.

My sisters go to their dad's house and my brother goes to our Grandma's house.

Peace!

*Ashlee Harris, Grade 1*

*Reddick-Collier Elementary School, Marion County*

*Honorable Mention, Grades 1-5*

## PEACE FAIRY

There once was a girl named Hailey whose sister was Bailey.

They always argued over nothing important.

One day, the peace fairy came down with a frown and said,

“Do not fight, be as nice as mice.”

They went, “Mice?”

The peace fairy told them,

“Jaq and Gus, Cinderella's mice, worked together to make her party dress.”

“They pulled the carriage that led Cinderella to her marriage.”

“They were kinder than her mean stepmother and stepsisters.”

Hailey and Bailey looked at each other announcing,

“We better be better than the pouncing mice!”

The peace fairy flew up in the sky smiling

as the girls became nice as the mice.

*Mckayla Ro, Grade 1*

*Oak Hall School, Alachua County*

*3rd Place, Grades 1-5*

## There's Peace of the Stream

I see trees and honey bees  
The trees have leaves  
and the bees had sneezed  
there's peace  
I rowed down the curve  
where the sun used to be  
there're leaves on the trees  
and I sneeze on the bees  
there's peace  
there's pictures on the road  
I have a jacket that I've sewed  
and there're plenty and plenty  
peace on a boat, there's peace.

*Grace Bauer, Grade 3  
Littlewood Elementary School, Alachua County  
2nd Place, Grades 1-5*

## A Peace Poem

Uncle Dennis and my dad don't have peace  
when they are getting shot at.  
They get peace when they are eating with their buddies  
before they come back.  
When they get to come home we all have peace  
playing Modern Warfare 3 on the Xbox.  
I wish they could come back from war  
And not get hurt anymore.

*Corbin Hicks, Grade 1  
Reddick-Collier Elementary School, Marion County  
1st Place, Grades 1-5*

## Peace

Peace  
Peace, not pieces of cake  
Peace, is a warm kind of feel  
Not something you can bake  
Not something you can peel  
Peace, is something that you make  
Like a nice big meal  
Slithery snakes  
Make you peel  
Away peace, not pieces of cake,  
Peace

*Gabe Sanz, Grade 6*  
*Oak View Middle School, Alachua County*  
*Honorable Mention, Grades 6-8*

## Peace Poem

Peace is a feeling,  
It is not a thing,  
It is as beautiful as silver,  
Or a golden ruby ring,  
It is the warmth that fills your heart and soul,  
It is the opposite of the darkest coal.  
Though peace is bliss, certainly,  
I'm sorry to say peace is not free.  
But we will go to the ends of the earth,  
And soon, maybe now, will be a new birth,  
For peace is a rhythm of your heart,  
Where everyone can play their small or big big part.

*Steven Kempton, Grade 6*  
*Oak View Middle School, Alachua County*  
*Honorable Mention, Grades 6-8*

## Peace

The gentle whisper of the wind  
The silent shadows walk  
The ring of shots firing out  
Across the weeping block

The family clothed in black  
Stands at the guard's attention  
Staring into space  
Of the others there is no mention

Not only there, but across the world  
The loud and silent walk their personal Trail of Tears  
Crying over lost loved ones  
Of whom they haven't seen in years

Never to feel their love once more  
Never to hear their laughs  
Never to be happy again  
Never to be more than staff

Staff of the household, staff of the world  
Always to be the servants to bear the weight  
Those who bear the world on their wobbly shoulders  
But still, with no hesitation they accept their fate

These are the heroes that make life worth living  
Those who've loved and died  
Those who loved the dead remain  
But their time, they must bide

*Chloey Ramsey, continued on next page...*

*Continued from previous page...*

One day, that great day  
Covered all over in white  
They'll meet Lord Christ in Heaven  
That day ends their fight

To see those they loved once more  
To have them last forever  
That is true peace on Earth  
To know what to wait for, after their endeavor

*Chloey Ramsey, Grade 7*

*Queen of Peace Catholic Academy, Alachua County*

*Honorable Mention, Grades 6-8*

Peace to me is the realization of life,  
It is when everyone and everything echoes  
and the edges of your vision blur.  
Peace is the silence beyond recognition,  
It is you in the forest, wherever that forest may lie.  
It is when everything ceases to exist,  
Peace is you in the earth.  
No problems, no games  
Plain Purity.

