

So Look at Me Now

A Collection of Poetry
by Students from Burnet Middle School

Edited by Lilia Raquel Rosas and raúlsalinas



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Contributors

Francisco Agüero

I am thirteen years old. I was born in Teloloapan, Guerrero, on January 24, 1991. My mother is from Mexico and her name is Virginia Salgado. I want to be a doctor because I can help people. I like to play soccer with my uncles. I am proud to be a Mexican because I was born in a beautiful country.

Keaton Alexander

I was born in Austin, Texas on November 28, 1990. My ancestors are Indian, and my grandparents are from Bastrop, Texas. I have two sisters and two brothers. My mother lives in Houston and one brother and one sister live with her. I like to play all sports like football, basketball, running track, and kickball, and dodgeball. My favorite foods are spaghetti, pizza, and meatloaf. I am not a shy person around girls or anybody. I like attention; I like to listen to different types of music. I am nice, very handsome, and very respectful.

La'Tonya Bell

I was born in Tyler, Texas on October 14, 1989. I live with my dad, stepmom, two sisters, and brother. My dad was born in Houston, Texas. I have a twin sister, who I love very much. My goal is to become a gospel singer because I love to sing. Life has been good and I love waking up in the morning and seeing the sunrise because that let's me know that I am alive.

María Castelán (Biography Unavailable)

Erika De Loera

I was born in Los Angeles, California on January 14, 1991. I moved from Los Angeles to Austin for a better life. I have two sisters. One of them is Vanessa, who is one year older than me. The other one, Dulce, is sixteen years old. I also have a brother

named Sergio who is eight and my brother was born in Los Angeles like me. My sister Dulce and my parents are from Aguascalientes. I love to sleep—it's my hobby. My dream is to finish school and graduate. I want to be a pediatrician because I like to be around babies.

Ana Gamino

I am from Monterrey, Mexico. I was born on June 19th and I am fourteen years old. My family is from Monterrey and Guanajuato, and I have one brother and two sisters. My favorite sport is soccer and I like to draw. My dream is to become a lawyer.

Nayeli Gonzalez

My birthday is on November 29, 1990. I was born and raised in Austin, Texas. My mom and dad are from Michoacán and they came to Austin to get a better life for my little brother and me. Even though I was born here and rarely even go to Mexico, I'm still proud and thankful for having a bit of Mexican culture in my life. When I grow up my dream is to become a doctor and to some day have my very own Hummer.

Breidy Gutierrez

I am fourteen and was born Isla Veracruz, Mexico in 1989. I am a mix of black, Indian, French, and much more, which makes me proud. My dream in my life now is to be an interior designer, which is my passion. I like getting something new or old, putting it together, creating something new, and making dreams come true. Besides that, I want to become a streetcar racer.

Jonathan Marquez

I was born in Mexico City on October 15, 1989. My father was born in Cuernavaca, Morelia. I like to play soccer. I have a sister and her name is Ana Karen Marquez. She was born on September 20, 1988. Y estoy orgulloso de ser chilango y le voy a las Aguilas de América.

Cesar Mejia

I was born on September 5, 1990. I am from McAllen, Texas but my parents are from Honduras. When I was two years old, I came to Austin. The thing that makes me happiest is playing football and soccer and having good friends. Mi meta es ser un policía.

Marcos Mendoza

I was born in Austin, Texas in 1991. My whole family was born in Mexico, except for me. So, I'm the only gringo in my entire family. My hobbies are to hang out the whole day with my friends. I like hip hop and Spanish-language music and lots more. I love pizza and Mexican food. My dream is to become a filmmaker in Hollywood.

Fernando Nava

I am from Mexico City. My dad, Leo, is from Guerrero, Mexico. My mom, Delphina, is from Mexico City. I was born on July 3, 1991 in Mexico City on my mom's birthday. I am proud to be a Mexican not a Mexican't. In 1993, my parents took me to Guerrero, where I learned how much we are a part of nature: the air is puresa, water is paz, and fire is violencia. I might not be so good with girls, but I am good at drawing almost anything. I also like Spanish-language music. I came to the United States on August 6, 2000 and since that day I haven't gone back to Mexico.

