2015 Poetry workshop and Book Project
In collaboration with Clara Barton High School
And Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project
Conducted by Hugo Mercier
Merry as always
Always on point
Understanding and caring
Determined at everything
Everything is everything
Long before I came to be
Inspiration for many
Never say never…
Expect the best of the best

My name is Maudeline

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**Kids behind Bars**

The bell rings, it’s 7:40
As they lined up, the police pulled up
Great minds come ready, Metal detectors handy
Is that Criminalization or Education?
I overheard a kid scream – Dreams
Once we believed in, turned into fantasies
Nightmares, tortures, and deferred
Langston Hughes said in his poem,
Which is haunting me tho’ like a ghost –
An uninvited host dwelling into the womb
Of the so called *ghetto* – my people – And we struggle as we go

Day by day we pray for a better day
But the Archangel got me wasted while the pope is stoned
Sixto said – as you crucify my mind, I wonder of the days
When school was a way out until they raised the bars
Behind which great minds are incarcerated.
And he screamed louder – roared like a terror
His voice is carried and echoed in the hallway—
Transcended tradition, religion, and institutions
Like that of the Hippies’ in the 90s and the run-aways;

The LGBTs (Lesbians Gays Bi-sexual Transgender) and the BLA
(Black Liberation Army)
Like when the Great Muhammad Ali, renounced to Cassius Clay
Like Peter Tosh and Marley, On their way to legalize it
Like a lion locked up in a cage – A genius begging to be procreated
“Burn the books” he said
And let our imagination run wild as we’re locked up
behind school bars.

Hugo M. Boyo


**Space**

Flying in space
Lost in space
I imagine the time
When everything was the same
The stars, the waters, the rock
Confused and confined in the same space at the same time
Lost in space and time
As I am flying in space
In a matter of time

**Who I am**

I am not a star
High up in the sky
But I am a man under the sky
Higher up than the stars

Youbensky C.

Danicka Jacques
Haiti

Haiti is where I am from.
Haiti is where culture, food, Beach, and everything we hold dear
Lasts forever and ever in our heart.

Youbensky C.

Words

The color of my words
Are like rainbows -
When the sky kisses the ocean
And reflects nothing but beauty.
The color of my words
Blow my mind
But cannot escape a parcel of my brain
And pain do I feel when I lack of words
To express what I really feel;
All I have to do is think and imagine.

Danicka Jacques
**Explanation**

I don’t love you just because
You’re beautiful.
I love you because I see in you
So much beauty and a bright future.

Jenny Prader

**Alive**

Look up and down, and all around you
Up in the air, and through the window
It’s so nice…and feels right
So good to be alive!

Luis
My name is Judes.

But it's about us.

In Grade School

A whole lot happened

Brisana and Darcy were good friends

All that changed in a fraction of a second

Darcy started hanging with the Zeros

And Brisana was one of the Tens

The Zeros that Brisana despised

And the Tens that Darcy aspired

Turned into a Grade School Conflict

Such a conflict changed their relationship

A whole lot happened and changed

A whole lot happened in grade school

Between the Zeros and the Tens.

Jenny Prader
You young and smart
On top of the world
Lovely and Kind
Always on time
Never back down
Determined no matter what
Excel at everything

There is nothing more important than you in life...while
Hiding in plain sight from their sight...to
Achieve my vision no matter what
Never give up on my dreams...to become
Independent and...
Excellent...

My name is Yolande.
My name is Jistanie
Jackson is brighter than the sunlight
High up in the sky
Over a thousand years ago
Neutral, but always in control
Everyone should and must know…

Fairy Tale
She was smart and beautiful
She was strong and determined
She was special and different
But she was hated.
She was hated because
She was gifted.
She was hated because
She was talented
In fact, she was magically crafted
She was a fairy tale to many
She was just like me
In fact, she is me
Such a fairy Tale.

My name is Jhone

Yolande Pierre
**Just Saying**

Everyone
Can do it
But not
Anyone
Can succeed
At doing it
Just saying!

