

New Jersey/Texas LTP Collaboration (2009-2010)

This blog is a collaboration between USA (New Jersey and Texas) middle schools to help students achieve better communication skills through the **FotoFest Literacy Through Photography (LTP)** program (Houston, Texas). It involves writing through the use of digital or film-based photography.

Students increase visual and verbal literacy while building cognitive thinking skills, self-esteem, and awareness of each other. The LTP curriculum provides students with meaningful subject matter to help them write about their own photographs, their own lives, with confidence.

FotoFest has combined with the instructors and schools to pursue a pilot program ... blog approach ... for LTP.

Participating Schools

Eisenhower Middle School, Wyckoff, New Jersey.

Raul Yzaguirre School For Success, Houston, Texas.

(Blog: <http://houstonwyckoff.blogspot.com/>)

Friday, December 4, 2009

Jessica, 8th Grade, RYSS



I took a picture of the sky because it looked bright and pretty. When I was taking the picture, I accidentally put my finger over the lens, and it came out in the picture. I was going to delete the picture because of the finger, but I liked it so I kept it. The sky is light blue with some white fluffy clouds, and in the left top corner, you can see my finger. It looks interesting because it looks like a shadow. This picture makes me feel happy and creative.

Jessica, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Friday, November 13, 2009

Taylor, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

This is my project
the Autumn Tree;
I used photo
shop elements to
edit my photo. I
named my project
the autumn tree
because it shows
how the leaves
on trees change
different colors
and how beautiful
the colors are
and how the

change before falling off the trees before the cold snowy winter
starts. I used the contrast and made the picture darker and clearer
to see. I thought this photo was really cool and interesting to do.



Areli, 6th Grade, RYSS



This picture is really interesting. The grass is long, and it is really green. There are also five mushrooms that are white. Some of them have circles and dots that are light brown. The one in the middle is the biggest. And the two in front of it are small. In the back, there is a black line. I think this is a really weird and one of the best pictures I have taken.

Areli, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Dionna, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

I chose this photo, because I thought the picture was pretty and had good lighting. I thought it was a good one, because It showed a nature side, and it wasn't in the building. I Like how the leaves are on the bench

and on the around the bench. It shows how we are in November, and leafs are falling off the trees. I also like the lighting, because it was a sunny day, so it had sunlight in it.



Maritza, 8th Grade, RYSS



When I look at this picture, I feel like everything is dead. We don't have a good life, and Earth does not have color ... only black and white. I think, "What would it be like if our planet was just black and white? People would not have a better life. They would be sad and angry with each other." In real life, there is color. That's why God brings us all the beautiful flowers we see. We love Earth and we will until God gets tired of us.

Maritza, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Liam Grade 7 Eisenhower MS



angle of the camera.

Liam Grade 7
Eisenhower M.S
I chose this
picture of one of
my fellow
students. We
were taking
random pictures
and I laid on the
ground and told
him to sit on the
bench and to
pretend to take a
picture of me. I
had to crop out a
school bus. This
picture is
interesting to me
because the

Ana, 6th Grade, RYSS



I think this picture is interesting because the cone in front looks bigger than the others, and the lines that are yellow look bigger too. The sky has a lot of shapes because of the clouds.

Ana, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Aly, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

My picture is called An Autumn Day. I named it this because the way the leaves on the tree stood out and made me think of the leaves changing colors. This picture is outside in the courtyard. I picked this tree because it was the biggest one



and it has the prettiest leaves. On photo shop elements I brightened the picture so it will so all the colors. I liked this picture because I like how the leaves are different colors and it stood out on the brown tree bark. Also it stood out because it looks like a bright fall day.

Jackie, 7th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because you can see as the sun sets, the small building's shadow makes an angle. If you look on the left side, you can see our teacher, Mr. Chambers. It looks like he is pointing at the shadow, and also see how one building's shadow is on the side of the other building. If you look at the top of the second building, you can see some plants sticking out. Look on both sides and you can see what is on either side of the building. You can see the clear glass on the right and cars on the left. The picture seems to look side ways, but that is the shadow and how the sun is facing the clear building. It makes me feel like Mr. Chambers is part of this shadow. I picked this picture because its not just a building, it's a building, shadow, and Mr. Chambers.

