



# Writing Through

Teaching Language Fluency, Conceptual Thought and Self-Esteem through Creative Writing

## **WRITERS FROM Anjali House 2017**

Poems and short stories on the theme of “Bridges”  
From the Writing Through Workshop  
February 2017



**FACILITATED BY  
Sue Guiney  
FOR WRITING THROUGH**

# Introduction



A Writing Through workshop with the students of Anjali House is always a special experience. I have worked with some of these children since they were small, and it has been an ongoing privilege to watch them grow into inquisitive, creative, intelligent young adults.

This year, I decided to give these students a special challenge. Our theme for 2017 was **Bridges**. To grow up in Siem Reap means to grow up surrounded by bridges. It is easy to take the word for granted. But a bridge can mean much more than just stone and concrete spanning a river, and taking that metaphorical leap is not something that comes naturally to children such as the ones supported by Anjali House. Yet, over the course of 5 sessions, our discussions and writings spanned a variety of uses for the word. Is friendship a bridge, and if so, between what? How about music, dance and books? In what way can we think of art as being a bridge? What is the role of the United Nations in bridging the gap between countries and why is that important? One student asked if pain could be a bridge. The discussion that arose from that question was particularly powerful. This sort of conceptual thinking ability goes to the heart of what Writing Through aims to develop. It was very exciting to see the growth in the abilities of these students, each one seeming to have the Khmer version of his or her own *eureka* moment.

Enjoy the beautiful poems and stories you will find in the following pages. They themselves are bridges between these students' lives and ours, and in that way, a very special gift to us all.

Samnang laor (good luck to you),

*Sue*

Sue Guiney, Founder and Facilitator  
Writing Through



# Together To Be Strong

## A Group Poem by the morning class

We are human,  
we make relationships  
to make one huge family.  
We never give up  
we are still holding hands  
we are still helping each other  
to cross the bridge of life.

Walking together  
up and down  
with boys and girls  
to know each other  
to do good things.  
We love each other.  
Don't be afraid to cross the obstacles.

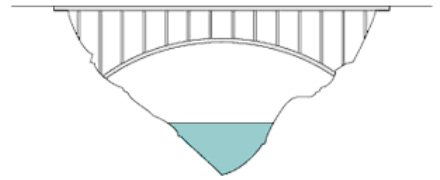
I'm here for you.  
Together for one.  
The way to find happiness  
is to connect,  
to build a strong bridge  
that everyone needs.



# The Test of Life

By Sokuam, age 16

Life is a test, a test that the god gives us.  
We must pass, pass that test.  
We need to break, break the obstacles  
to graduate, graduate to our goal.



There is a river, a river of hell  
under the bridge, the bridge of life.  
We must be brave, brave for our life.  
If you don't trust yourself, yourself will kill you.  
We all need help, help from all of you.

We are one, one on one way.  
We are happy, happy to pass the fire of life.  
We are with you, with you for your future.  
A bright heaven, heaven you want  
in front of you. You must go.  
We stay with you until we're gone.



# The Friendship

By Vandy, age 14

Friendship is a bridge  
that I really need the most,  
is the person that I trust.  
Those are important.

At school you have a teacher.  
She always teaches you the good thing  
so I just bring my feeling  
to get into the class.

At home I have a family  
that makes me feel happy.  
Sometimes you feel sad and they help you.

My life is like walking on a bridge.  
Sometime you have a bit of an obstacle,  
but people help you solve it all  
and you can cross it easily.



## Don't Be Scared

By Reatrey age 14

Come along with me,  
don't be scared of what you  
will find.

Go up into the sky,  
don't be shy, go and  
connect your relationships.

Walking across the river  
you will find your parent,  
and the heaven will protect  
you from evil or demons.



## Obstacles

By Vecheka, age 15

We are the one  
who can help each other  
to have confidence,  
to be brave  
in the way that  
they are walking now.

Life is up and down.  
It is very difficult to walk through.  
It has many things happening.  
But don't be scared to cross the obstacles.  
You can solve that problem  
and that is the  
bridge of life for you.

## This is a Life

By Sreylaen, age 17

We need love  
from dad, mom  
son and daughter  
holding each other  
go together  
to cross the bridge.



Now I still study  
so the thing I see is the bridge of knowledge.  
Mum and dad  
said read, write and listening are important  
because I'm a student, I should do it.

My family make me warm  
so I am strong to cross the bridge of knowledge.  
I will study hard  
to make my family proud of me  
and I will see my family get  
happiness.



## Two Ways of Thinking

By Vuthy, age 17

Life is meaningful.  
Everyone has a different mind.  
They walk in two ways,  
good and bad  
because no one's perfect.

We have mistakes.  
We can't correct it now  
but later, we can.  
So walk, walk, walk and walk  
to show the world that you are changing.

The world loves you.  
It gives you many things.  
And it is always on your side.  
So please do something in return back  
but try, try and try not to damage it.



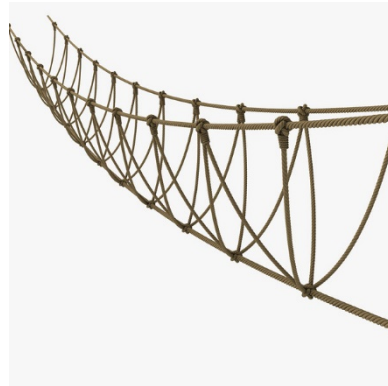


## On the Bridge

By Daley, age 14

One day I walk on a street  
I see a bridge near the river  
I walk across the bridge  
with my two best friends.

We are on the bridge  
We are playing together  
We are loving each other  
Forever we are best friends.



Then we are discussing about  
what we do in our future.  
We promise to help each other  
and never forget when we were on the bridge.



## Everyone is Me

By Sovan, age 15

I can't live alone  
so I must  
get you with me.  
I help you see that  
the world is meaningful.  
You bring me to get  
a beautiful life,  
make my destiny  
to know something  
around you,  
understand about  
sadness and happiness.

In just one minute  
my mind can change.  
So in that time  
I am clear to know.  
We all need  
each other to get success  
with our goal.

## Two Better Than One

By Udam, age 14

The way we know each other  
we're the leaf of the tree,  
we take care.  
Learning together,  
try as much as you can.  
Time is never waiting for you,  
smiling with everyone.

Helping with each other,  
will improve yourself.

