

Project SOAR Creative Assignment

SPOKEN WORD POEM

Freedom and Peace by Madison Sitkiewicz

Freedom and Peace are what my children seek

Over the short period of time I have known you, I have seen you change
You were lively, talkative, excited, optimistic, and proud
But the chaos that surrounds you is starting to get to you
The complexity of your nature astounds me
How hard it would be to write a character so Deep, so Challenged, so Beautiful as yours

Freedom and Peace are what my children long for

It feels like I get whiplash every time we talk
In one moment, I watch you both giggle over new boyfriends, a birthday cake, a day skating, or
the latest drama from a trip up North
In the next, I am caught off guard by the painful accounts of your...
Your Mother telling you to kill yourself like your father did
Despair and Hopelessness so deep you write your thoughts to me instead of speaking
Haunted by memories of abuse which you so callously recount
You tell me No one cares, Why bother, We just deal with it

Freedom and Peace seem just out of reach

Neither of you feel like you have a home
You aren't free at home and you find no peace at school
You are stressed, you are tired, you are overwhelmed by responsibility
I ask you if you love yourselves
You stare at the ground and tell me "No"

Freedom and Peace are what my children seek

My heart breaks for you
I feel your hopelessness, your loneliness
In you, I see my own struggles – ones I have conquered and those I still face
You ask me for guidance, and I... am speechless

Freedom and Peace are what my children long for

You are Strong, you are Independent, you are Responsible, you are Helpful, you are Considerate
You are Talented, you are Inspired
You are what people need you to be
You are wise beyond your years

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And it seems like your youth was taken too early
You try to stay positive
And yet the hardest part is you don't see your own potential
You don't believe in your strengths
I tell you it gets better, but for you the light at the end of the tunnel feels so far away

Freedom and Peace seem just out of reach

I asked you who you wanted to be, and you told me outgoing and understanding
I asked you what you wanted to be guided by, and you told me your destiny
I asked what you wanted to be, and you told me a singer and a mom
I asked you what you love about yourself, and you realized there was a lot more to love than you
thought
You opened my eyes and my heart
Your hopes and dreams fill me with more emotional than I knew I could feel
I long to help you achieve them – but how

*Freedom and Peace are what my children seek
Freedom and Peace – I hope I gave you
Freedom and Peace – Don't feel I have abandoned you*