

RATTLESNAKE GUTTER TRUST

THE



RATTLE

On a Saturday afternoon in May, cool spring breezes play windchimes as we sit down to look at all of the material you've submitted for this issue of The Rattler. The birds sing as they perch in trees newly green. Little winds toss poplar and birch catkins to the ground and carry dandelion seeds far and wide. Scores of ferns have started to unfold as apple trees and lilacs burst into bright colors.

These simple things bring us joy and make us smile. And all of your submissions make us feel the way that Mrs. Ellis feels when she writes, "The excitement and enthusiasm that my students show each day gives me tremendous joy and happiness."

For this Summer issue we asked you all to think about joy. Joy is many things to all of us, and some of you experience joy being with your pets, feeling spring breezes, fishing, watching butterflies, catching ladybugs, wading in cool streams, thinking about elephants or polar bears, bamboo, rainbows, moonlight, birds, and living in Leverett.

We've selected as many of your drawings and poems as we could fit in four pages.

We hope you'll remember these spring joys as your summer vacation arrives, and we think you'll find much to make you smile this summer.

Summer Night

Fireflies through the night. Their lights blinking on and off. So bright as they glow through the night.

—Michael Simpson

The Soft Touch

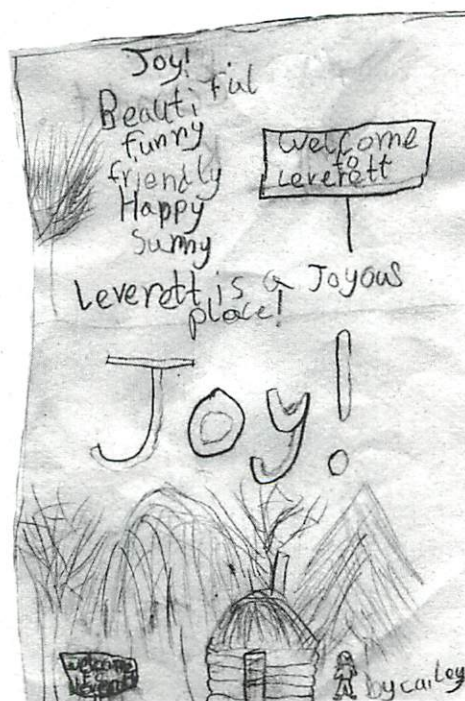
As the breeze blows, I can feel the softness of it. I watch the bright flowers and grasses wave. The wind ripples the pond's waters.

—Kim Macdonald

In the Park

The wind still. The branches on the trees are still. Children are playing outside. It is warm in the summer. There are birds in the air. There are parties and picnics and families having a good time and swimming and swinging and laughing riding boats. People are happy and enjoying each other. People are talking and singing and dancing. Happy babies having fun. Love and joy. People talking. And people are writing letters to people. They care about reading stories to people, to your friends. Families are playing games that you enjoy, talking, walking and running, buying ice cream and candy with your friends. Girls doing their hair and makeup. Play on the playground and in the sandbox and just having fun. That is what happens in the park.

—Sarahmae Griffith



Cailey Condit

Jeremy Roberts

What makes me smile:
When we go fishing at the
river. I like when I catch a
fish.

—Jeremy Roberts

Dancing in the Moonlight

With every glide she moves swiftly through the
water. The ripples softly stroke her back and make
it shine in the moonlight. Then a big rock appears.
She climbs on. Soon others join her and they
strip off their skins and dance in the moonlight.
She has silky black hair and pale white skin,
and she dances in the moonlight.

—Hannah Moushabeck

A Path Walked Before

As I walk a path home,
Once walked before,
I hear soft distant chirping.

I see a bird in the
Path once walked before
And feel spring breezes
on my face.

As I go downhill
I smell the flowers' fragrance.
I feel happy to be walking the
Path once walked before.
—Morgan Kline

Spring

Birds sing joyfully
Trees swing in the wind
Winds blowing flowers
Buds rising
Truly this is spring
—Tawnee Jarvis

A Day in May

A day in May,
When there's a soft breeze
and warm sunshine,
makes me happy to be alive,
makes my spirits rise,
just me and me alone,
by my stream,

wading into the cold water
for the first time, slowly, slowly,
I let the water creep up my legs,
higher...then waiting,
higher still...then waiting,
and again...gasp.

—Hannah Weitzman

Spring

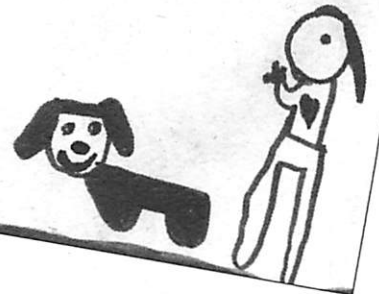
I love the spring
When the snow melts
and the rain falls.
As I run bursting with energy
with life all around me.
Light breezes blow through my hair
I am alone
and I am happy.
—Elizabeth Sheldon

What makes me smile: When
my dog sleeps on my bed and
when I take my dog on walks.
—Melaina Neisner



L A U R A

It brings me joy
when I'm with my dog

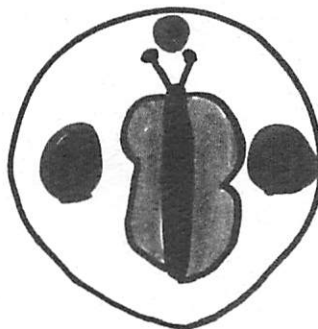
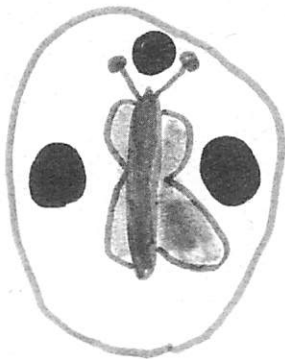