David Perry

I am thirteen years old and I was born on January 27, 1991. I'm from Austin, Texas. I am a shy person; I don't like standing in front of people to speak. I love sports; that is playing rather than watching them. My favorite sports are football, basketball, soccer, and baseball. I am half-German and I am very proud of this. My dad and grandparents are from Germany. My parents are divorced now four years, but it doesn't bother me. I have two brothers and one sister who are all older than me.

Asa Potter

I am fourteen years old and I was born on October 24, 1990. I live with my mom, Kelly, my dad, Jerry, and, my sister, Ashleigh. I have lived in Austin, Texas my whole life and I do not plan to move. I really like to skateboard and hang out with my friends. My mom's family is Irish and English and my dad's family is Indian, English, Irish, and a lot of other ethnicities. When I grow up, I hope to be a pro skater or an engineer.

Gabriela Sanchez

I am from Mexico City and I was born on April 28, 1991. My mom is from Valle del Bravo, my grandparents are from Spain, and my ancestors are too. My dream is to be an abogada because I want to help people that are innocent and want justice. I want to see Los Kumbia Kings because I am obsessed with them.

Susana Sanchez

I was born on November 7, 1990 in Austin, Texas. Mi familia es de Celeya, Guanajato. I am a student at Burnet Middle School. I like to bring happiness and joy to people and I like to get attention. I like to meet and talk to new people. My hobbies are shopping and having fun. My goals are to finish school and to get a good job, and on the side to go out and have fun in my nice truck.

Juan Serrano

I was born in San José, California on June 11, 1991. I went to school at Seven Trees Elementary School. I lived there for four years then I moved to Austin, Texas. Almost all my family is from Mexico and I am proud because they are from there. Right now I go to Burnet Middle School and, next year, I am going to go Lanier High School. My goal is to be Nascar driver.

Daniel Whittle

I'm from Texas but my dad is from Florida and my mom is from Georgia. I'm sort of a shy person until you get to know me better. My goal is to finish school and go to college to study chemistry and become a chemist because I've always wanted to be one since I was two.

About the Editors

raúlsalinas

Xicanindio elder poet and human rights activist raúlsalinas is the Executive Director of Resistencia Bookstore/Casa de Red Salmon Arts (RSA). In addition, he also conducts intensive creative writing clinics locally and throughout the country with disenfranchised youth. These clinics are held in conjunction with a variety of arts organizations, correctional facilities, and social service agencies. raúlsalinas' work with various political movements has earned him an international reputation as an eloquent spokesperson for justice. He has worked extensively with the American Indian Movement and the International Indian Treaty Council. raúlsalinas is the author of four poetry collections *Viaje/Trip* (chapbook), *Un Trip Through the Mind Jail, East of the Freeway*, and the forthcoming *Indio Trails: A Xicano Odyssey through Indian Country* (Wings Press) as well as two spoken word CDs *Los Many Mundos of raúlsalinas* and *Beyond the BEATen Path*. He is also an adjunct professor of Communications at St. Edwards University, Austin, Texas. In 2002, raúlsalinas was the recipient of the Louis Reyes Rivera Lifetime Achievement Award presented by La Causa, a student group at Amherst College, Massachusetts, and The Dark Souls Collective. In March 2003, he was honored with the Martin Luther, Jr., César Chavez, Rosa Parks Visiting Professorship Award given by the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Most recently, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association for Latino Arts Culture (NALAC) in October 2004. And, he has toured with saxophonist Fred Ho and poet Magdalena Gomez in the "Circle Around the Sun Caliente Tour" in March 2005.

Lilia Raquel Rosas

A Chicana feminist, Lilia Raquel Rosas is originally from Albany, California in the San Francisco Bay Area, but has lived in Austin, Texas since 1995. She has volunteered at Red Salmon Arts and Resistencia Bookstore and is currently the University of Texas at

Austin (UT Austin) Center for Mexican American Studies Administrative Intern for RSA. She also is a doctoral candidate in history at UT Austin, specializing in comparative ethnic and queer studies, and coalitional politics. Along with co-facilitating writing clinics with youth from marginalized communities and assisting with SOY programming, Lilia is experienced in other areas of public education. She has taught U.S. history, civic, and English-language classes to immigrant adults for the immigration outreach center One Stop Immigration in Riverside, California. She has worked as a teaching assistant for the Department of History, the Center for African and African American Studies, and the Center for Asian American Studies; tutored in Intercollegiate Athletics for Men and Women; and worked as a supplemental instructor for the UT Learning Center, all at UT Austin.

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