

# *Together We Rise*

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Eighth Grade, Yale Jr. High School

**Grand Prize**

In the mirror's gentle gleam, I find,  
A tapestry of dreams, intertwined.  
With every flaw, a story is told,  
A spirit resilient, both tender and bold.

The sun dips low, casting warm golden rays,  
Igniting my heart in a dance of praise.  
Gratitude whispers, in moments I share,  
For the laughter of others, for the love in the air.

Hand in hand with friends, through valleys we roam,  
In the warmth of their laughter, I've found my home.  
Through smiles we journey, on the intertwined,  
Together we rise, our souls aligned.

Embracing the echoes of joy and despair,  
Each moment a thread, woven with care.  
Connections like rivers, flowing so free,  
In collective embrace, I discover me.

I cherish the progress, the steps that I take,  
With every heartbeat, a promise I make.  
To honor my journey, both humble and grand,  
With kindness to self, like a soft guiding hand.

So here I stand, with a heart full of song,  
In this beautiful tapestry, I truly belong.  
Drawing strength from within, and the bonds that I weave,  
Feeling good about myself, in the love that we believe