*Julie Walter, Grade 8*

*Queen of Peace Catholic Academy, Alachua County*

*Honorable Mention, Grades 6-8*

Peace.

What is PEACE!?

When you're not agitated by anyone?  
Is it when you're all alone and no one can see you?  
Or when you're hidden from the world so you cannot get hurt?  
Is it when everyone's quiet as a mouse and you can hear a pin drop?

Peace is having everyone you love.  
Peace is when you have anything you could ask for.  
Peace is when no one is getting tortured or killed for our freedom.  
Peace is when our lives are perfect, and we don't need anything.  
Peace is when foreign countries stop killing our men to get to us!

Does everyone have who they love?  
Does everyone have everything they could ask for?  
Are there people not getting tortured and killed for our freedom?  
Does everybody have perfect lives not needing anything?  
Is there not foreign countries killing our men to get to us?

Exactly what I thought!  
NO is the answer to all of my questions!  
Everyone thinks that we have perfect lives,  
But no one actually knows! Our country has homeless people,  
Sitting on the roads just asking for maybe at least a half perfect life.

We are cowardly, selfish people!  
There are people that are so honorable and so giving to sacrifice their lives,  
For OUR freedom!  
So what do we do, we take it all for granted and think we're the best.  
Our lives will NEVER get perfect unless we help people receive their peace.

So now what is PEACE!?  
When you have what you greedily ask for?  
Is it when you have enough money, which was sacrificed, to buy what you want?  
While some can't walk at 1 afraid of being killed,  
You can walk wherever freely!

*Samantha Merritt, Grade 7*  
*Oak View Middle School, Alachua County*  
*Honorable Mention, Grades 6-8*

## Peace At Last

I want to find peace  
Hopefully before I die.  
Peace is like a peach,  
All tasty and sweet.  
I hope to be like a fly,  
Free to fly,  
Wherever peace may lie.

*Trey Kay, Grade 7*

*Queen of Peace Catholic Academy, Alachua County  
3rd Place, Grades 6-8*

## Peace

Peace is the feeling of having chocolate on a bad day.  
Peace is having chocolate on a bad day.  
Peace is your dog coming up to you and licking you right after school.  
Peace is giving love right back to the dog.  
Peace is lying in your bed with all the covers on when it is raining.  
Peace is the sound of rain.  
Peace is having family dinner.  
Peace is spending time with your family.  
Peace is love.  
Love is everything.

*Meg Stockman, Grade 7*

*Queen of Peace Catholic Academy, Alachua County  
2nd Place, Grades 6-8*



## Peace Before Man

Deprived, sorrow, whimpering  
All of these are what goes about the world,  
but there was peace at one time  
A time when nature took over the world  
And territories were not being destroyed  
A time of peace when animals ran free.  
And humans did not exist  
Peace flew about the air like an eagle from a cliff,  
Swift and smooth  
Flowers floating about a meadow blossoming and colorful  
Peace comes about the world again!

*Derin Ball, Grade 10*  
*Forest High School, Marion County*  
*Honorable Mention, Grades 9-10*

Peace, is always fickle  
Fly's from place to place, never staying long  
To those who are weary  
Those whose war scarred souls call its name and say  
Leave us not  
Please stay  
Peace, is ever precious  
Will come when it's called, but leave when it's asked  
Though pushed all too often  
By those who call for blood, while the rest say  
Leave us not  
Please stay  
Peace is obedient  
Hears protests from some, and so will depart  
When chased away by many  
Leaves them to themselves, to die and to say

*Sydney Perry, continued on next page...*

*Continued from previous page...*

Peace return  
Please stay  
Peace, is always welcome  
By those who know a life in its absence  
A life without all hope  
Those who know truth will plead with it and say  
Leave us not ever  
Please stay

*Sydney Perry, Grade 10  
Forest High School, Marion County  
Honorable Mention, Grades 9-10*

### The Dream

Peace to the middle-east  
A saying I didn't know the meaning of  
There was a war I knew nothing about  
And I probably never even cared about.  
The towers came down in flames  
People trying to figure out who to blame  
Is this the dream Martin Luther King was dreaming?