Jackie, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Dylan, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

I chose this picture because I thought it was a cool perspective of the stairway in my school. I like how you can see the upstairs and downstairs, and the rust on the corner of the handrail. Also, I like how the angle of the camera makes the picture look unusual, in an artistic way. Lastly, I like how you can look at this picture in various ways.



Maria, 7th Grade, RYSS



The reason I like this picture is because you can actually see our 7th and 8th grade girls playing volleyball. You can see how they are concentrating on the game. I guess the volleyball is up in the air because you can't see it in the picture. Everyone is looking at the ball except for Rosario who's biting her nails. So, it's a cool picture and at the same time, I think it's funny because some girls' positions are different. And you can actually see their faces.

Maria, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Sara, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

My photo is called The Shadowy Staircase. I chose this photo because I liked the dark staircase leading up to the window then how the window had light coming from it. The light coming out of the window made a nice shadow on the wall. I also chose this photo because the image was very sharp. On photoshop elements I brightened the photo so the stairs were more visible then resized and named it. The point of this picture is how a space can be lit up by just a little light.



Cynthia, 8th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because, I love nature, and the way this picture was taken makes it look very cool. I think this picture shows Mother Nature and what it can express. I also like the colors, and the angle it was taken. I like how the trees look tilted with the broken pieces of wood. it looks so realistic.

Cynthia, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Matt, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

I chose this photo because I thought that the angle of this picture was very interesting. When I looked at this picture I felt like I was forced to look again that's what made me chose this photo. The way the photo captured the library was in this angle was breathe taking.



Aide, 6th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because of all the texture it has, the clouds, the person running, the cones, all the cars, the big arrows, the sun that's not shown there, but makes the clouds so bright. I also love this picture because the person running looks like if he's floating, which makes the picture really funny. When I see this picture, it makes me feel happy and bright because of all the light there is and the color like the yellow stripes on the ground. And the trees don't look green, they look black or dark green. You'll notice someone by a white car is opening the car door, which shows movement.

Aide, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Friday, November 13, 2009

Erika, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS



I choose this picture of a tree with only one leaf. I choose this one because the lighting was good and also the texture. The background wasn't really a distraction so that was another reason why I choose it. I thought it was

really cool because on this tree all of the other leaves fell off besides this one.

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Jessica, 8th Grade, RYSS



At first, I was just trying to take a picture of the construction area, but it was surrounded by a fence, so I tried to take it through it, and this came out. I got interested in the picture because you see a fence in the foreground, and in the background, there are different things. At the right, there is a shadow which makes that side of the picture mysterious. Next to the shadow there is sand and part of the construction of the building. The sand makes it look kind of lonely, but then you see the building and behind the building you see the sky and it makes me feel very comfortable.

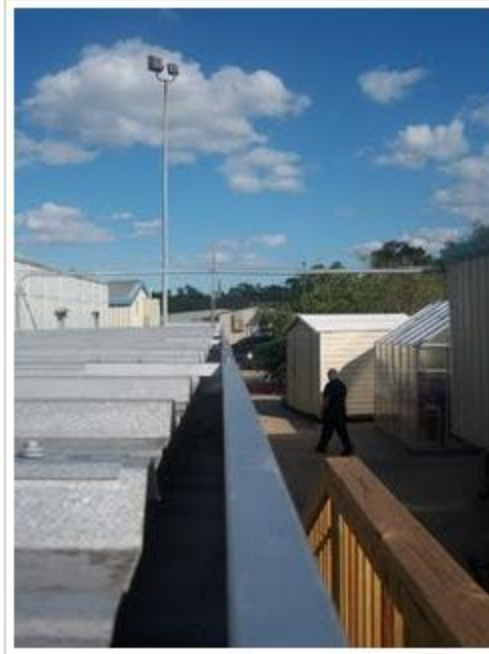
Jessica, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Ashley, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

The photo I took was a picture of fallen leaves in the courtyard. I choose this picture because I liked how you could see the texture in each leaf. Also, I liked how you notice that one dried berry and how it ties up the rest of the picture. In the picture it was a little to dark so I did enhance auto fix to make it look a little bit better. After I was able to fix it the lighting came out very good. This picture is very crisp and clear, you can almost feel the leaves.