Century old
Light up in the sky
Above all and all
Right there in the middle of nowhere
Everywhere and anywhere
Never let go and invisible
Surviving anything as long as I live

Yolande Pierre

My name is Clarens
Billions of things on my mind

All-Star in a blink of an eye

Larger and bigger than planet earth

Never give up on dreams

Top of a mountain top

Vieux like a god

Everything you can’t see

The Future

Every day and every night

I think of the future – my future

I can see the future in the wings of the birds

And in every movement of the wind

I can see the future in the song that they sing

And every melody that they’re carrying

The future – my future and your future

Is right in front of you and me

Youbensky

I am Balnave
Technology

Cars, boats, airplanes
Transportation at your fingertips

Portable Oxygen, artificial hearts
Life at your fingertips
Reason over emotion…?
Tell me how do you feel?

All These Years

All these years I've been thinking
I've been thinking constantly
How much you really mean to me
Mindlessly I am thinking
Will I ever forget you and me
The way you sing and talk to me
The way you leave and depart from me
Heavens! Send your dear angels to save me

Student Anonymous

Jistanie Charles
**Fiction**

You said you love me

But can't prove a thing to me

I only ask you for one thing

Whether or not this is affection or fiction

Jistanie Charles

**Freedom**

Haiti is a symbol of Freedom

I look up to the sky

And bow to the Haitian flag

I feel free and proud

Free and proud to be who I am

Free and proud of being Haitian.

Student Anonymous
**Last Night**

Last night it was past midnight  
But the time felt just right  
So I went outside – to satisfy my appetite  
When I saw two dogs chatting  
I stood there for a minute  
And then ran like I never ran before  
And here they were right there at my door  
Oh God! I am a dead man tonight I thought  
And said out loud when my mama woke me up  
Damn! It was all a dream.

Roodson Polynice

**Dream**

I always see you in my dreams  
Keep seeing you in my dreams  
You are my hero – everything that I know  
My future and everything that I am

Jistanie Charles
Thoughts
I am having thoughts of you
And my heart made up on you
Beautiful like you, are
the stars in the sky;
A sweet melody,
Such a beautiful symphony
That feels like paradise
And everything about you is simply beautiful

Jistanie Charles

Free
I am free like the birds flying in the sky
Free like a horse running wild
I am free like the statue of Liberty
Right there in the middle of the sea
I am not a hero, nor a villain
I am just a free man
Freer than the hero or the villain.

Roodson Polynice
**Everything is Fiction**

I am the sky and the sky is me  
I am the rock and the rock is me  
I am the color that I am seeing  
And everything that I am not is me  
I too am fiction.

**Rock**

It’s been a long time  
That you’ be rocking my [world]  
And I am gonna be rocking your [world]  
Too for a long time.

Ortiz Mendoza  
Jistanie Charles
Pure Imagination

So much to memorize, so much to remember
The birds, the stars in the sky
Every night as I look up high
Gazing at the amazing universe
In its immensity and distinguished beauty
I believe I can fly!!!

Join us in the house
On top of the balcony
Early in the morning
Like a humming bird in the sky
My name is Joel

A Ball
I am like a ball that moves from side to side -
A ball that bounces high and low
Even though I show no feelings and emotions
But I’m full of great imagination that makes me
A source of inspiration and admiration for all. I am a ball.

Jistanie Charles

Joel Trinidad
For I am the… 
Journey to my people
Other like any other
Everywhere like you’ve never been before
Living for my God and my God only

My name is Joel Trinidad

Queen and King

Treat me like a Queen
And I’ll treat you like a King
A Queen that I am
To a King that you are
Hurt me once
I’ll hurt you twice
Be my song
I’ll be your chorus
Be my pain
I’ll be your healing rain

Jistanie Charles
Free
I am free like the stars
Like the birds in the sky
I am free.

Jistanie Charles

Journalist is my dream profession
International language my passion
Never give up on my dreams
Gentle and gentler than a flower
Yes! You are beautiful
Inspiration is all you are to me.

My name is Jingyi
Desires

Delicious is what she tastes
Amazing is what she really is.
Incredible that she feels when she speaks
The words on her mind, clear like clear water,
Warmer than the sun, and deeper than the oceans.
Awesome is the way she sees the things surrounding her
Like beauty that cannot be contained or comprehended
As she stands awestruck in this whirling world of desires.

Danicka Jacques

Laundry Day

It is Saturday!
For some it’s relaxing day
For others it’s party day
For many me it’s laundry day
So my mom and I went down by the river
The sky kisses the ocean-blue
And the sun reflects a rainbow.
Such a beautiful day!
For it is laundry day.

Danicka Jacques