A country at war with no enemy but itself  
Civil rights marches by any means necessary - Malcolm X  
JFK shot in cold blood, him and Martin Luther King  
I don't see the peace in that  
But I see it in the dream

*Kelvin Sanders, Grade 10  
Forest High School, Marion County  
Honorable Mention, Grades 9-10*

## Peace

War, guns, fire,  
are things that are not peaceful  
The sadness of 9/11,  
The hurt of Pearl Harbor,  
The mourn of the Holocaust  
Peace is happiness,  
Ocean, church, woods  
The calmness of the ocean,  
The happiness of church,  
Peace

*Ryan Kemerson, Grade 10  
Forest High School, Marion County  
Honorable Mention, Grades 9-10*

## Ever Lasting Peace

Peace, what is peace?  
When some people think of peace they see hippies.  
Hippies wearing tie dye while sitting in their Volkswagons,  
Puffing smoke and growing dope, swearing they see dragons.  
But not me.  
I think about war and when it ended.  
See the banner wave, as another country is well defended.  
To know that we are safe once again.  
To know the troops get to come home to their women and men.  
I think of no conflict in the world,  
Push in the brake on violence and keep it curled.  
Treaties signed for love and respect.  
No doubts of horror, to never have neglect.  
This is my view of peace, world respect and love.  
I hope peace will last and if not,  
I hope it will always rise above.

*Nathaniel Whigham, Grade 10  
Forest High School, Marion County  
Honorable Mention, Grades 9-10*

## White Fields

Drawing a picture of peace  
Is like listening to the sound of silence in a song.  
While I sleep  
I fly with the Penguins  
As I walk with the Doves  
My imagination has drifted off  
Into the white fields  
Clearing the Path  
As if it was a computer deleting data.  
Now I am alone  
I can hear myself breathe  
Only thing left to say  
I am at  
Peace.

*Dalvin Smith, Grade 10*  
*Forest High School, Marion County*  
*3rd Place (Tied with Russel Smith), Grades 9-10*

Fishing  
peaceful  
Brings out the best in people  
The bait and hook  
softly plopping on the water  
ripples in the water  
The shining of the sun on the water  
reflecting off onto the side of the boat  
The sound of the fish hitting the bait  
as it hits the water

*Russel Smith, Grade 10*  
*Forest High School, Marion County*  
*3rd Place (Tied with Dalvin Smith), Grades 9-10*

## A Game No One Wins

As soon as a war is completed  
Another one starts, and history is repeated  
When these wars are conceded  
Everyone will have competed  
Till the last man stands alone, and defeated  
As our fathers, brothers, daughters and mothers die  
For a country that just lets peace pass them by  
Fore they don't have to see the friends and family cry  
When these fathers, brothers, daughters and mothers are forever  
put to lie,  
While their loved ones whisper their goodbyes  
Even a man who is blind  
Can see that war is a threat to mankind  
The military graveyard, vast and lined  
With the heroes, that no one can find  
In the sea of those left behind  
When will the wars cease  
When will the world finally have peace  
When will we stop weeping over the heroes that are deceased  
How much blood must we bleed  
Before the world is pleased  
Our loved ones are the ones who have to compete  
What we want more then anything, is world peace

*Brandon Miller, Grade 10*  
*Santa Fe High School, Alachua County*  
*2nd Place, Grades 9-10*

## Once Upon a Time

Once upon a time Emmitt Till was killed for looking at a white lady  
Once upon a time Rosa Parks was too tired to give up her seat on  
the bus  
Once upon a time Martin Luther King was killed for standing up  
for what was right  
Now the way is paved for me and I'm at peace.

Once upon a time colored people and white people had to go to  
separate schools  
Once upon a time colored people and white people lived in sepa-  
rate parts of town  
Once upon a time colored people and white people had different  
bathrooms  
Now we all walk together in unity and I'm at peace.