Jessica, 8th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because there are different things there. In the lower left you see the roof and it seems like it is very long and never ends. In the right you see wood and a man walking (my teacher, Mr. Chambers). At the very top, you see a pretty blue sky with a couple of fluffy clouds. This is a very peaceful picture and it gives me a good, positive feeling.

Jessica, 8thth Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

David, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

The reason I chose the Truthful Tree picture was because it isn't blurry. It shows a tree from a different point of view and the sunlight works with it. In the background you

can see a part of the sky and a cloud through the branches. There are a lot of yellow leaves and a couple that haven't changed colors and are still green. This is an original picture because of the point of view and the background.



Maria, 7th Grade, RYSS



This picture looks really interesting, like you wonder what's going on. You can actually see a man doing something and in the background, you can actually see the clouds and the beautiful blue sky. It also shows that the workers are working really hard to build our new school building. The building is actually half way done so in the future, I'll be able to compare before and after.

Maria, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

John, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

I chose my picture of the stairwell because I thought it would be cool. This picture has a little bit of a pattern. When I took this picture I zoomed in on the stairwell I left a little bit of the sky and trees. I bent down when I took this picture to make it look



like its going up. In iphoto I cropped out some of the wall. I titled my photo stairwell. This is what I did to my photo.

Oscar, 7th Grade, RYSS



As you can see, there is a huge ladder in this picture. What I felt while taking this picture was how high it was. The reason I took this picture is because I like to see high things, and feel the adrenaline.

Oscar, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Sam, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

Out of many choices I finally came to a conclusion on which picture to work with for my project. I chose a picture about nature that I found in the courtyard. My picture contains rocks with leaves surrounding the rocks. I chose



this picture because I liked the quality of it. This picture had great color and texture to it; it looked so real and vibrant. The lightning was good and so was the angle that the picture was taken.

Areli, 6th Grade, RYSS



I took this picture when I was walking. The cone was already like that. I thought that it was weird for the cone to be like that. There is a line in the back that it is wide and light blue. There are more lines in the front, and they are yellow. The street is cracked with grass growing in the middle. The cone is dirty, and there are black lines on it. There is also a lot of dirt on the ground. I think that it is not normal for the cone to be like that.

Areli, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Anna, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

I chose a picture of my friend Adam and only half is face, is because usually in most picture people take pictures of the whole face. I thought it looked interesting how in the picture Adam showed only half his face and with his eyes looking the other way it looked as though he was searching for the other half of his face, when it really looks like he's looking at the wall and its white texture.



Anyssa, 7th Grade, RYSS



I think this is a perfect picture because this building you see will one day be finished. It's always nice to see something from the beginning until the end. It's also fun when you look at it during construction and to see how much work they've done over time, and how fast they work. For me, taking pictures like this one is really cool for the same reason. In the picture, you can see all of the construction. You can also see the tractor picking up the pieces to construct the building and the road as you come inside the school with the cones making sure that no one gets hurt. At the bottom left corner of the picture, you can see the primary school. It's really nice to go back and see how it once looked.

Anyssa, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Lauren, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

For my first picture I chose a picture of my friends Gabby and Emma. I like this portrait because the lighting is good. I like how cropped the photo so the idea was on them not the background. I also like the angle the photo was taken at. Over all I think this photo is great!



Maritza, 8th Grade, RYSS



The thing about this picture is why did I take it? It is so weird. I just thought fast, and wondered how it would look to see through a square. When I took this picture, I was looking inside the little square, and there were a lot of things going on, and I thought to myself, "If I take this picture, it will be so interesting because it's just the same thing I feel. I always feel like a little square that doesn't fit into a big world. I feel like a tiny ant."