Don't think you're the best,  
sharing your idea.

If we fall, fall together.  
Make sure you're here.  
Try harder again,  
no one is always perfect.

We never give up.  
We will get a good result.

## Because of Pain

By Vuthy, age 17

I know your pain.  
start to think,  
are you?

Because that pain

I want to help you.

I had experiences before.

I know you're hurt.

If you're strong  
but if you're not

I'll try my best  
want me to share  
like a nightmare.

it to the world.

Now I'm here to save you  
nightmare

so don't worry about it.

You'll escape from it  
to you again

because you have tasted it.  
so let's share it with everyone

Hold our hands together

We'll stop it together  
family.

Bad and good things happen

It makes my brain  
how hurt

it tells my brain

I know how it feels.  
You try hard to stay still.  
it would be better  
you're in a big trouble.

as you request  
my experiences  
I want to share

to save you from a

You'll be fine. You'll be alright.  
and it will never happen

You have an experience  
about our pain in life.

to make us strong.  
because we are one

because of pain.

## A Bright Future

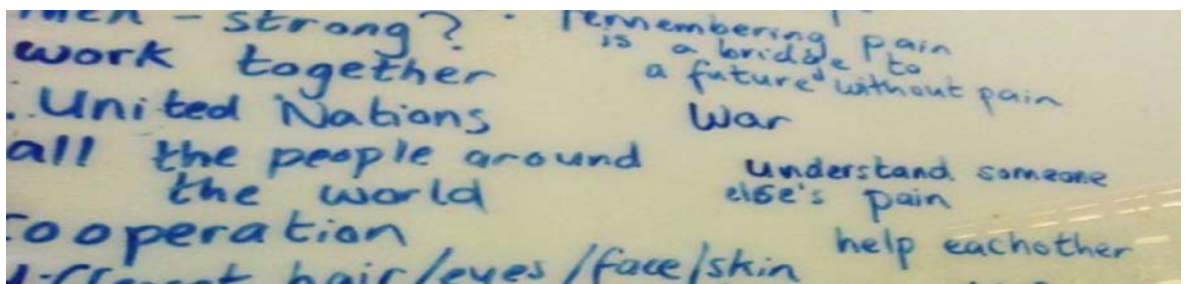
By SreyLaen, age 17

All people feel pain  
because of the war in the past.  
It makes them remember,  
understand and know  
how it feels.

Now we should know each other,  
help each other, love each other and  
have a good relationship.

Don't discriminate against each other  
about skin, colors, morals or culture.  
We should think we are equals  
and hold our hands to build a strong bridge  
so we will meet the bright future.

Now we are in the present.  
Don't think about it again,  
throw it away and we will have a happy ending.



## What is the Way of Life

By Sokuam, age 16

All over the world  
there are many people and many cultures  
but everyone has the same ambition  
to smile and be happy every day in their life.



But on the way to get that, there are many fires  
and many monsters trying to pull them into  
a store of fear.

If they are not strong enough, they will fail  
and fall into a life of trouble which is very dangerous.

So they need a very important help to help them.

Who? Who can help them? Who can pull them back? Who can change  
their way of life? Who can rescue them and who can push them out of  
their  
scary jail of hell?

The answer is you, you are, you are the one who can help them pull  
back and change their life's way, rescue them and push them out of their  
scary jail of hell.

So even if they are not the same nationality, not the same religion, not  
the same position as you, you must help them.

They need your help. They want you to save them. If you don't help  
them they will be burned by a very hot fire of life.

So don't leave them alone.

# Together is Powerful

By Sokly, age 14

We are the one  
who makes us happy, sad and cry  
makes good relationships  
makes us feel warm and safe.  
We need helping hands  
and everybody's assistance  
that helps us and gives us helping hands,  
carries us to the better way.

Don't care about girls or boys  
religion and nationality  
holding hands together  
to fight the obstacles  
we run, jump, swim  
and walk together.



We go together, never put them down.  
Don't be scared  
to be a strong soldier  
to protect yourself,  
family, friends and your world  
to have a good future  
and happiness in life.

## We are a Strong Bridge

By Buntha, Age 17

Cross the river  
What should we do?  
Hold hands  
And walk forward  
Think what you need  
And what others need  
Cooperate together  
To be one.

Showing our power to the world  
Hug each other  
Like one family  
Relationship is a big stone  
Stands very strong  
To be a Bridge.



## The Place I Can Go

By Narong, Age 17

Some place I can go  
But  
Some place I can't go  
I look up to the sky  
And  
I say  
How can I go?  
You can fly, like birds in the sky  
Wherever you want.  
Now I can fly like birds.  
I am happy  
That  
I can see  
And  
I can see  
People around the world.  
I look down  
I see everyone on the earth  
Go to another place  
Wherever you want.

# Trying Together

By Seangly, Age 16

Together we are equal  
Living without morals is not good.  
You think helping each other is not true  
But for me it is perfect.  
I can learn from them something new  
To connect the bridge between people  
All over the world countries need help  
So we must try together  
To get help for our country.

We try hard together  
But we lose one thing that is important  
Like holding hands.  
We never give up  
But we always say “we can do it”  
To help our country.

We are one of the people in the world  
We never say stop or goodbye to the idea of  
connecting the country.





## Kick the Pain

By Buntha, Age 17

Pain is a very strong bridge  
Shines like a sun to remind us  
of all black and sad memories  
that you have seen in the past.  
They will blow away in the wind  
and appear as bright things in the future.

Every country has war  
because they don't cooperate.  
Try to be the winner over the pain  
or at last they will get sadness.

Just go together to the future  
and throw away all the pain in the past.  
Go along with a smile and trust  
the end of life is heaven.



## Life is Changing

By Seangly, age 16

We are daughters.  
We're growing together  
to have a good way

We still are children  
but we try to be adults.  
We never say stop trying it.

You can live without friendship  
but I do not.  
Friendship can make me happy  
or can give me smiles.

We pray for an easy life  
But if we do not try, we can't get it.  
So we must try hard.

## United or Death

By Sovann, Age 15

Don't think about pain  
it means you can't stand  
in your future.

Start from that day  
Learn it and stay.

Live with your real life  
don't live with lies  
it makes you happy  
if another gets hurt.

Practice to stop  
It is on top  
If you can erase bad things  
Don't think about your own outcome.