Once upon a time colored people wasn't allowed to play Major  
League Baseball  
Once upon a time colored people wasn't allowed in the NCAA to  
play sports  
Once upon a time colored people wasn't allowed to box in the ring  
Now the sky is the limit for whatever sport I want to play and I'm at  
peace.

Once upon a time colored people wasn't able to vote  
Once upon a time colored people wasn't able to be a part of the  
House of Representatives  
Once upon a time colored people couldn't make laws  
Now we have our first colored president and I'm at peace.

*Seth Brown, Grade 10*  
*Eastside High School, Alachua County*  
*1st Place, Grades 9-10*

WE WANT PEACE! WE WANNA BE FREE!

We want peace!  
We wanna be free!  
Enslaved and beatin'  
going days without eatin'.  
We want peace!  
We deserve to be free!  
Being told NO! When it should be YES!  
Being mistreated and pain scars left to show on our chest.  
We want peace!  
We long to be free!  
Scrapping up pennies just to pay bills  
Working on minimum wage and still trying to provide our kids  
with a hot meal.  
We want peace!  
We desire to be free!  
Dealing with racism and discrimination  
Allowing whites to spit in our faces.  
We want peace!  
We dream to be free!  
I look to my left and back to my right  
Not only do I see blacks but I also see whites.  
I look up and I look down  
As tears of joy and relief fall to the ground  
Cause not only are we free,  
But we finally have PEACE!

*Sequinta Tre'Nea McCreary, Grade 12  
Eastside High School, Alachua County  
Honorable Mention, Grades 11-12*

## World Peace...

Peace of mind and pieces of mind,  
Easy to find and hard to define.  
Peace of heart and pieces of heart  
Present when together and absent when apart.  
Peace of love and pieces of love,  
Happy if it's true and sad if it's bluff;  
Peace of family and pieces of family,  
Good when sharing and worst when breaking.  
Peace of soul and pieces of soul,  
Good or bad, our deeds play a role.

*LaCadre Gray, Grade 12*  
*Eastside High School, Alachua County*  
*Honorable Mention, Grades 11-12*

## My Interpretation of Peace

Peace, what is it?  
In a society so corrupt, does anyone experience it anymore?  
Children of today no longer look for positive influence  
Young minds bruised by today's conformist attitude  
This just shows that the good do die young  
Not physically but the pureness of our hearts is lost at a young  
age  
Like a kid with a secret  
We walk the earth as if all is well though we know deep down soci-  
ety is ill influenced  
In reality this is just a secret everyone knows but refuses to talk  
about  
Where is the peace in this world?  
All I see is corrupt men and women  
Preachers who speak of sin and cheat on their spouse with women  
of the congregation

*Anfernee Welch, continued on next page...*

*Continued from previous page...*

A singer who talks of love but later on degrades his women as if  
they're dogs  
Break down your life, with all the constant contradiction by your  
peers and yourself can we find peace?  
Peace, a long lost friend we have not yet met

*Anfernee Welch, Grade 11  
Forest High School, Marion County  
Honorable Mention, Grades 11-12*

Sought by those  
of hate and lies  
but not so quickly seen

A staple  
to the true of heart  
or those who truly dream

Peace could be  
a solemn tune  
to bring you back ten years

A kindly word  
a lonely heart  
to wash away the fears

A man with wealth  
a hefty check  
made to find a cure

A pioneer  
adrift at sea  
a step upon the shore

*Michael Music, continued on next page...*

*Continued from previous page...*

Never found  
when searching  
Peace, quite honestly

Is shaded  
from the guilty  
unveiled for you and me

*Michael Music, Grade 11  
Forest High School, Marion County  
3rd Place, Grades 11-12*

Peace is the eye of the storm  
The stillness of the wind  
The quiet assurance that it forms  
Between the violent winds and rain  
is the calmness that peace brings  
The breath of relief  
The sinking of the shoulders  
like the weight of the world has been lifted  
Peace is the eye of the storm  
The false impression that all is done

*Kytia Tucker, Grade 11  
Forest High School, Marion County  
2nd Place, Grades 11-12*

## Memories of an Old Home

Birds are chirpin',  
kids are playin',  
the wind is blowin',  
neighbors are spraying their flowers with the clear cold water.

