



# MENTOR'S NOTE



There's absolutely no doubt... Issue 8: Air will blow you away!

Lit Kids Magazine features creative work from 5 to 13-year-old kids, and we couldn't be more impressed by the writing, art, and photography featured in this issue! Our mentors work alongside the kids for a month to enhance their pieces and provide each child with a realistic glimpse into the publishing industry. We accept work from kids all over the world, spotlighting young talent and ushering in winds of creative transformation!

Within the pages of Issue 8: Air, you'll find in many cases a literal translation of the theme, as well as some extra whimsical pieces of original art! The element air is light and lifts us up, much like the undeniable enthusiasm from these young creators. Air also puts breath in our lungs, fueling the steps we take and choices we make. Creative endeavors give us figurative breaths of fresh air, channeling the stressors of life into a positive outlet. This fact rings the most true: we couldn't exist without the air we breathe or our passion to create. And the Lit Kids Team couldn't be prouder of our young mentees for their publication accomplishments! Hooray!

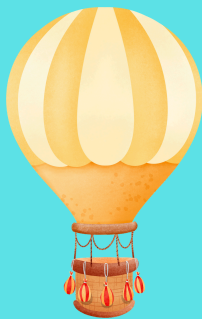
Congrats to all the children featured in this issue. Please help us celebrate by sharing their work far and wide! Regardless of what roadblocks life throws at us, we'll continue breathing and creating. Oh, and keep shining too!

Happy Reading,

Rebecca Weber

*Lit Kids Magazine's* Mentor-In-Chief

P.S. If you know a talented kid or love reading our published issues, please subscribe to our site for updates about open submissions or new releases, and share the link with the 5 to 13-year-old kids in your life. Submissions open on a quarterly basis, and we're always on the lookout for new talent to highlight! As usual, thank you for your continued support!



# WRITING



Samantha is 12 years old and a student at WTR Middle School in Kings Park, New York. Some of her favorite hobbies are playing piano and violin, writing songs and poems, and reading.

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## **Friend-Heart**

**by Samantha Scaduto**

She stands brightly at my side

Soft as a caressing hand

But callused as one that has seen too much labour

She is cold, my friend-heart,

Icy from her brokenness,

Her jagged edges crusted with hoarfrost

She stands by me

Though invisible, so steady

A guiding hand in my world, fraught with destruction

The whispered words say to follow her lead

That she will take you to Elysium, the place where there is no pain

But I cannot follow her, for she pushes me to places I cannot deign to go

And though Elysium is kind to travellers,

I cannot stay

For though she guides me and whispers in my ear

My friend-heart will take me to places I fear

And cold are the moments when she touches my skin

She leads me to peace, but I fear to begin

For the traveller's life is as cold as the stone

She stands with me here, but here I stand alone

She is pleasant sometimes

A warm draft from lands I long to court

A soft touch brushing past me with the grace of the stars

She is angry, though why we cannot fathom

And she whips us with joy in her eyes

But she does not serve a master

She stands by me

Like the promise of an old friend

But my friend-heart has seen too much death

And all my friends have gone yet to Elysium

To greet the stars with their stories

And greet their lost ones where we cannot dwell for long

And though the stars are a harbor of tales

I cannot read

For though she guides me and whispers in my ear

My friend-heart will take me to places I fear



And cold are the moments when she touches my skin

She leads me to peace, but I fear to begin

For the traveller's life is as cold as the stone

She stands with me here, but here I stand alone

I wish for you to take me, to feed me to wolves

To match me to strangers, to fire the coals

To run and to hide, for the night is not done

To call me and whisper to follow the sun

To guide me and touch me, and lead me towards home

And though I stand here with her,

Here I stand, alone

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Ruby Salkeld is 11 and goes to a British school in the United Arab Emirates. She is half British and half Australian, and loves reading (particularly *Lottie Brooks* books), writing, all animals and hedgehogs in particular! She loves setting up businesses with her friends, to make and sell things to raise money for charity and their school.

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**Air Make Life**

**by Ruby Salkeld**

High in the clouds, wind turbines reached up into the sky, pushing electricity down and blowing the air away. If you sat on top of one, a great current of joy would hit you. Rays of rose-gold and bright yellow would fill your eyes to allow you to see how big the world really is. You would feel the chilled fresh air fall onto your face and hear morning thunderclouds above you.

A few years earlier, there were no turbines. Not even the warm glow of the sun. Instead, the air was polluted and underneath the brown, murky sky was a beach. It was bustling with people and children, who would run into friendly waves. If you stuck your nose up, you could just about smell the salty, sandy water as it flew over you. The air tasted like the sea, full of wonder and curiosity. People visited every day as a village was just a few yards away.

Later, the pollution was gone, but the village remained, with a field and a forest leading to wind turbines, conducting electricity and turning through the wind. The village was called Sandy Winds, and it was visited every day by passers-by. The local market, lined with stalls, sold unique spices, expensive wood and so much more. Houses were modern, with enough room to fit five people. Little kids ran down to the woods, giggling with glee and trying to blow onto the towering turbines that blew on them. Everyone had the electricity they needed as it was just next door, made by the living air.



Sara Guyton is 11 years old and lives in Dripping Springs, Texas. She has two dogs, Pickle and Didymus, and loves to draw cats.

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Series: *“Air”*

Puffy

by Sara Guyton



Trees Puffy.

by Sara Guyton





**Eye Burning**

**by Sara Guyton**



Stanley is 5 years old, and is loving his first year in kindergarten. He enjoys playing games, going outside, and taking pictures of things everywhere he goes! He also loves family time and hanging out with his cousin Ana.