Kites

Kites sailing in the beautiful
winds
of spring. Bright snake-like tail
whipping in the wind.
—Samantha Baxter

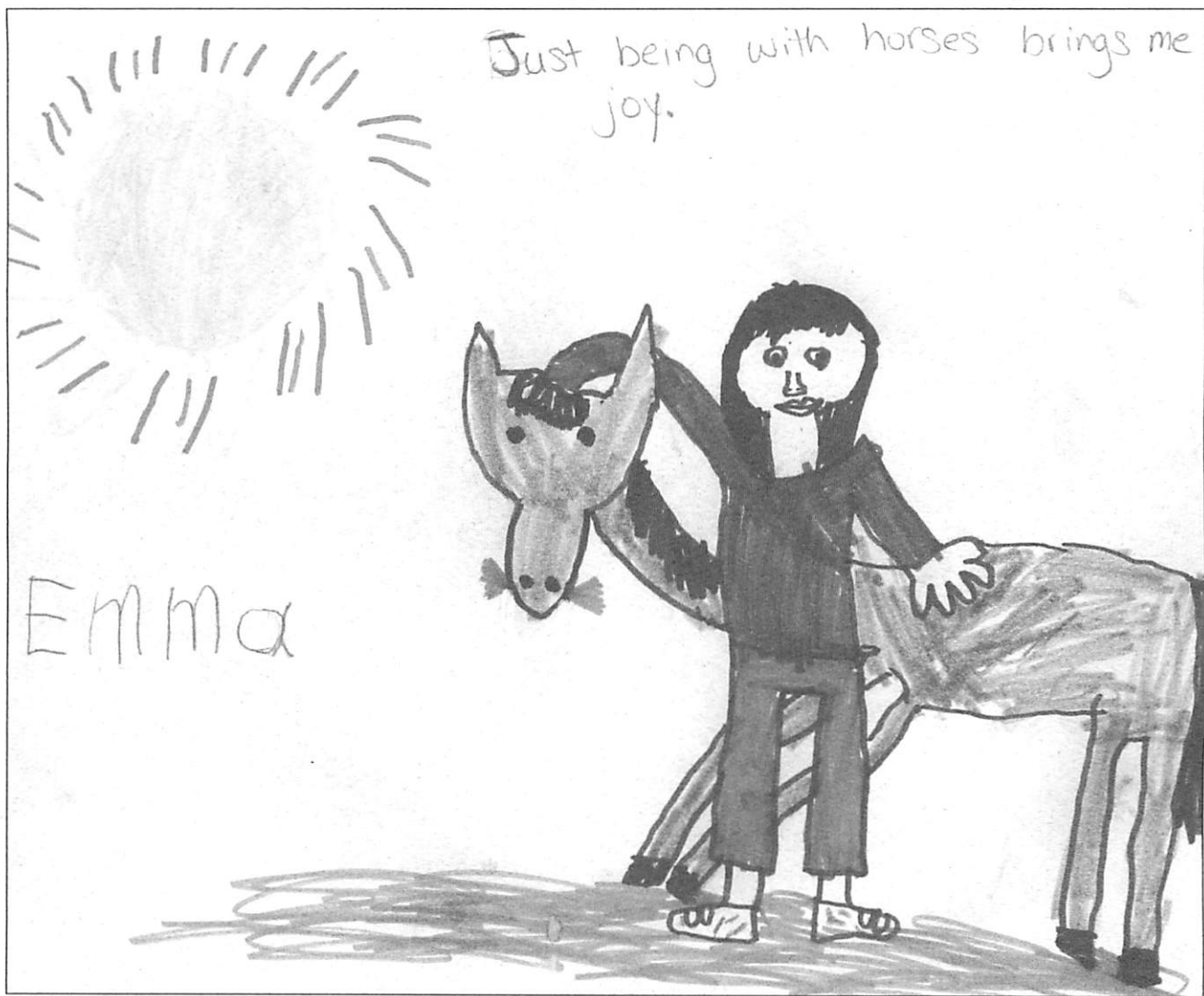
Melaina Neisner

Butterflies bring me joy. K A T E



t thinking

L I L A



Polar Bear

I see the polar bear
 It's big and bold
 Their white fur is like a robe
 Its long toenails look frozen into the arctic ground
 Then suddenly the big fierce bear moves
 Standing on its two hind legs it tiptoes
 toward an arctic hare
 The bear just over its prey makes a sudden
 movement toward the arctic hare's head
 Its pointy claws scratch the hare
 In excitement the bear steps onto twos again
 and takes a deep breath
 Cold smoke from the bear's breath rises and
 the bear looks like it is smoking a cigar
 I dig my camera out of my bag hoping the bear
 does not see me
 I quickly shoot my camera with no flash and then
 the big bear walked away toward the lake

—Glenn Wong

Birds

It's a beautiful spring day
 When I go out to play.
 I run around, I see flowers
 coming out of the ground.
 Then I hear the birds. They are
 chirping like mad. I don't think it's
 good but I don't think it's bad.
 I listen carefully. They're making
 a tune. I like it, so I
 give them a prune. A car goes
 by with a big "puff" of air, they
 all fly away without any care.
 The cars far away now for sure,
 They all come back, followed by many more.

—Sophie Crafts

Trees, trees such wonderful
 leaves. Pops up over the weeds
 and seeds and leaves. Trees,
 trees, trees.

—J. O. Goldstein