Maritza, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Ben, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

I chose lonely memories because it shows a bird house which probably used to be very busy but now is lonely. Another reason I like this picture is because it is very simple. A normal background (no distractions) the birdhouse, and



the edge of the tree. It was a bright day when I took this picture so it was too happy and joyful to be a sad moment. So, I brought the contrast u ,brightness down, and Dark shadow up. The printer ran out of ink so it may be a little bit green at the top.

Janet, 6th Grade, RYSS



In this picture, the shape looks so cool because in the middle, it's not right. It's all wrong. It has only one color with lines. This picture makes me feel like I am a shape master, and this makes me laugh. It's expressive through its shape, color, and brightness. The shape does not talk or move, and it's strong. If the wind tries to take it, the shape will use its powers to not let it take it away. The picture is not that bright because the sun was not giving the table much light. When it was taken, the table was not in the center. It was more to the right because there were more things beside it.

Janet, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

josh, grade 7, eisenhower middle

My photo, Falling Water, was taken at a water fountain by the library. I like this photo because it shows the water from the nozzle and hitting the metal and traveling in a smooth flow to the grate. You can see the ripples as the

water travels in all directions. The lighting in this picture is good because it shines on the grate where the water is ending up. Also, as the water falls from the nozzle, you can see where the light hits it. Under the water, the metal has small indentations that make it seem as though the water isn't there.



Griselda, 6th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture. I like the colors and shadows and the creativity it has with the patterns in it. When I took this picture, I felt a lot of creativity and emotion. It was really bright and dark with the shadows, shapes, and the movement of the sky.

Griselda, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Adam, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

I chose this picture because it is a relaxing one. Although it is not unusual, there are many different things about it. I like how the camera is focused on the leaves and most of the background is blurred. I also like the colors and the variety of



leave colors. This is one of my favorite pictures because it is at an angle of which I do not see things every day because I am short. To see things from a downward angle is a treat to me. These are the reasons I picked this picture, and why I like it.

Valerie, 7th Grade, RYSS



In this picture, I am showing my teacher, Mr. Chambers. He is a nice person. Next to Mr. Chambers, there is a pole that is gray and skinny. There is a white line crossing Mr. Chambers' shadow. I think this is a great picture. There is a shadow of a pole. I like this picture.

Valerie, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Paul, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS



My picture was of my shoes in the courtyard. I chose this photo because it was different than my others. It shows the texture of the sneakers and how the laces go in and out of the holes. You can see the indent the stripes make on the shoe. You can also see the

texture of the ground around the shoes. The pine needles on the ground show the surroundings of the shoes and where they are. I like the light in this photo because it looks like one side is dark and the other side is light. The sun is shining from the left so the shadow is cast on the right. The composition shows the shoes as the whole picture and that is the real reason I liked it. I didn't even have to crop it.

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Cynthia, 8th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because of the tunnel effect and the desks that are in the picture to make it look like as if it is the right way for education. The back and front make it look like what will happen if you get a lot or just a little bit of education. You can see that the front of the picture looks cleaner than at the back. The back looks like if you get a little bit of education your life is going to be a mess. The front of the picture looks like if you get a lot of education, you'll go to college and get a good job. You'll have a good, clean and successful life. This picture inspires me to go to school and want to study so that I can have a better career and won't be living on the streets.

Cynthia, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Matt, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS

I took a picture of the statue of Dwight D. Eisenhower out in the courtyard. I like this picture because it is from a different perspective. Instead of just a regular photo of the statue the view is looking from the bottom up. I like this

perspective because it gets good light and it makes the statue look like it is up in the trees. I like how the light really captures the statue's face and how there is a shadow under his chin. It was a beautiful day so the light was really on target in the background. I like the composition because it showed the beautiful background of the trees.



Juanita, 6th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because it shows my feelings about darkness. There's a small hole, which is covered with grass. At the very back, you can see a red, long pole which describes my favorite color. If you look carefully, you can see that half of the picture is light and the other half is dark. This shows my feelings about nature.

