

STUDENT REPORTERS

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K-POP: THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE MISUNDERSTOOD

by Annabelle Her, grade 7

When I was five, walking home from school with my cousins, they talked about something I had never heard of before. She would say “I love BTS! V is my favorite,” as she showed me a picture of a random guy I had never seen before. Why would my cousin like some guy in sparkly clothing that she had never met? That is when I learned about K-pop.

K-pop is a form of popular music that comes from South Korea. Technically K-pop can mean all pop music from South Korea but it usually refers to the more exclusive type of Korean music. In K-pop the artists are connected in the “idol industry,” which is a person whose image is manufactured to create a dedicated fan following. K-pop idols usually, but not always, come in groups. They are usually separated by gender so that they can be seen as desirable and available to fans. Idols and their images are perfectly crafted by their companies. Some K-pop idols become “trainees,” a person training to become an idol. They start training as young as 12 and train for up to 15 years without the guarantee of even becoming an idol.

K-pop is what it sounds like: Korean popular music. But it is so much more. The idols, the dances, and the fan bases are all so different from what we are used to in the West.

I wouldn't say I'm a K-pop fan, those were my cousins. I always thought it was strange how they would copy dance videos, follow their favorite “K-pop idols,” and listen to their songs even when they didn't understand Korean. I would watch



to their songs even when they didn't understand Korean. I would watch the music videos with them while wondering what was so charming about these songs. I thought that for a few years, then I tried to understand.

From 2ne1 to BlackPink, K-pop started from fashion. Seo Taiji and Boys is credited as being one of the first K-pop groups. K-pop emerged in the 1990s from Korean street fashion. They revolutionized K-pop by mixing it with more American hip hop, then modern K-pop was born.

K-pop idols seem perfect. They wear cool outfits, have hundreds of thousands of fans, and probably make lots of money from their songs. From the outside, the idols' shimmering image made them an idol to their fans.

The truth is that the life of a K-pop idol is not what it seems. From the start of training to the end of their career, most K-pop idols have to go through rigorous dieting, sometimes eating only three paper cups full of food a day. One popular solo artist,

IU, shared her diet of one apple for breakfast, sweet potato for lunch, followed by a protein shake for dinner. This is dangerous on a number of levels, including the fact that her fans want to follow this diet to look like her.

“At least they make tons of money from their music,” I thought when I learned that being a K-pop idol was not so pretty. I was wrong. Usually you see K-pop idols wearing expensive brands of clothes, but it turns out those brands sponsor the idols to wear the clothes. Only the most successful K-pop idols like Blackpink and BTS have really made a profit. One member from the group Ladies Code got her first paycheck 7 years after working in the industry. Idols have to pay off a debt from their training years once they debut as an idol, which can take a very long time. The K-pop community can also be very toxic, with some fans berating other idols for just interacting with each other.

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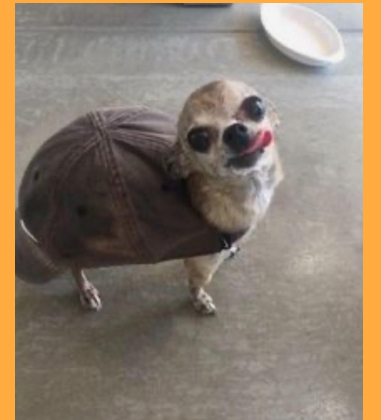
VOTE FOR ANIMAL OF THE MONTH & TEACHER OF THE MONTH

by Luna Flores, Jae Johnson, Anna Larsen, grade 7



ANIMAL & TEACHER OF THE MONTH

by Luna Flores, Jae Johnson, Anna Larsen, grade 7



In a survey taken of students at Inver Grove Heights Middle School, the following teacher was voted teacher of the month:

**MS.
SAWYER**

K-POP: THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE MISUNDERSTOOD

by Annabelle Her, grade 7

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Although the K-pop community has some bad spots, there are kind and genuine parts too. The K-pop community is usually misunderstood because many people's view on music is strictly western. They think it's funny that idols perform or dress just for a concert. They don't understand why people are so obsessed. The truth is that the community built around K-pop is one that is completely unique. Idols are not just seen as artists but they go on game shows and vlog on a specific app made for idols. K-pop is so versatile that it grew very quickly, without giving some people the time to understand what it all means. All of these things created something truly different from what we could have ever imagined it to be.