Forget someone's pain  
Born as a human  
Know about your own mistake  
Finally seek true answers.

Please change your habits  
before the sun has gone  
Let's make your country  
famous around the world.



## Connection of Pain

By Borith, Age 16

Hold my hand  
Listen to my heart  
Look in my eyes

Smell some love  
Breathe deeply  
Take some risk  
Think quickly  
What you saw

Build the bridge  
Walk the way  
Show the world

Feel their pain  
Like an empire  
Make some peace

Deep inside and feel my pain

It contains the idea of pain

Then improve with smiling

At the bottom of their hearts.

Feel my pain  
and talk to my feelings  
through darkness

and taste the peace  
relax yourself.  
with family  
through your brain  
like the rain

reach the pain  
to the future  
you can do

you are stronger  
in the kingdom  
with freedom



## Peace and Trouble

By Chanpi, Age 17

The world is very important  
for people to live.

It's good for us  
that we can see the world.

It makes us happy.  
It's such a beautiful world.

Live with happiness,  
safety and cooperation together.

If a country has a problem  
it is not safe.

If there is no cooperation  
our country will be destroyed  
by humans,  
if we don't help each other.



## Bridge of Light

By Reatrey, Age 14

The sky is high, you see the  
bird in the sky, it flies  
higher and higher

Did you feel the pain?  
Don't give up, look up  
into the sky and walk  
forwards.



Your life is important.  
Your smile can connect  
your relationship, your friends  
can work together, sharing experiences.

Learn from each other, knowing each other,  
sharing with each other, loving each other.  
It is  
your bridge of light.



## Don't Look Down

By Sokly, Age 14

People around the world  
think that boys and girls  
are not equal.  
Women are weak.  
Men are strong.  
Women can't do like men.  
They can't learn or get new things.  
If we could change the past,  
we would have equal rights,  
so it can make your world, country, family,  
boys and girls need more relationships.  
Work together, teach each other.  
All people can share  
what they have  
to have more experience  
and be strong bridges  
and jump over obstacles together  
to succeed in your goals.



## Pain as a Bridge

By Daley, Age 14

Learn to know each other.  
Old and young,  
boy and girl,  
men and women  
are helping each other.

All the people all over the world  
they have pain.  
Some have much,  
some have less,  
but they try to escape from pain.

Smiling is the best medicine.  
Makes us happy, fun.  
Cuts down stress and sadness.  
Makes us stand up again.

Everyone has pain but  
they can escape from it.  
They must escape from it.



## We Are One

By Vandy, Age 14

All the people around the world,  
we have different cultures  
getting to know each other  
with the bridge of love.

Some countries now have peace,  
but before this they had war.  
With the pain in mind forever,  
they could not forget it.

Smiling helps people  
build the bridge of the relationship.  
It is not a small thing  
to make people feel happy.

Now let us hold hands.  
Women and men are equal.  
We shall make a big strong bridge  
so we can learn from each other  
with all the love forever in our life.





## A Bridge Connects Our Lives

A group poem by the afternoon class

Humans need caring  
to get everything that we need  
like father and son.  
Sharing is the best way  
to show the way to a good life,  
trying to be a good person.

Walking on the shadow of the bridge  
I see a person on the other side,  
but he is a shadow.  
What can he be?  
A demon? A life?  
A hope?  
Maybe he can lead the way for us.

Humans need connecting,  
working together to find a way of life,  
make friendship  
one person to another.  
Hands are like a bridge.  
Hold them forever.



## One Hope



### A group story by the morning class

One hundred years ago, there was a beautiful planet. It looked like heaven. It was called Earth. There was beautiful nature there. A diamond castle was floating on a cloud in the air. Monsters lived in the castle. A handsome king and a beautiful queen lived in a wooden castle on the ground below the cloud. They had one special diamond. Its power could lead the world. So the monsters wanted to steal it.

One day, the king left the castle to visit his people in the village. The queen stayed home to protect the diamond in the castle. The king was gone for a few days. The king and the queen did not know that there was a diamond castle above or that monsters lived there. Suddenly, and unfortunately, the one-eyed and long-nosed monster flew down to the castle on Earth to steal the diamond. The monster had seen the diamond in his magic mirror. The queen was in the castle writing with her magic pencil, when she heard a noise that sounded like a chicken. There were no chickens in the castle, so the queen decided to look and see. She saw a very big and tall monster. She wasn't afraid. She was brave. The monster came into the castle and tried to steal the diamond. The queen tried to protect the diamond, but could not. The monster took the diamond and flew up into the sky.

The queen took her magic pencil and quickly wrote to the king and he returned to the castle. The queen told the king about the monster, and the king said, "Oh dear, don't worry. We will get it back." The queen drew a picture of a white horse with wings with her magic pencil and the horse became real. The king also asked his countrymen for help, but they did not have wings. So, with her magic pencil, the queen drew more horses with wings for their countrymen.

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## One Hope continued...

Everyone got on their horses and held hands together. They flew to the castle in the sky and made a circle around it. The monster heard a noise and came out. He saw many people around the castle. The monster was not afraid. He was angry and excited to see all the people who flew up to the castle. The monster wanted to use his magic to hide the diamond in a secret place in the cloud. Although the monster hid the diamond, the sun made the diamond shine and the queen's magic pencil took the king and the queen to the secret place and they took back the diamond. The king said, "In the name of the king and the queen and the kingdom, I take back the diamond. Good always wins over bad."



## Good Bridge, Good Cooperation

By Touich, age 17

Humans need friendship.

If you don't have it, you are like a ship without a steering wheel.

You cannot stay on your course.

You will get lost from any way.

Women and men are like the cement

like sand

like a rock

like steel

that can build the bridge to cross.

In the world,

no one is perfect all the time

but we need to connect with each other.

A relationship is a good bridge for you to choose.

If you choose a bad bridge

bad way

you will lose everything, too.



## Man and Woman

By Srey Roat, age 17

Nothing comes for free.  
No one person can live alone.  
If there is no man, there is no woman.  
Are men strong?  
Are women weak?  
I don't think so.  
I can do. You can do.  
We are equal.



A bridge is like love.  
We need men.  
We need women.  
If there is no one,  
It is like an eagle with no wings.  
It can't fly and it has no power any more.

Do something that you want.  
Make it useful  
and you will know that you can do it.  
You are not perfect, but you are excellent.