Juanita, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Mary Grade 7 Eisenhower MS



My photograph is a reflection and portrait photograph. I love the way that the viewer sees the trees through her head and somewhat around her. I see my photo actually as four separate pictures. One if those would be the photograph

of Lauren. Another would be the courtyard reflecting through the window. The third is the picture of the inside of our school. The fourth photograph is of the glass wall separating the in and outdoors. My photograph reminds me of the filter we did when we colorized Ansel Adams photos. This is because when we did the filters, we used a couple different ones and had to put the opacity down so that they all showed through.

I like the way that each layer of my photograph has a separate color scheme, grays, greens, browns, and blues.

I did not even have to crop my photograph because everything is well proportioned. My photograph could also be a perspective photo because the trees are off in the distance and Lauren is close. I believe that my picture really captured the moment and I am really happy with the way it came out.

Aide, 6th Grade, RYSS



What's so awesome about this picture is the ball with my school colors, and it looks like it was just added or pasted there. And there are all the volleyball players and the walls with the stripes. And if you can see the red sign in the corner almost at the right, you might think it's just like a red dot. The best thing is, the ball looks like if its going to hit the girl with a ponytail. It's just hilarious like it was the first thing you saw or came to your eye. What I feel about this picture are the volleyball players practicing, which makes the school better at volleyball.

Aide, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Kelly Rae-Eisenhower Middle School-Grade 7



I liked this picture because I took it in a different angle. I was trying to get pictures of natural things in the courtyard one day. I decided to take a picture of a tree because the light was hitting it and casting a great

shadow on it. I started taking pictures of the tree, but they just weren't good enough. I started to take pictures from different angles, but they still weren't good enough. Then I saw people taking pictures upside down. I decided to try it, and it looked really good. That is why this is one of my favorite pictures.

Aide, 6th Grade, RYSS



What I'm thinking right now about this picture is its shape, and you can see that it's from big to small. Plus, the shadow is cool, and you can see my favorite candy with the stick and pink gum. The trees and sky form shapes. And there's the little roof that covers the door, and it looks like the chair too. But my favorite part are the people in the back. They are blurry and the same size like the stick with the gum. And there's texture in the trees, fence, poles, the grass by the wall, chair, candy, and the beautiful stick with gum. The gum has a shape like a 3D rectangle or something. The picture is great because of all the sunlight, shadows, especially all the GREEN, sky, concrete, and many more things.

Aide, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Kevin, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS



I chose this picture because it can make people think about why he's in the locker or what he's thinking. I also chose this picture because the lighting in it. It is really good. The lighting isn't too dark or too bright. Also you can only see lockers on the side. In this picture Jason is coming out of the locker.

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Cynthia, 8th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because it has a very bright color, and a lot of focus towards the top of the plant. Another thing I like about this picture is the way I took it. It looks like as if a professional took the picture. I also like it because the leaves are very clean and have one solid color. The four seeds in the middle help the plant not look boring. This picture makes me smile because of its bright color.

Cynthia, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Friday, November 13, 2009

Lauren, grade 7, Eisenhower MS



The reason I picked this picture is because it was an original idea I had thought of at first. My idea was to colorize my picture to neon colors bringing out the shades in the apples reflection. I called this piece

Apples Reflection because the picture is basically showing me in the reflection of the apple computers. Also this was such a good picture because I didn't have to crop it like we were most likely to. There for this is a very well token picture and to me was so good I couldn't really improve it.

Maritza, 8th Grade, RYSS



This picture is one of my favorites. I like the way I took this picture because of the shape and form, how the red shapes of the flowers are between the trees, and how the radiant clouds are between the trees ... the black shadow of the big tree between the other little trees. It makes it way different. Black, white, green, and blue is all you see, but the first thing I see is the beautiful, shiny flowers.