Name: Telegraph

Likes: cheese chicken sandwich's Fifa

Dislikes: school food



TELEGRAPH
by Will Sutton, grade 6

LOVE IS LOVE

by Tyler Martinez, grade 7



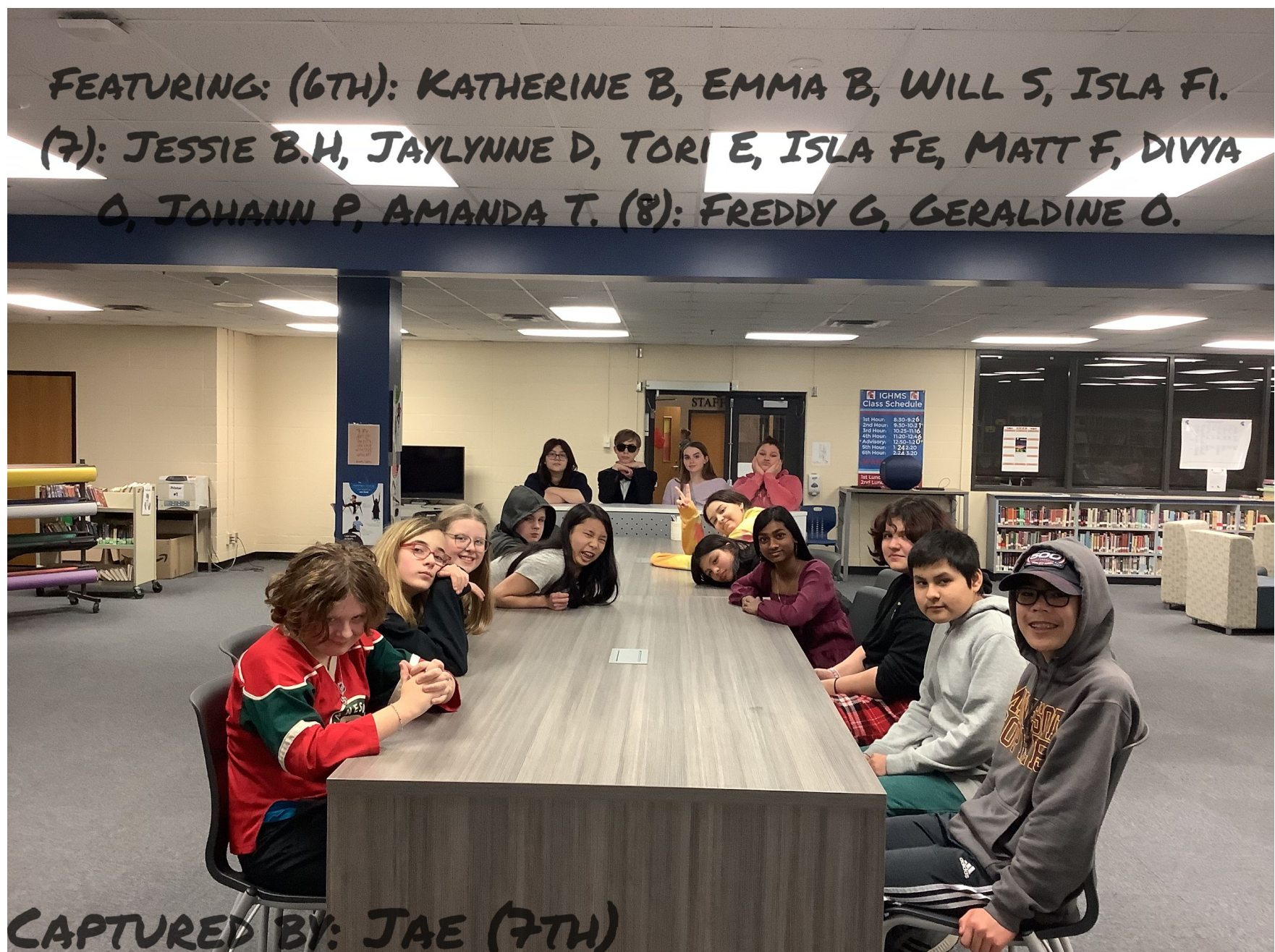
TOP 10 MOVIES OF 2022

by Isla Feldman, grade 7

10. Everything Everywhere All At Once
Starring: Michelle Yeoh, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Stephanie Hsu
9. The Inspection
Starring: Jeremy Pope and Raúl Castillo
8. Top Gun Maverick
Starring: Tom Cruise and Miles Teller
7. The Fallout
Starring: Jenna Ortega and Maddie Ziegler
6. The Batman
Starring: Robert Pattinson and Zoë Kravitz
5. Black Panther: Wakanda Forever
Starring: Angela Bassett and Michael B Jordan
4. Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio
Starring: Gregory Mann and Ewan McGregor
3. The Banshees of Inisherin
Starring: Colin Farrell and Barry Keoghan
2. The Whale
Starring: Brendan Fraser and Sadie Sink
1. RRR
Starring: Ram Charan and N.T. Rama Rao Jr.

SPARTAN NEWSFLASH NEWSIES

by Jae Johnson, grade 7



A RECAP OF BIG SPORTS GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS

by Isla Feldman, grade 7

There are 3 different types of people. First, are people who love sports and watch almost every game even if it's not important or does not include their team. Second, are people who like sports but they only watch important games and games that include their team. The third type is the complete opposite of the first two, and are people who hate sports and know nothing about them. I am one of those people who love sports. If you love or like sports like me these are a few games and tournaments you should know

about.

Congratulations to UConn on winning the NCAA tournament. The final four were Atlantic with a number 9 seed who played San Diego with a number 5 seed, San Diego won with a score of 72-71. Then there was Miami with a number 5 seed who played UConn with a number 4 seed. UConn won that game with a score of 72-59. San Diego was then put up against UConn in the championship. UConn ended up winning the whole thing with a score of 76-59.

Now for hockey: the Wild are 3rd in the central division with a record of 44-23. The Colorado Avalanche are in 1st with a record of 46-24 and The Dallas Stars are in 2nd with a record of 42-21. The Wild recently played against the Vegas Golden Knights who are 1st in the Pacific division with a record of 48-22. They played them twice in a row. The first time they lost with a score of 1-4 and then the second game they lost in overtime with a score of 3-4. The Wild did secure a playoff spot.