## Trying To Get Success

By Soknang, age 19

The men think that women can't  
do anything like them, but they  
don't know how much women have.

People around the world have a dream  
and goal for themselves.

When they remember it, they become strong people,  
try more and learn from their mistakes  
and tell the people around the world  
to know it. If they are wrong, that is an experience.  
Learn your experience again for your life.

Don't abandon and leave your mistake.  
Try more and more and then  
the success will come back for  
you next time. Hold it forever.



## Bad Shadow

By Sokim, age 16

A girl in a dark room.  
The reflection of the moon on her.  
She only opens her eyes with tears streaming down  
and looks at her shadow.

What does she feel?  
What is she thinking about?

She said only her shadow is always with her.  
Her phone is ringing many times.  
At last, there is a sound of knocking on her door.  
That was her mother coming into her room.  
She is trying not to look at her mother's face.  
Her mother is trying to hold her hand  
and pick her up.  
Her mother told her to look at her shadow,  
at the dark place,  
but she can't find it.

Her mother said, 'your shadow has already gone  
to a dark place.'  
The girl knows the shadow is like her friend  
who went away.  
But her mother is a bridge to happiness.



## United to Build a Bridge of Life

By Sokhunty, Age 16

Holding hands is a good bridge  
to make a friendship and live together  
woman and man,  
children and babies,  
students and teachers.



Government is the bridge that connects people and leaders,  
working and sharing together.

Old people are the best way of all the ways to teach  
the young people about their experiences,  
history and to value life.

Women and men can do the same thing:

lawyer  
teacher  
doctor  
farmer



to be good citizens and enjoy the same rights.



## Learn from People is My Life Bridge

By Pheakdey, Age 16

A bridge is a goal  
showing me a relationship  
father  
mother  
teacher  
friends.  
They guide me where I need to go.

When I learn  
history  
religion  
culture  
it teaches me the past.  
It teaches me about another place.  
It teaches me to know another people and languages.  
I learn a lot from it.

People around me are connecting with me by  
helping  
sharing  
teaching  
cooperating

All the life values I learn from them and from myself.  
They are my bridge.



## The Way to Reach Your Goal

By Sokea, Age 19

Every day people are crossing on the bridge.  
Some people are crossing the bridge by car.  
Some people are crossing the bridge by walking.  
Some people are crossing the bridge by bicycle.  
And they are crossing with their friends.  
They are crossing with their family.  
And also as couples or alone.

Why do they have to cross the bridge?  
Why do they have to cross it with their family?  
Because they have to reach the places that they are going.  
Because they need to reach their goal.



# The Bridge of Knowledge

By Chanpi, age 17

A book is for reading.  
 It makes us happy  
 when we read this book.  
 It is fun.  
 It makes us laugh.  
 It helps us know about life.  
 We are not shy.  
 We can know more about things.  
 It's very easy  
 when you study a lot  
 and you get knowledge.



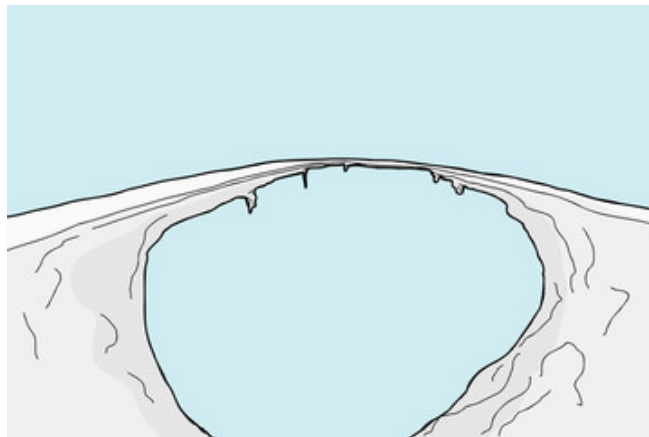
## A Bridge of Relationships

By Buntha, age 15

Many years ago, there was a poor man who lived in a small wooden house in a dirty village. In the village there weren't many houses because there were a lot of mice. The mice always made the village very dirty and stole the food from the villagers' houses every day.

One day, a poor man decided to make a trap to catch all the mice in his house. Unfortunately, the mice were very smart and they didn't go into the trap. It made the man very angry and he walked into the trap. Suddenly, the King Mouse cut the string and made the man fall into the trap. The man was very sad. Then he tried to beg the King Mouse to help him and he said, "If you help me, I will help you back and we will be best friends forever." The mouse listened and accepted.

From that day, the man and the King Mouse always helped each other and all the mice made a good relationship with the people in the village, too. Then the mice and the villagers helped each other to clean the village together. A while later, the village became very clean and full of nature. It made the villagers and the mice very happy and they lived happily every after.



## Nazy and the Demon Spirit

**By Borit, age 16**

On a lovely and peaceful day in a village called Konoha people are celebrating a ceremony for their ninja hero because of his accomplishments in the war. Nazy was a kid who always messed up and made fun of people in the village. They didn't like him because something terrible happened 35 years earlier in the village.

There was a giant demon fox. It destroyed everything and killed lots of ninjas and people in the village. The people called that demon "The Nine Tail Fox." There was a top rank ninja who had lots of skill and experience with fighting and he was also a fifth leader in the Konoha village. He fought with the demon for nine months, ten days, 35 minutes and 22 seconds. Finally, he won, but not perfectly. Because the fox was too powerful he couldn't keep it in the village. He got only one chance which was to summon the fox spirit into his own son and lock it into his son's body with a strong seal. That son was Nazy.

Every day in the evening after ninja academic class, all the students' parents came to pick up their son or daughter. They always looked at Nazy with hatred, fear, scared and pain. That made Nazy so lonely. Nazy's goal was to become the seventh leader in the village. But he needed to be skillful with fighting. Nazy's true ability was too weak, but he never gave up on anything. He wanted to show the people in the village that everyone can trust him.

Seven years later, Nazy had graduated from academic class. The leader had a mission for him, to build a bridge in another village for two days. In early morning, Nazy arrived in the village. Suddenly there was an explosion. It was a group of five ninjas. They called themselves "Pain." It was not easy for Nazy to handle all five ninjas. "Pain" was defeating the villagers until they met Nazy. Pain said, "Go and you'll live." Nazy shouted at them, "You brat! Don't ever underestimate me!" They fought, fought and fought. Nazy defeated four of the Pain members.

