

Our Place Collections: Group Poems

OUR PLACE THIS IS OUR DREAM

A group poem inspired by Langston Hughes
February 2021

I Dream A World.....

I dream a world torn asunder
A world reborn by thunder
Where tragedy is overcome
By the power of triumph
The gift of love
We store secretly
In our sacred place

I dream a world united together
A world where all hearts beat at one
This is our story
Always unfolding
With each and every day
This is our life
Always worth living
For each new day
A promise to you
No matter what
It will always be okay

Forever until eternity
This is the world I dream
The world I dream
SEAN W

I dream a world where race relations are no longer just areas of once a year discussions
but reflections of historic measures for the future.

I dream a world where happiness conquers evilness and deceit within our nation.

I dream a world where inclusion brings hope and inspiration to a new generation.

I dream a world where treating people with dignity and respect will truly be a reality and
not just a dream deferred.

STERLING – staff leader of the group poem

I would like everyone to be able to stay fit and work out with friends.

I want the world to be able to go back to normal.

I want to live in a world where everyone can have an education.

MATT

I dream of a world that is full of peace and harmony. Everybody should be treated equally no matter the color of their skin. I think it is important to love one another and honor those that serve, especially those who received a purple heart.

VAL

I have a dream that everyone will be able to exercise.

I want everyone to be able to have a place like Our Place.

I want everyone to have the joy of family in their lives.

BELLA

I want everyone to be able to have breakfast and be able to brush their teeth because it sets everyone up for a good day. Everyone deserves that.

TIM

I dream a world where I can spend time with family and find joy in entertainment.

KATIE B

I dream a world where hearts

No entrance allow hate,

Where love doth freely flow

And peace the extant state.

MICHELLE - staff

I dream a world where people listen first and act second; where trying is just as important as succeeding; where intelligence and creativity are worth as much as physical ability; where inner beauty is the only beauty; where judgment is reserved for courtrooms and playing fields. I dream a world where hate, cruelty, and intolerance are no longer, and only love, kindness, and acceptance exist.

EMILY - staff

I wish I could dream of a world where it is free of sicknesses, like not getting ill from the flu that's been going around us and also people are treated equally to each other, giving them their rights to do whatever they'd like by respecting themselves differently because it's important to treat everybody in the same way as other individuals.

JASON

My dream is to have no war, only peace and love and freedom and happiness. No being mean to anyone. No more covid. No more sickness. No darkness, only light. No more poor. Everyone has money. No more sadness.

MARY

I dream a world where...

We do not have to wear masks when we go out so we can see people smile

That life is back to normal and we can be with our friends and not worry about getting sick

That we still wash hands, wear masks, social distance if we feel we are sick and can hurt others

Everyone can get a vaccine for Covid and not worry that they will be sick and die

Everyone can attend sports games at high schools and arenas and cheer on their favorite teams. I miss that so much.

People are nice to each other, help each other and care about each other

Everyone is treated the same no matter their issues

That everyone sees how much fun we have at Our Place and how happy it makes me feel every day to be with my friends

MATT C

I dream of a world where all are considered equal regardless of ability, race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation

DAN C

The dream of life and once upon a dream. I feel brave and intelligent and being able to take care of each other and being able to take care of each other.

ALEX H

I dream of a world with less destruction and no guns that harm people.

I dream of a world without all viruses and sickness.

I dream of a world where all races can get along in peace and harmony

FRANK

I dream that people would be kind.

And that I would be there to help out my friends.

And that everyone can always be together

KEENAN

I dream a world where no one is our enemy.

There would be no more wars.

I would have an easier time getting along with everyone.

DANIELLE

I dream a world where I was at Disneyland all by myself to hang out, to talk about stuff.
Get rid of this virus.

DEREK

I really, really want a temple for the world. It could be a synagogue that would make a better place for people.

I dream a world that I could bless on drinking some grape juice after I wear my tallit and my kippah and read the Torah

JOSH

I dream a world of plants and animals and food and friends.