WRINKLES

by Amanda Trujillo, grade 7



MINNESOTA FUN FACTS

by Isabel Tix, grade 8



RED PINE - STATE TREE



LOON - STATE BIRD



LADY SLIPPER - STATE FLOWER



WALLEYE - STATE FISH

Minnesota Fun Facts



WILD RICE - STATE GRAIN



MINNESOTA IS KNOWN FOR IT'S LAKES

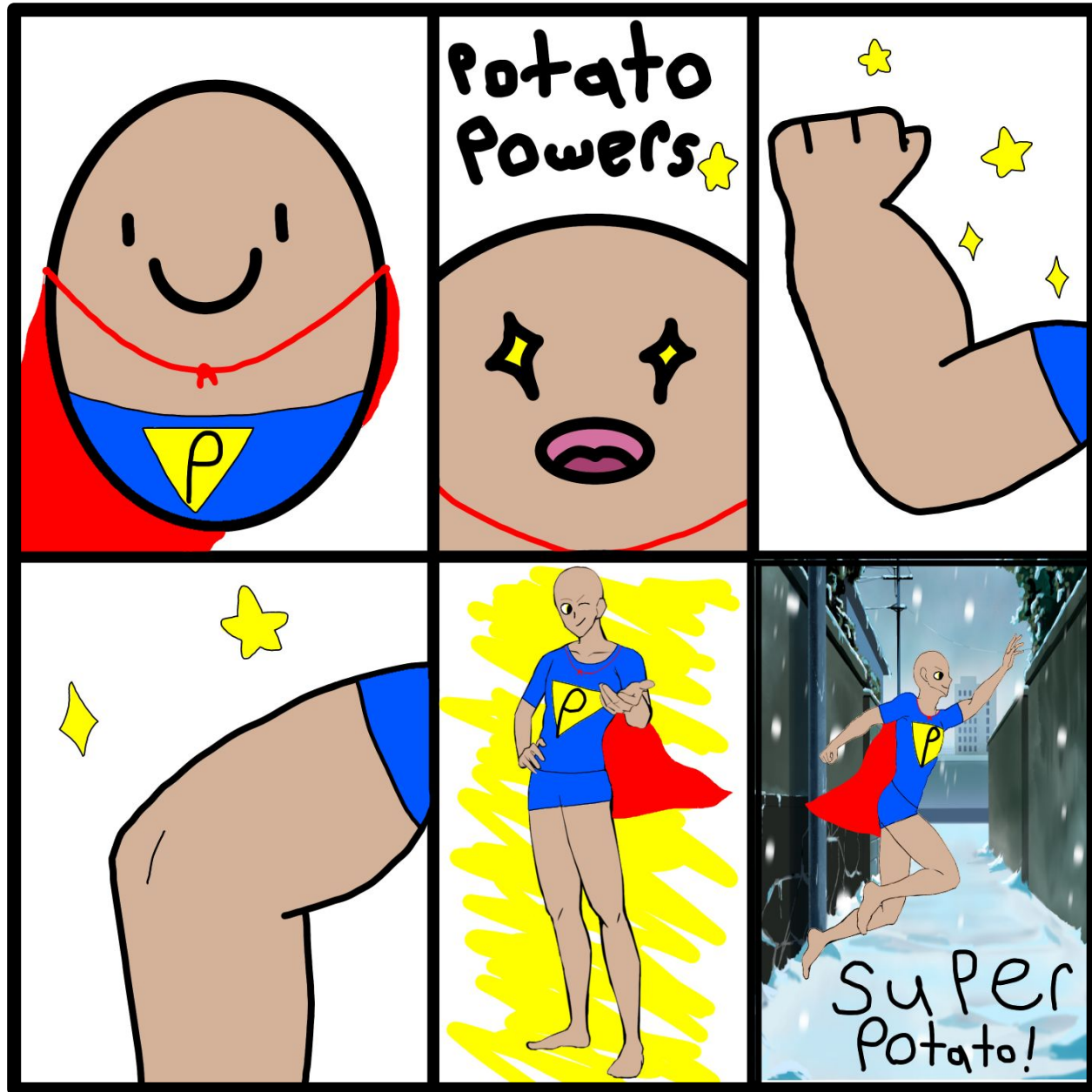


GEMSTONE - LAKE SUPERIOR AGATE

ISABEL TIX

SUPER POTATO

by Emma Brainard., grade 6



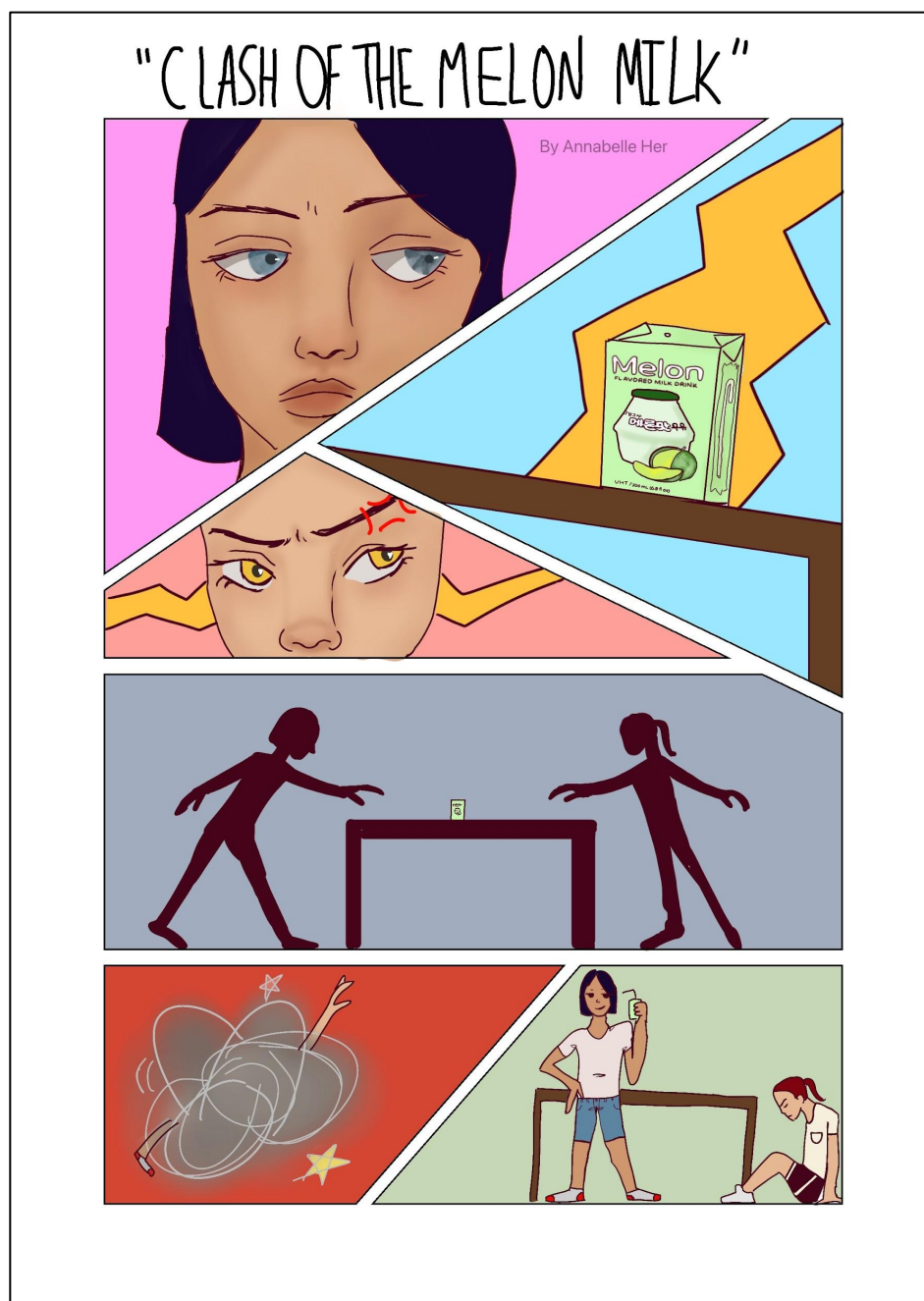
LONELINESS

by Anna Larsen., grade 7

Loneliness
 My best friend
 Visiting me often
 As hard as I try
 As many people I surround myself
 with
 I can never eradicate it
 I will never understand how it works
 That feeling
 How it sneaks up upon me and many
 others
 Waiting to strike
 Like a lion stalking its prey
 I see people
 I'm my dreams
 Thoughts
 Life
 As I search
 Search for someone to cure my
 illness
 The same illness that has
 Scared me
 Become a part of me
 Finally
 I found the one
 The one who will save me
 Cure my illness
 But obstacles block my path
 Gathering the courage to tell
 Tell him how I feel
 Even though he is a year older
 Even though he knows
 Knows someone likes him
 I'm too ill
 To gather the courage to tell him
 His smile
 The one I see lots
 At school
 Church
 His shining eyes
 Remind me
 Remind me to keep battling
 This vicious disease
 Loneliness
 To keep hoping
 Hoping that someday
 I will be cured for good

CLASH OF THE MELON MILK

by Annabelle Her, grade 7



UNTITLED

by Anna Larsen., grade 7

The great jungle
Was a blazing blue tile color
Children standing in the open
Gazing at the rain
The ear splitting soaked world
Smiles slowly vanishing
They begin to sob
Along with the rain
Their eyes held disappointment
that you could see clear as day
If only you searched hard enough
Their faces
Grave and pale
Their bodies
Thin
Narrow
Under weight
From not eating
Not seeing the sun in weeks
Standing silently apart
From each other
The sky darkens into night
A single rain drop falls
What are they waiting for
Suddenly
Released from their spell
Their hands at their sides
They scamper home
All thinking
It will get better
Because
The sun is a flower
Sweet crystals fall
They close their doors
And clamp their hands
Over their ears
Trying to block out the pounding of
the rain

TORNADO

by Jessie Briones Herrera, grade 7



PETTING AGGRESSION

by Alex Martinex Beltran, grade 6