Maritza, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Jason, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS



This photo is unusual because it brings your eye to a new point of view. You look at the wall like the floor and you look at the floor like the wall in my photo. The light reflections on the floor look as if they are torches perched on the wall. The bricks on the wall look like smooth, cold tiles set on the floor. It looks like the corridor of a magnificent castle, but it's just a boring school hallway.

David, 6th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because of the angle. It's in a good position. The tree looks kind of cool, and it's because of the light, how it's touching the tree and the leaves. The tree has some brown spots on it. The top of the leaves look light green, and the bottom part of the leaves dark green. One leaf looks kind of green and yellow. I chose this picture because it make me feel happy, excited and comfortable. It's a good picture.

David, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Kiely Grade 7 Eisenhower MS



Flower in Bloom

I chose this picture of this flower because it had my favorite colors on it. The flower has pink, yellow and some black in it. The flower

really stood out to me and so I cropped it and made the flower a little darker. I think I made the flower look better and now I made the flower even better.

Juanita, 6th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because it shows the sun in the middle like an important source for life. This picture makes me feel protected because I think that the sun is me, and that the trees are my parents who are protecting me from danger. I like it too because the sun looks like it is a star at the end of the tree. My favorite part of this picture are the layers around the sun.

Juanita, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Kelly Grade 7 Eisenhower MS



My photo is definitely a good photo. I think this because you can see the crinkle on the leaves as they lay on the pine bush. You can feel the texture and see the wrinkles that each leaf has. The colors are very rich and you can see the

green for the background. You can see that each separate prickly looks different than each other. The lighting is good in this because it looks a little bit lighter at the top of the photo and it gives it a little bit of difference from a photo that all the light is the same. This is why my photo is a good photo.

Jessica, 8th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because it looks very empty. There really isn't anything other than the water at the bottom, the sky at the top, and a little bit of land in the middle. The sky looks gray like if it was late, but it really wasn't. There isn't a cloud or a bird to see in the sky. The land looks empty like if it is abandoned. The thing I like is that there is no sun but yet, the water is still showing a reflection of light. The sea looks very peaceful because there aren't any big waves, only small ones. This picture makes me feel lonely.

Jessica, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Jessica, Grade 7, Eisenhower MS



My Picture is called the rogue leaf. The reason I called it this is because it is a picture of a leaf on top of a rock when there is a pile of leaves nearby. Basically it's out of place. I like this picture because the light is really good and there is a lot of

other stuff going on in the back round. I also like the texture of the rock that the leaf is sitting upon. The rock also has a nice color to it. It's red and gray and black in some places. The leaf is a nice color and has good texture as well.

Maria, 7th Grade, RYSS



The reason I like this picture is because I like the birds that are there. You can actually see nine birds. It looks like they are looking for something, like food. Also when I look at this picture, it reminds me of this movie I love! Also I like this picture because the birds are so beautiful, and they make me happy.

Maria, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Oscar, 7th Grade, RYSS



I chose this picture because of the beautiful trees. And the other reason is because of the cool background. The background of this picture is the sky, and it makes it look interesting. And the way I feel about this picture is that it makes me feel like I'm flying. This picture is a very good example of nature.

Oscar, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Areli, 6th Grade, RYSS



I chose this picture because I like the way that I took it. I like it because there are some trees in the front. You can't see the leaves, and also it is kind of dark. Then there is the middle where there are more trees. You can see some of the leaves. Their color is dark green. You can also see a line in the middle that is the sun. At the back, there are more trees, but they are smaller. In the back, the sun is really bright. There is also grass growing, and it is tall. What I see in this picture are a lot of lines. I feel kind of dizzy when I look at it.

Areli, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Anyssa, 7th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because it was right before we had gotten to Galveston. It was Oscar and me on the seat next to the window. I also like the color of the water and how the sun reflects on it. The sun makes it seem like if it's never going to end, it's going to last for another million years. The exciting thing about this picture is that you can see a little bit of the town even though it's far away in the distance. As we were going to Point Bolivar, I was scared the closer and closer we got to the edge of the water.