## Nazy and the Demon Spirit Continued...

Nazy asked them, "Why do you attack the village?" Pain said, "I want you to feel my pain." Nazy's face went down and there was a tear, too. He said, "True pain is love. The more you have pain, the stronger you are. You can't see pain, but you can feel it. It hurts inside your heart. It's like a boat in the middle of the sea. Pain never ends. The more you love, the more you hurt. If the world has love, it also has pain." Pain said, "How can you know that?" Nazy said, "Because you walk in the way that I walked in the past."

Pain then retreated. Nazy became the seventh leader in Konoha because he was so wise. And the village had peace and love again.



## A Life Lesson

By Vuthy, age 17 and Srey Laen, age 17



Last century, students and teachers went on a vacation and went to the sea for a camping trip. Among all of the students, there was a boy called Lonely. He was a lonely boy like his name. No one wanted to talk or play with him because his family was very poor. Every day a teacher who was in charge of his class told the other students not to discriminate against Lonely. Lonely was upset with himself that he was born into a poor family.

One day, a gangster boy called Thaina saw Lonely sitting in the garden in school. Thaina walked to him and shouted, "Hey ugly poor boy. What the hell are you doing? Don't you see your boss here? You and your family shouldn't have life on earth. No one in school wants to know you." Lonely was very angry. His anger exploded like a volcano. He shouted to Thaina, "You can look down on me but you can't look down on my family. Before you say something to someone, look and ask yourself first. Are you perfect enough to say those stupid words to me?" Everyone came around Lonely and Thaina to see their argument. Suddenly, the teacher heard the noise and went to them very quickly. When he arrived, he asked them about what happened there. Lonely told everything that had happened to him and showed how it feels when someone looks down on his family. He said with the tears rolling down, "We're human. We have one life. Why does everyone always look down on the poor family? Don't your parents tell you about their past? Don't you know how they feel if they know that you look down on poor families? No one is perfect, so don't look down on a poor family. I want everyone to think about what I have said and think about this feeling. I don't care if nobody wants to talk to me, but I wish you would stop looking down on my family." Lonely walked away hopelessly. Their teacher said, "Did you hear what Lonely said? He's right. Tonight I want all of you to think about it."

The next day, Lonely came to the class with a sad face. When he opened the door, everyone surprised him because everyone surrounded him and hugged him. They said the words that Lonely wanted to hear from them for a long time: "SORRY". From now on, no one will ever discriminate against other poor families again.

## Can't Live Alone



By Sovann, Age 15

Three years ago there was one rich family that had only one daughter. Her name was Jak. She was a beautiful and gentle girl. Her parents loved her so much that they took care of her. She never thought about problems around her. Her mother gave her a chance to go to school and she supported everything that Jak wanted to do.

Every day she went to school, but when she arrived at the gate, she changed out of her school uniform and she rode a motobike with her boyfriend instead. She went to visit many places. Jak's boyfriend wasn't gentle and never helped at home. He always played outside with his motorbike and always begged for money. Jak smoked. When Jak didn't have money, her boyfriend said, "If you don't have money we will break up and stop loving each other. So if you love me, you must steal your parents' money."

One day, at night, Jak stole all the money her father kept. She took it and went out of the house and locked the door. In the morning, the parents knew that Jak was not at home and they went to the police station to make the police help them to find Jak. Five days later, the police saw Jak and took her back home. Jak cried, hugged her parents and told them about how her boyfriend died. During that time, Jak's parents said thank you to the policeman who cooperated with them to find Jak. And Jak was detained by her parents and they hired a teacher to come and teach her at home.



## Bridge to Define People's Life



By Vandy, Age 15

A million years ago, there was a castle and that castle had a king and a queen. That queen was very beautiful. In the deep forest there lived an ugly man and that man wanted that queen to be his wife. He had a special power.

One day, the king went away to visit his people for a few days. When the man knew that the king went away he was very happy. So he went to the castle to catch the queen. He used his special power to catch the queen. He was very happy and he went back to his place. But the queen felt very sad. Suddenly, the king came back and, when the soldiers told him, he was very angry, but he didn't have a special power. But he didn't give up so he started to go and find the queen. Fortunately, he met a holy man, who gave the king a magic flute. With that flute he could wish for everything, but he could use it only three times. When the king got the flute, he quickly thanked the man and kept walking to find the queen.

When the king nearly arrived, he saw a bridge. Then he crossed that bridge, but when he was in the middle of the bridge the ugly man came. He asked the king one question to answer and the king could do it. Fortunately, the king wished for a magic sword and fought with the man. Fortunately, the king killed that man and helped the queen. Before the man died the king told him, "If you do good, then you get good things."

## The Man Who Tried Hard



By Chanpi, Age 17 and Narong, Age 17

Two thousand years ago, there was a young fisherman called Lama. He had a small fish boat and two blue cats. He worked hard, but he was very poor. Lama lived with his mother near the sea.

Every day he always went fishing to catch fish to sell and eat. One day, Lama got up early and went fishing on the boat and he took his two cats on the boat with him.

When he was fishing there was a big terrible wind. The boat went up higher and higher and Lama jumped in the water and swam. He saw an island and swam to the island with his cats. Then Lama saw a big castle on the island and he went to the castle.

Nobody lived in the castle except the king. Suddenly the king saw Lama and the king called Lama to eat food with him. Lama was very hungry and he came to eat food with the king. When he ate he saw a lot of mice on the floor, on the chair, on the table, and around him. Lama saw the mice. He didn't eat the food.

Lama asked the king why the castle had a lot of mice and the king said, "There are one thousand mice in the castle." And Lama said, "Do you have cats in the castle?" And the king said, "No I don't. Can you help me to kill the mice?" And Lama said, "I can help you but you will help me too." The king said, "Yes I will." Lama went to take his blue cats near the island. The cats went to the castle with Lama to kill the mice. The king said, "Thank you!" to Lama and the King did not forget his promise to help Lama too, and he made a big boat and gave a lot of gold to Lama. Lama said, "Thank you!" to the king and went back to his home. His mother saw that and she was very happy to see Lama come with his big boat and lots of gold. Lama and his mother became rich in the village.

## Tiger and Villagers



By Seangly, age 16 and Vecheka, age 15

Ten years ago there was a village next to the forest. In the deep of the forest, there was a big and wild tiger. He always came to the village to chase people and animals again and again.

