

Honorable Mention – Middle School Category

Christie

Haven Middle School, 8th Grade

Where I'm From

I'm from Evanston

Not on the nice side of Evanston

Big houses

Safe to go out at night

Everybody says hi, to one another

Cross the McCormick bridge

I'm from that neighborhood

The neighborhood where people have gotten shot

Your mom working 16 hours a day

That girl in your class that got jumped

The corner store that gets stolen from everyday

Those gangs that everybody knows about

Long walks from school, cause you don't live close

Those football games that people don't go to for the game

Those KIDS that can get their hands on some drugs

Those same kids that can also get some alcohol

And let's not forget those girls who think they're pregnant

Or even those girls who try to get pregnant

Some people who just like to steal

Vicious dogs getting loose

And you have to hide behind that big tree across the street

~~Hoping~~ Praying that he won't find you

Where's the owner? What's he gonna do?

Nothing.

My neighborhood isn't always so bad...

But don't expect rainbows and sunshine

How do I say no?

How do we all say no?

Those friends you can call family

Those ~~laughs you~~ REAL laughs you share

Supportive families

School even helps too

Constantly being told what can happen

And what does happen

Being a part of what can happen

Seeing what happens

Cross that bridge..... you're in a whole new world