Anyssa, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Maritza, 8th Grade, RYSS



Have you ever felt the sun so hot that you almost burned yourself? Well that's exactly what I felt when I took this picture. In that same area, the same park, and felt the fire across the trees. With my eyes closed I just took one little step. I just looked straight up at the sun so beautiful. And with my eyes closed, I took this beautiful, artistic picture. Just looking at this picture makes me feel important with those four circles. It just describes my mom, dad, sister, and brother. They mean a lot to me in this world. So, I'm happy that this picture is beautiful and means my life to me.

Maritza, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Cynthia, 8th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because of the way the branches look and the sun shining between them. It looks very cool. The sun makes this picture look very interesting because of how the colors and light combine together. It looks like it is telling you the way to Heaven. The sun makes the branches look dark. Everytime I look at it, it reminds me of making good choices. It makes me think about a decision twice rather than once. Another thing it reminds me of is God and our respect in him. We know that things will be better whenever they are bad.

Cynthia, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Eduardo, 6th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because it is orange, and this is my favorite color. Also it looks like it is forming an S. You can see the trees behind the plants and all of the beautiful nature that surrounds it. It makes me feel like this picture is special. Also you can see the sky.

Eduardo, 6th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Manuel, 8th Grade, RYSS



This picture is really cool for me. It shows me the nature that surrounds me and its beauty. This kind of picture helps me think about nature and why we need to take care of it. I took this picture at the Big Thicket in East Texas on a school field trip. It inspires me to take more pictures, and show what the world is made of. This is a fallen tree that has fungus on it.

Manuel, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Ashley, 7th Grade, RYSS



LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL, AND WE SHOULD DO ANYTHING IT TAKES TO KEEP IT CLEAN AND NOT LET ANY ANIMALS DIE BECAUSE OF HOW WE LITTER. THE OCEAN IS A QUIET, BLUE PLACE.

A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE GOING TO IT, AND IN MY OPINION, I WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE THE PRETTY BLUE WATER DISAPPEAR AND TURN GREEN. LIFE IS TOO SHORT, AND WHEN I LOOK AT THIS PICTURE, IT MAKES IT SEEM THAT IT WOULD LAST FOREVER AND FOREVER, NO MATTER WHAT. THE ROCKS LOOK REALLY CUTE TOGETHER, LIKE PARTNERS, AND THEY HAVE DIFFERENT COLORS AND SHAPES.

THEY LOOK UNIQUE, AND I THINK THAT UNIQUE THINGS ARE REALLY COOL. I LOVE NATURE, AND THAT'S WHY I LIKE THIS PICTURE. IT HELPS ME EXPRESS MY FEELINGS. THIS PICTURE LOOKS EMPTY BECAUSE IT'S JUST WATER, AND THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT EARTH HAS, WATER, AND I THINK THE COLOR OF WATER IS BEAUTIFUL IN EVERY WAY.

Ashley, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Instructors:

Harold Olejarz is Art and Technology teacher at Eisenhower Middle School, Wyckoff, New Jersey, U.S.A. He began his career as a sculptor and exhibited in Soho, NYC, in the early 1980s. His work evolved into Performance Art and his living sculptures installed themselves in museums and public spaces in the US and Europe from 1985 to the early 1990s. He has been exploring digital media as both an artist and an educator since 1997. "Capturing the Moving Present," an essay by Harold Olejarz, is included in Video Art for the Classroom, a National Art Education Association publication. Olejarz has made presentations on the use of digital media at state and national educational conferences.

Tom Chambers is Technology Applications teacher at Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [Junior School], Houston, Texas, U.S.A. He was Visiting Lecturer in Digital/New Media Art for the Fine Arts Department at Zhaoqing University, Zhaoqing, China, 2005-2007. He was Executive Committee Member and Juror (2003 - 2005) for the International Digital Art Awards (IDAA), and was instrumental in expanding the content of the IDAA to include New Media Art, and served as on-line New Media Director (2004 - 2005). Chambers has been a documentary photographer and visual artist for over thirty years, and he is currently working with the pixel as Minimal Art (Pixelscapes) which begins to approach a true, abstract, visual language in Digital Art.