

1st Place

Pink

I was never a pink kind of girl.

Not hot pink.

Not soft pink.

Not bubble gum pink.

Then I woke up
in a pepto pink room,
a screaming pink scar
across my breast;
pink pamphlets,
pink gowns,
bright pink potions
pumped into an alien port
in my pounding chest;
a shiny pink head
peering from my mirror.

To my surprise
pink ribbons appear,
pink potted tulips
promising spring,
pots of hot soup,
polka dot pjs
paisley print scarves,
raspberry chocolates,
wrapped
in pretty pink paper,
prayers linked with hope,
cards stamped with hugs,
packages tied up
with pink sistership bows.

Now I wave my pink hat,
proud of sprouting new hair,
in appreciation for

the color Pink.

Teresa Mustain
Basehor, KS

2nd Place

HOMELESS

I was in a homeless shelter
when I was in second grade.
Momma taken to jail,
siblings in random homes,
helter-skelter.
Social worker's car
driven to an "overnight daycare".
Thought I was gonna die,
drowned by the words,
"Hey, there".
I was gonna enlist
when I was eighteen,
but instead joined
the Salvation Army,
The only one I knew
was my twin.
We were still young homies.
Sometimes I thought
I'd never see momma again.
Fear surrounded me there
for an entire year.
That wasn't the end of the song.
It took another few years
to get me back to momma,
where I belong.

Josiah Hoskins
Kansas City, MO

Tied for 3rd Place

When I die, go out into the night
and howl at the moon for me.
Howl like a big dog, not any puppy.

Throw back your head and let it flow
from deep within.
A rolling, guttural start and crescendo
through the scale, all the way to top range.
Hold out that last note, make it ring.

Stir all nature, repeatedly,
until grief is cleansed from your soul.

Then howl once more and listen;
you will hear my echo in
the depths of your heart.

Lynn Paul
Tonganoxie, KS

Tied for 3rd Place

Society

1 Present)

2:13 How r u?

5:40 Ok

5:41 what did you do today

8:56 nothing

2 Past)

(ringing 2:13)

"Hey"

"Hi"

"How are you?"

"Fine, how are you?"

"Great"

(....click 2:45)

3 Extinct)

(Ding Dong)

"Welcome!"

Patrick Peterson
Leavenworth, KS