One day all the villagers had a gathering and talked about the tiger to try to find a solution to the problem. During the meeting, there was a brave and smart man. His name was Ratha. He was 25 years old. He lived alone without his parents. He was tall and a little bit black. He had curly hair. He stood up and said, "If we wanted to win, we need to cooperate together so we will have strong power to fight with the tiger." All the villagers agreed with him. The villagers prepared weapons to fight with the tiger.

One week later the tiger came to the village again. The villagers had prepared everything. When the tiger came into the village, the villagers fought the tiger. Suddenly the tiger was very hurt and ran into the forest. From that day the tiger never came to the village again. All the villagers were very happy and lived with happiness together. All the villagers celebrated at a party for Ratha because he helped them to fight with the tiger easily and successfully.



By Daley, age 14

Many years ago, there was a little girl called K'Jue. She was 14 years old. She lived in a poor family. She studied in grade 9. Her parents tried hard to work. They worked from day until night. K'Jue always went to study by walking because the school was very far from her house. K'Jue was a good kid and a good student. She always studied hard. She studied at home and helped her parents to do much house work. Now she was in grade 12. Her parents were very old and they were sick. Her parents told her to continue to study until she finished school. She was very busy, she took care of her parents, did housework, went to school. But she tried hard and she told herself, "I will never give up."

One day she was very sad. Then she went to sit on the bridge that was near her house. She thought about her future goal. She wanted to be a Tour Guide, then studied hard at English and History. Then she passed grade 12 and had a good rank. Her parents were very pleased that their daughter could achieve it.

Three years later K'Jue could make her future come true. Then she went to work from day to day. She could earn a lot of money for her parents. Next she became very rich. She supported and helped all Cambodian kids that were poor. She was very happy to help kids and she lived with her parents, with happiness.

She remembered the day that she sat on the bridge. That bridge was quiet and beautiful. First she felt sad but as she sat on that bridge she was comfort



# Jack and the Big Dragon



By Reatrey and Udam, age 14

One million years ago there was one man called “Jack” who lived with other people in one village. Jack always came to the forest to collect wood to sell.

One day Jack went to the forest again. Then he saw the big dragon that he never saw before. It was caught in a trap. Then Jack walked slowly to help the big dragon. After that, the big dragon said, “If you need me to help, please come to this forest again and make a whistle sound.” And the big dragon flew away. The next day the king selected Jack for a war battle.

One week later the war came. Then Jack went to that forest again and made a whistle sound for the dragon. The dragon came and Jack asked the dragon for help. And then the dragon allowed Jack to ride on his back and flew to the battlefield. When the enemy saw Jack with the big dragon, they felt scared and excited.

Finally Jack shouted to the enemy and his soldiers, “Everyone please put your weapons down and make a relationship with each other and hold hands with each other.” After that all the soldiers were listening to Jack and his dragon. Finally Jack made a relationship between the enemy and his soldiers. Jack, the big dragon and the people lived happily forever.

## Pain Can Make You Strong



By Sokly, age 14

One million years ago, there was a lot of bottled water around the world that could speak. In the village there was a sad bottled water. It was called Vila. He lived alone and nobody liked him. And nobody cared about him. Because the other bottled water thought he was a very weak boy. He couldn't do anything that he wanted.

One Monday morning he went to school. When he arrived at school, the other water bottles looked at him and said something bad to him. And then he ran away from them. In the classroom the teacher wanted everybody to make a robot. Everybody needed to make groups. Everyone already made a group only Vila couldn't find a group. And nobody wanted him to be in their group. The teacher needed the robots on Wednesday. Everybody said to Vila, "You won't win because you are a weak boy. No one likes you and we don't think you could do it." When Vila heard that he felt very sad and ran away. He sat down in the quiet place and lay down on the ground. And he thought about what the other friends said. And he said to himself, "I have to stop this action. I want to show that I can do it." And he started to make a robot.

On Wednesday morning he put his robot in his bag and went to school. And one water bottle asked him, "Where's your robot?" Vila said, "Its in my bag." And one water bottle laughed and said, "Its very ugly, right? Or isn't it? Why do you put it in your bag?" And he walked away.

It was the time to show the robots and everyone shared their robot. Vila took his bag and everybody looked at him. And Vila took out his robot. And everybody was proud of him. It was very pretty and prettier than other robots. And Vila was the winner and everybody clapped their hands for him. Vila was very happy and proud of himself.

## The History



By Sokuam age 16

Three years ago there was a country called Cambodia. This country had a very wonderful culture and a wonderful religion but all of this was destroyed in the war so nobody knew about the history of this country. Fortunately, one year later everything had changed. The people in this country were very excited because they got back all their history. Why? How can they get their history back?

In that year, there was a man called Han. He wanted to know a lot about the history. He tried to find out but he couldn't. Nobody liked him because he was very strange from other people. He liked to spend his time walking in the forest to find strange things. Everyone thought that he was crazy because they knew that he wouldn't find anything.

But one day, nobody saw him and nobody knew where he was. But two weeks later, he came back and told everyone, "Everybody I have found our history. It is written by our ancestors on the boulder next to our village. Last week I walked into a forest and I found a strange door. I walked into the door but I still saw the same thing and I decided to walk back home but a very surprising thing happened. I saw our ancestors building the town gate. I was very frightened because I then knew that the door took me into the past. I tried to run away but they tried to catch me and then they asked me "Who are you? Why are you wearing strange clothes?" and I said "I come from 2013 and what year is it now?" "It is 1120 and how did you come here?" Suddenly, the man became younger slowly and he said "I don't have much time to answer. I will become a child here because I came from the future. I have one thing to tell you. In the future, all the history was destroyed by the war so please write it on a boulder on the mountain and hide it. Make sure that nobody knows where to find it. Goodbye, see you again."

"I ran back to the door. Unfortunately, there was a tiger who followed me and caught me in front of the door, but fortunately the King helped me and said, "I hope one day you will come back. Bye." "Then I ran into the door and I became older again. And now let us go to the boulder and clean it up for our history." This is how they got their history back.

## Nina, Her Dog and Butterfly



By Soknang, Age 19

Nina is a smart girl. She lives in a small house in a big village. She has one dog. She loves it very much. When Nina goes to school, her dog waits for her in front of the house because it waits for Nina to come back home. Nina brings something for her dog to eat. Her dog is very smart.