I am the little baby boy  
in the little wooden house  
with the big silver fence surrounding it.  
I am the four or five year old  
playing with a toy truck.  
I am the boy with an open mind and heart.

I stand with my bow-legged legs  
having a sense of adventure in my open mind  
and bravery in my open heart.  
I crawl slowly off the porch and down the steps.  
I open the silver fence door  
with my small palms but long fingers.  
I step on the dirt road with sandals on feet.

I stride all the way to the Y-Shaped intersections of the road  
and paused with pride on my face.

Away from home I am  
but happy am I.

I raise my button nose into the air enjoying every second of this accomplishment.  
enjoying this day,  
this fresh air,  
this blue sky,  
this green grass,  
this earth,  
this life,  
this moment of peace.

*Kyante Scott, Grade 10*  
*Santa Fe High School, Alachua County*  
*1st Place, Grades 11-12*

# Winners

## Grades 1-5

### Honorable Mentions

Ryan Witzel, Grade 3  
Wyatt Luffman, Grade 1  
Ashlee Harris, Grade 1

### Third Place

Mckayla Ro, Grade 1

### Second Place

Grace Bauer, Grade 3

### First Place

Corbin Hicks, Grade 1

## Grades 9-10

### Honorable Mentions

Derin Ball, Grade 10  
Sydney Perry, Grade 10  
Kelvin Sanders, Grade 10  
Ryan Kemerson, Grade 10  
Nathaniel Whigham, Grade 10

### Third Place (tie)

Dalvin Smith, Grade 10  
Russel Smith, Grade 10

### Second Place

Brandon Miller, Grade 10

### First Place

Seth Brown, Grade 10

## Grades 6-8

### Honorable Mentions

Gabe Sanz, Grade 6  
Steven Kempton, Grade 6  
Chloey Ramsey, Grade 7  
Julie Walter, Grade 8  
Samantha Merritt, Grade 7

### Third Place

Trey Kay, Grade 7

### Second Place

Meg Stockman, Grade 7

### First Place

Patrick Coogan, Grade 8

## Grades 11-12

### Honorable Mentions

Sequinta Tre'Nea McCreary,  
Grade 12  
LaCadre Gray, Grade 12  
Anfernee Welch, Grade 11

### Third Place

Michael Music, Grade 11

### Second Place

Kytia Tucker, Grade 11

### First Place

Kyante Scott, Grade 10

Gainesville Veterans for Peace would  
like to thank

# Mama Trish

Want to hear more from  
one of Gainesville's best  
female rock artisits?

Find her on MySpace at  
[www.myspace.com/mamatrisha](http://www.myspace.com/mamatrisha)  
or on Facebook by searching  
"Mama Trish Gainesville." Keep an eye out for her  
upcoming shows at [GainesvilleBands.com](http://GainesvilleBands.com).

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ON MILITARY SERVICE  
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A Resource Guide For Young People  
Considering Enlistment

<http://www.afn.org/~vetpeace/>

**Gainesville**



**Chapter 14**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP  
OF GAINESVILLE  
SOCIAL JUSTICE  
COUNCIL



We believe all people share a moral responsibility to create peace. Mindful of both our rich heritage and our past failures to prevent war, and enriched by our present diversity of experience and perspective, we commit ourselves to a radically inclusive and transformative approach to peace.

**Join us at UUFG for:**

- Sunday Services, 11a.m., followed by coffee and fellowship
- Sunday Morning Discussion Group, 9:30 to 10:30a.m.

**For details, visit [uufg.org/](http://uufg.org/).**

If you'd like to support the Peace Poetry Contest or the Gainesville chapter of Veterans for Peace, you can donate or send suggestions to:

Veterans for Peace, Gainesville  
914 NE 14th Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32601



All checks should be made payable to  
Veterans for Peace, Gainesville.  
Thank you for your support this year!



