All the poetry on this page are from a collaboration between Street Roots and the Native American Youth and Family Center. The work here is from the students of Gabrielle Buvinger-Wild's Language Arts class, part of NAYA's Early College Academy.

Te Amo
By Jessy L West.

Love can be a curse or a miracle.
It depends who you love.
My love for you is a miracle.
I never told you this.
Te amo con todo mi vida.
Tu eres mi corazon y tu eres mi vida.
My love for you is like gold.
Some people get it. Some people don't.

Back In The Day
By Sylvia Woolf

Sad to think
I was into
You

Let it be known
This will never
Be rekindled

It's too much to
Be resisting these
Feelings toward you

I just can't handle
The ignorance
You feed into

We used to be
Close then but
We're too far to hold
Back

Now we must
Say goodbye
Before we
Both lose
Ends

The Strength To Grow
By Courtney Boyle

A hidden path, hard to find
A sparkling pool of water
Shining in the sun
Skipping rocks across the glassy surface.

My reflection catching my eye
Now so different than my childhood glances
The strength and courage I see
Can only be from trials and challenges.

Losing faith, falling in love
Making mistakes, falling on my face
Losing hope, then getting it back
My strength is earned in every action
My courage is shown in every choice.

Life is Trouble
By Damien Stankenwitsch

One may dream
That life is a breeze,
But in reality
Your dreams may freeze.

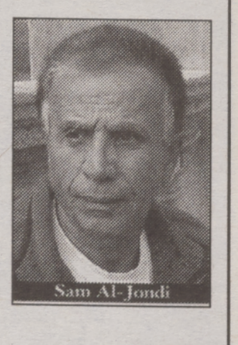
Anything is possible though
If you set your mind to it
No foreign substances
Will do anything to fix it.

You have to have courage
And sweat to achieve
The only way to believe
Is to start the voyage.

And see that it can be
Only if your eyes can see
Or touch the sight,
So reach for the light.

There's a right way to go
Even if you feel like quitting
Your fate is not foretold,
But that journey is worth taking.

Check out Street Roots Vendor Sam Al-Jondi's new book, "Code of Conduct." Al-Jondi writes about his experiences and offers a fresh perspective about the world we live in.


Sam Al-Jondi

The books can be purchased at the Multnomah County Central Library on SW 10th Ave., on Kindle, Amazon, and for $10 through Street Roots at 211 NW Davis St., Portland, OR 97209.