One day, she takes her dog to a garden because it is a beautiful day. She takes her dog and walks around the garden. It is very funny and it makes her tired too. Then she wants to buy ice cream to eat. She got it and sat under the big tree.

Suddenly, one butterfly flies and comes to eat Nina's ice cream. The dog looks and is very jealous of the butterfly. When Nina saw that, she gets up and gives her ice cream to her dog to eat together. They are very happy. When they finish eating, she takes her dog and goes back to home.

From that day onward Nina, her dog and the butterfly are good friends because Nina shared her ice cream with them. It is wonderful.



## Two Ways of Life



By Chy, Age 16

The sound of the time always goes tick tock tick tock!! It is 12 o'clock in the middle of the night. The strange story comes out. There was a small bridge in Tasha's room. And then she woke up and she saw that bridge. Recently she walked on the bridge. At first the bridge looked very small. But while she was walking on the bridge, it grew longer and longer. And it showed her the long way to the strange places.

The first place that she met was a really beautiful place. Many things happened that made her feel good, because she saw a group of people leave with the happiness, smiling and laughing. And it really touched her heart. While she was feeling great with this picture, the bridge took her to other places, but unfortunately everything was changing. She met a group of people who couldn't live with happiness. They cried and needed help, because they had no rice to eat. It was similar to Hell. She couldn't stop her mind and she cried and cried loudly and loudly. Even though this was a dream it felt true.

She woke up and this touched her heart so much it made her feel so hurt that she wrote this dream in her personal book. She had an idea to write all these dreams down for all people to read. She told what this dream meant. It meant, "In other life we have two ways for us. There is bad and good. So we should control ourselves to walk the good way." And she also made it clear that was why in the picture in her head she learned "The people who don't have happiness, who cry, who need help, and don't have rice are that way because they do not control themselves and their lives were on a bad way. So that is why when they die, they are in Hell forever."

## One Picnic with the New Friend



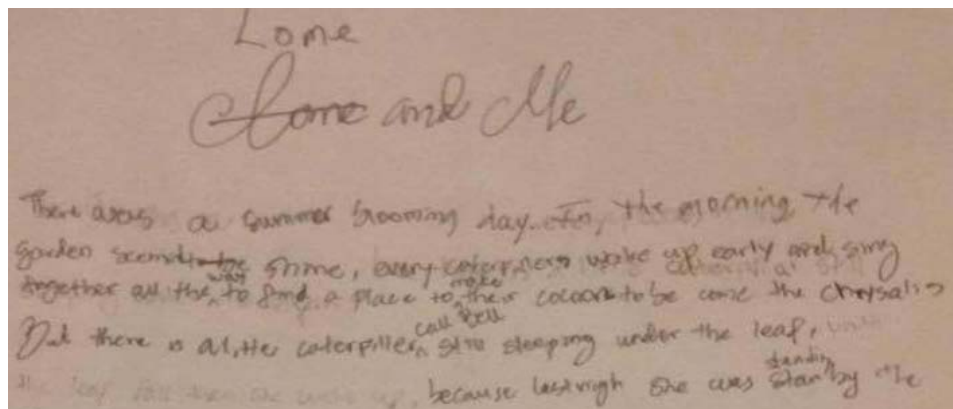
By Sokunty, Age 16

Last year, there were several friends. They had a party. They drank beer and ate food together. After that, they went to Angkor Wat. But on the road that they drove on to Angkor Wat they saw a person from their school. And then they called him and asked him to come with them. When they were at Angkor Wat, they put their motorcycles in the parking area and walked to visit Angkor Wat. At Angkor Wat, they saw many tourists who came from other countries. After that, they left from Angkor Wat and continued to 60 Road. At 60 Road they ate food and drank some colas with their new friend again and they played together. At night, before they went back home, the friends said that they were happy to have a new friend like him and then they went back home.

Lome and Me

By Sokim, Age 18

There was a summer blooming day. In the morning, the garden seemed to shine. Every caterpillar woke up early and sang together all the way to find a place to make their colors to become a chrysalis. But there is a little caterpillar called Bell still sleeping under the leaf because last night she was standing by the flower garden, until that leaf fell. Then she woke up, she looked around her and she wondered why today was so quiet. Bell went to ask Ms Lome who is a worm. Nobody liked her because they thought she was especially ugly. But Bell really liked to be friends with everyone. Ms Lome told her about everyone. Bell really was upset. Ms Lome didn't want to see Bell upset and she wanted Bell to become the most beautiful chrysalis. Then Lome called all her friends to find which garden had the healthy and beautiful plants. They found a garden which is near the Royal Palace. That is a really beautiful place. Really soon they brought Bell to the garden and always looked after Bell's cocoon. A few weeks later, Bell came out from her cocoon and became a beautiful chrysalis with big beautiful wings. She was really proud of herself and really thankful to Ms Lome. Then she looked down to the plant. She saw all the worms still sleeping. She really felt like Ms Lome was a bridge for her to become the happiest chrysalis. Lome always helped her when she had a problem and always motivated her when she was upset. Bell called all the worms and thanked them. Bell hugged Ms Lome and said she is a true friend and promised her to make all the chrysalis and the new caterpillars to become friends with the worms and always respect each other.



## Different People Can Be Friends



By Srey Roat, age 17

Three years ago there was a beautiful village that had many villagers living there. They were farmers and weavers. In this village there was one man who was the richest and stingiest. His name was Seyha. He had one daughter and her name was Nyla. She was the most beautiful and gentlest girl. She always weaved a mat at home. One day, there was one man who was very poor and came to ask Seyha for some money to make his own business. But the stingy man didn't allow anything for him and blamed him with serious words. "You look strong and powerful, why don't you work by yourself instead of asking for money?" The man didn't do anything and went back home with a serious face. From that day onwards, he promised himself that he wouldn't ask anybody to help him anymore. He tried his best and worked all day and night until he had success in his work.

One night there was a blackout in the whole village. Seyha's house had a blackout also. Seyha was old and couldn't see well. He wanted to go to the toilet so he took a lantern with him. Accidentally, there was a big black cat that looked at him with a serious face. He was shocked and dropped the lantern. Immediately, the fire from the lantern burnt the house down. He couldn't do anything. He called his daughter out and ran fast to the field. He stood and looked at his house burning down. When the neighbours saw that, they came to help put the fire out. But it was too late. Everything was ashes.