I wish for my parents and my cat and my brother and my friends.

LISA K

I dream for themselves and for all the people who are there for us, especially for some of them in heaven and I will keep the faith and the faith goes with us every day, especially for all of us on this earth.

MATT R

I dream a world of seeing people I haven't seen since the pandemic.

BECCA

I dream a world, a happy world.

ARSHEEL

Our Place **"Still, I Rise"**

A group poem inspired by Maya Angelou
February 2022

People are upset about COVID-19 because it's scary. But we are brave and helpful, so still, I rise. When I am working at my job, some people are mean. Some people get in my space. But I am open-minded, so I still rise.

MARY

Choosing a schedule was difficult.

I got help from a friend and picked out my classes for Spring Session.

Still, I rise.

CHIP

Colors are beautiful and still I rise.

Our Place is beautiful and still I rise.

Wearing my mask is hard and still I rise.

BELLA

Still, I rise,

Above the clouds,

Against the odds.

No matter what obstacles are placed in my path,

I shall overcome the relentless tide of challenges.

Like a virus, rising and falling with the waves.

Like friends arriving and leaving, new and old, flowing with the times.

Yet I still persevere.

Still, I rise.

I rise.

I rise.

SEAN

Sometimes the news is sad, but still, I rise.

I learn about Black History and am inspired, so still I rise.

Sometimes people are upset, but I help them by being funny, so still I rise.

Bad things are happening around our country, but I stay positive and still I rise.

TRAVIS

I am different, I change like colors in the morning when I wake up. Still, I rise.

People need help and I am kind, so still, I rise.

I leave behind sadness and bring forward my past, and still, I rise.

I bring gifts to others like my laugh and my writing, still I rise.

MATT C.

I have overcome my seizures. I was one year old when I lost my balance and my body started shaking, but still, I rise.

It was hard for me to understand what was happening. I was born with it. Still, I rise.

We tried so many doctors, but no one knew how to help. Still, I rise

My mom saw me reading a story in sign language. My reading skills progressed.

Still, I rise.

I love to be around people who understand me. It bothers me that people don't want to talk about it. Still, I rise.

It is still scary for me, still, I rise.

KATIE L.

Sometimes people are not nice to me, but still, I rise.

People told me I would not be able to build with Lego bricks,

but still I build and still I rise.

DEREK

It was hard for me to color. Now it's fun. I am proud. Still, I rise.
WES

It was hard for me to talk. Now I talk with friends. I feel good. All right! I love Clay. Well done. Still, I rise.
CLAY

My legacy may go down in history with your spiteful and circuitous lies. Yet, you continue to drag me down into the ground but still, like dust I'll rise.
Yet, does my swag unsettle you? Why are you plagued with darkness? "Because I walk with confidence and pride like I am shining in my own pursuit of happiness.
I am a descendant of slaves that have set the foundation for generations to come before me. In spite of, obstacles and uncertainty. I rise above skeptics and doubters in the world.
Lastly, with challenges and difficult situations, we will rise above! We will rise above! We will rise above once again.
STERLING

It was hard for me to make friends. Now I feel happy every day. It's good to be me. Still, I rise.
WOODY

I am able to work without a job coach
I didn't ever think I would be able to work without one, but now I do
It makes me feel better about myself
It makes me feel proud of myself.
Still, I rise.
LEVI

Diamonds in the sky and still I rise.
I had to wake up this morning with the American flag and still I rise.
The sunflower grows and still I rise.
PATRICK

Though I am judged by many for many reasons, still I rise knowing I am loved by many.

Though I have been a victim, still I rise.

Life brings me down and still I rise.

I have been bullied, still, I rise.

I rise up though I have seen adversity, still, I rise, I rise, I rise, I rise.

DAN

Still, I rise with the challenges every day that I am dealing with

Dealing with my arthritis is something I cannot live with forever and I would like the pain to go away so I can be able to walk as I used to, Still I rise.

I want no pain at all in my knee so I can get back to the way I was before the pain, free. Still, I rise.

FRANK