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**Fan**

**by Stanley Doughty**





ART



William Ubben (age 9) lives at home in Middletown, Virginia, with his parents and three cats. He attends Powhatan School in Boyce, Virginia. His favorite subjects are art, math, and science. His hobbies include drawing, writing poetry, playing the piano, building with Legos, and enjoying nature.

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### Dragon

by William Ubben



Sara Guyton is 11 years old and lives in Dripping Springs, Texas. She has two dogs, Pickle and Didymus, and loves to draw cats.

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Ms. Windypuff

by Sara Guyton



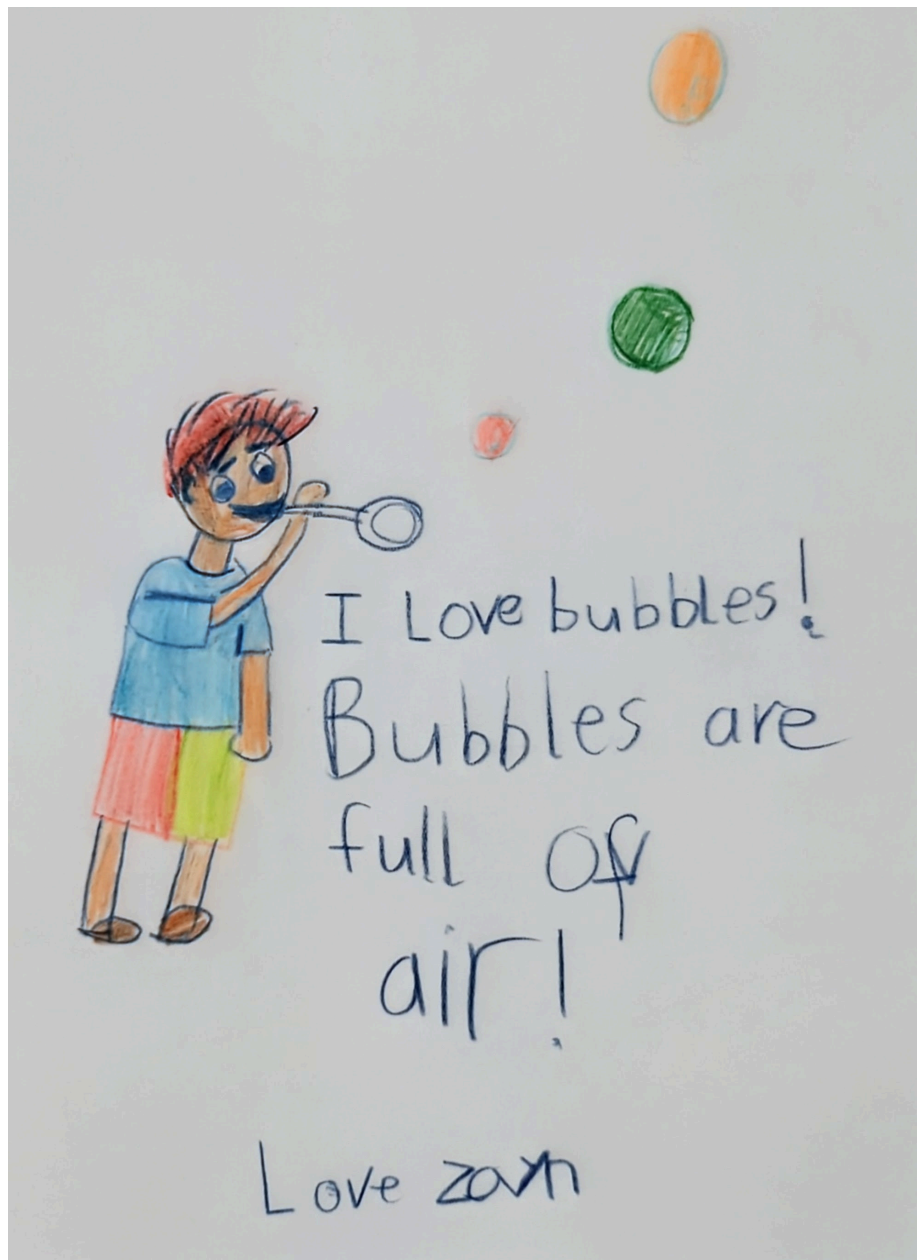


Zayn recently moved to London, UK with his adopted parents and brother, along with a rescue spaniel, two rescue cats, and Grandma. Zayn loves being in his forever family, and they all love bubbles! Zayn is 7 and loves to draw!

### Bubbles

by Zayn Mamaji Kapadia





Madyx Wilkinson is 8 years old. She loves to read, draw and hang out with her friends. She enjoys taking dance and karate. She's also part of her school's writers' club and girl scouts. She has a brother and sister.

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Windmill Field

by Madyx Wilkinson



Paloma Christiano is a twelve-year-old who is the biggest American fan of Haruhi Suzumiya under 25 years old, because, yes, the show is almost 20 years old, and the light novels are 22 years old. Her second favorite character is Tsuruya. She is also interested in vocal synths, such as those made by Crypton Future Media, Internet Co. Ltd, and TWINDRILL. She has experimented with various art mediums, including digital, painting, and others. She believes AI art is not art.

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### Kiki in Summer

by Paloma Christiano





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# THE END

(Always keep your head in the clouds!)