

“I Hope You Know”

By the 7th Grade Class at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School (2022)
and Alysha Griffin

**When my body is a splashing fish in the darkest waters
and my heart dances at rock bottom,
when I drift on open flows,
choke on salty waters
gag on trash and stink,
when dirt and death beat my nose,
you are the sound of clashing waves.**

You are the silence in the night.

**You are a flash in the sky—
sharp, white zig zag piercing darkness.**

**You are steady, uncontained, and abstract energy
giving life to shadows.**

**You are the trickling shower overflowing from my hands—
waterfall, rain whispering to dry, yellow grass.**

**When I am a stone in a shallow stream,
you are a liquid guide—
the gleam, the shimmer, the soft hush.**

**You are the murmur of a stream marching with conviction
and I follow like a dog to his master.**

**When home is lost and my head is a dome of running rivers,
when panic and hope rise into the sky
and I am desperate for the warmth of my bed,
you push me to the side,
the diving body over bomb, laying your ink-marked self on flames.**

**You engulf my soul
building a new home of blue heat.**

**You are a flip-switch flame
seeping through barriers and tasting of ash.**

**You are the heat of a glowing hearth
love returning in sweltering air.**