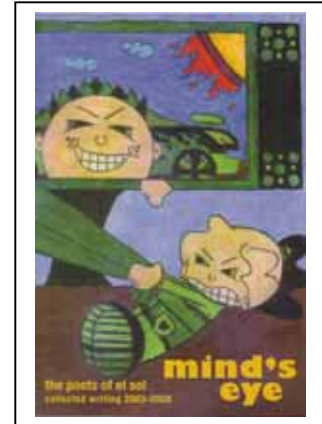


Sue Cronmiller, President
714-969-6970
sue@poetryXchange.org
www.poetryXchange.org

PRESS RELEASE IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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poetryXchange is pleased to announce the release of Mind's Eye: The Poets of El Sol, an enchanting, eye-opening anthology of Santa Ana elementary student poetry. The publication celebrates the genius, creativity and wisdom of elementary students living in one of the poorest urban neighborhoods in the nation.

Students at El Sol Academy of Arts and Sciences enjoy year long writing workshops through a program founded by poet Sue Cronmiller, a graduate of the University of California at Irvine's Master of Arts in Writing Program and a lecturer in English and Education. Her program connects students at the university with K-12 students through creative writing workshops and publishing activities. Through this program, all participants gain valuable professional and life skills. The benefits are multi-dimensional and varied, not least of which is the excitement and satisfaction of reading,

writing and sharing together works of great literary worth. Through casual, yet intellectual, small group discussion sessions with university students, the elementary school students become more familiar with the culture of the university. Likewise, the university students become more familiar with issues facing families and schools in neighborhoods like Santa Ana.

With funding from UC Links, a statewide initiative housed at UC Berkeley, Cronmiller has developed an online writing tool that supports the creative writing process and makes publishing of student poems immediate and fun. The writing is vivid, imagistic and often heartbreaking like this one by a third grade student:

I rode the train all day and all night like a snake
trembling in icy cold water,
across the river slowly through green branches.
I dream in stars.

The book is available at the UCI Bookstore and will be distributed this week to all attendees of the annual High Hopes Luncheon to benefit the Invest in Children Fund on May 4th at the Hyatt in Irvine. For more information, or to obtain a copy of this book, contact Sue Cronmiller at sue@poetryXchange.org.

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