In the morning, Seyha was sitting under the tree with empty hands. He didn't know how to do anything more so he fell asleep. While he was sleeping, the man who was asking for his money came and woke him up. Seyha felt ashamed and looked down but the man was looking at his face and said "Pleasure is something outside of your body. You can find it out later. Especially because you are still alive." Seyha was happy and hugged him. The poor man taught Seyha an important lesson and they became friends.

## My Super Hero



By Sokea, age 19

One day in New Zealand there were Batman, Spiderman and Ironman. They met each other for the first time and they decided to make friends with each other. They didn't have a home to live in so they went to the small village to live in an old house. The villagers were very poor. Everyone needed help. The villagers were very happy with Spiderman, Batman and Ironman. Spiderman taught the children in the village. Batman helped the villagers to build new houses. And Ironman went to the forest to hunt animals for the villagers. Three years later, the villagers got a better and peaceful life, because the super heroes helped them.



## One Important Year I Remember



By Pheakdey, age 16

In 1974 there was one man who was a poor person. His name was Viseth. He lived in Phnom Penh in Cambodia. He didn't have any family but he lived with a monk in the pagoda. He was very kind and helpful. One day in 1975 when he was reading a book under a tree in the pagoda, he heard the noise of someone shooting a gun. After that he walked out of the pagoda and then he saw a group of people who were wearing black trousers and red scarves on their neck. After that he saw a lot of people walking on the street with their luggage. Then he ran very fast and asked people there and people said to him that a foreign country will come and drop bombs on the city. He was very frightened and then he ran very fast to the pagoda and took his luggage and walked with people to the countryside. Three months later Viseth and other people were controlled by a group of people and he worked every day from morning until evening and had no time to rest and the only food he got was porridge. Because of the difficult work in three months, a lot of people died because they didn't have enough food to eat and some were killed by the Red Scarf group. Viseth was very angry. At night he went to a group of people's house and asked them if they wanted to fight against the Red Scarf people. The people said yes to the fight. In the morning Viseth and his group went to the Red Scarf and fought them. All the Red Scarf group died. Viseth and his group were very happy and then Viseth went to the city with people and he was appointed as Prime Minister.

# Art is a bridge that can connect people together



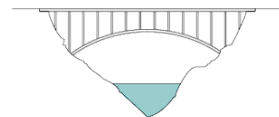
By Touich, Age 17

Ten years ago, there was a man who lived in a big town. He was called Amadali. He was a strict man. He didn't like girls because when he was young his mother left him and his father. That made his father drink and drink every day and his father didn't care about Amadali, so that made him hate girls and didn't stay with girls. But he had one boy friend called Judone. He was a very good friend with Amadali. Amadali didn't like to play with other friends, he played only with Judone.

One day Judone was wondering why Amadali didn't like girls so he went to Amadali and asked "Amadali, why don't you like girls?" Amadali was very sad. He told Judone to go to a quiet place and then told him "Judone, you want to know about me why I don't like girls, right?" Judone answered, "Yes." So, Amadali told his story. When Judone heard that, he pitied him and then Judone held Amadali.

One day his school had a competition about dance with boys and girls partnering together. Every student must choose a partner with one boy and with one girl. When Amadali heard that he was worried that he didn't know how to do everything. When he arrived he didn't want to do everything he just thought about that.

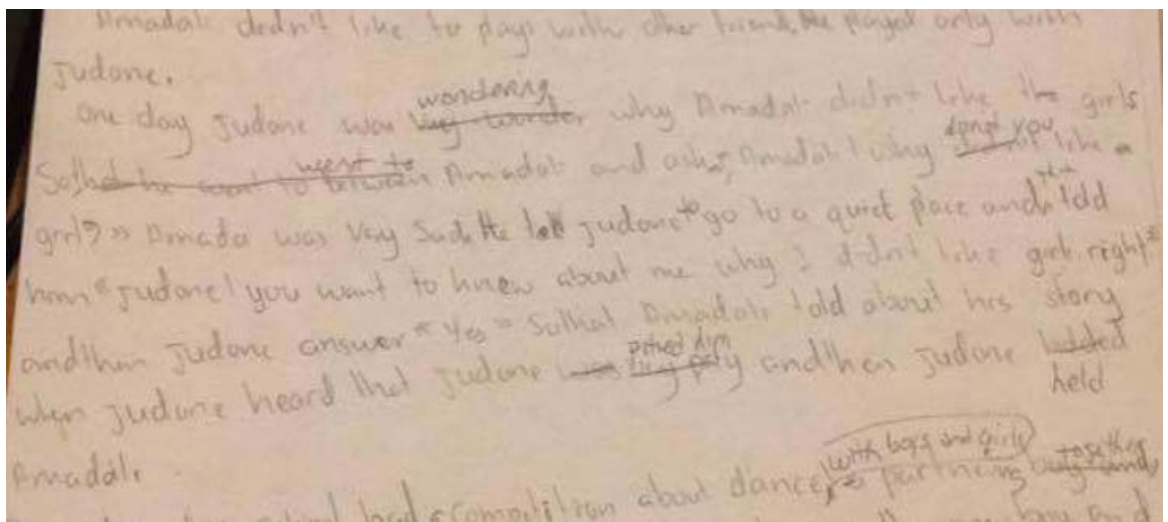
In the morning, he went to school. When he arrived at school, he went to his place and sat so quietly because he didn't know what to do. Minutes later, one very beautiful girl who was called Ammi came and sat with Amadali. She asked Amadali, "Amadali, do you want to be my partner?" Amadali didn't say anything. He just was quiet but in his mind he was very happy. Amadali said "You want me to be your partner, right?" and then Ammi said "Yes." Amadali replied, "Maybe, I'll think first." Ammi was very angry because Amadali didn't accept her.



## Art is a bridge that can connect people together continued...

The competition day was coming soon in a very short time. Amadali didn't know what to do and then Amadali went to Ammi and told her, "A few days ago you asked me to be your partner, right? But now I accept it." Ammi didn't say anything. She just told Amadali to go with her to the dancing stage and practise.

That day the school had a competition and practise and dance, one partner by one partner. A few days more, they declared the result. Ammi and Amadali won! They were very happy so they became best friends from that time on.





# Writing Through in progress



Thank you

# Thank you/Arkun!

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