

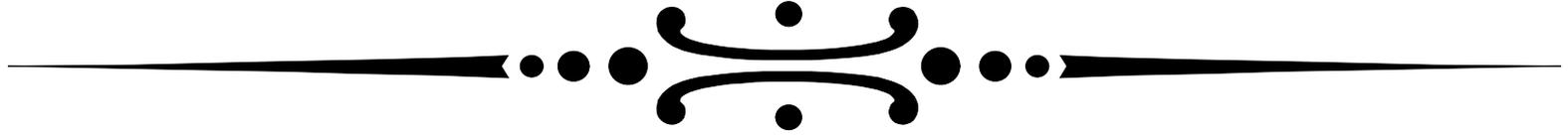
Albert Elias

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Kevin L.

Welcome to my world
Where it's full of drugs, money, and girls.
Welcome to my world,
Where you live in a swirl.
Welcome to my world,
Where you always gotta fight.
Welcome to my world,
Where it's dark and scary.
Life is rough in a world that is tough.
When you have no one to trust,
When someone says you're worth nothing,
All you think about
Is how you're gonna survive.
I'm welcoming you to my world,
Where its drugs, money and girls.
I'm welcoming you to live in a swirl.
I'm welcoming you,
Where stuff ain't right.
I'm welcoming you,
To a dark, scary place.
I'm welcoming you,
To a real tough world.
I'm letting you know,
Someone's gonna tell you
You're worth nothing.
So here's my question to you,
How are you gonna survive?





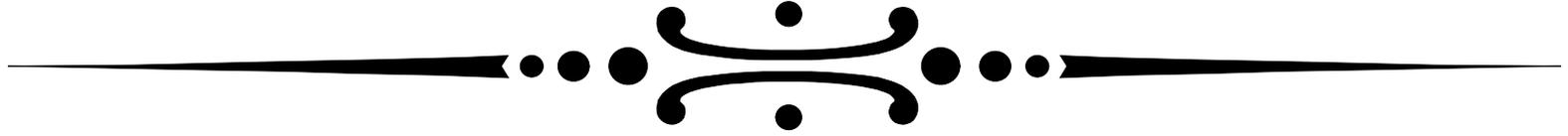
Albert Elias

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Rashon J.

Welcome to my world
Where life is like a tornado,
Where young kids' hearts and minds fall like a tree.
Welcome to my world
Where a war is the end of the world,
Where people always worry about getting and never giving.
Welcome to my world,
Where life is like a baby,
Crying and crying until it gets its way.
Tears and tears
Coming from my eyes,
A part of me wants to die,
And a part of me wants to stay alive.
My life is like a dark alley,
No one seems to understand,
I feel as if there's no point in living.
Life is rough
When you have no mother,
And four brothers that can't
Seem to understand you.
Life is rough
When you're always the one to blame.
Life is rough
When you're under a lot of stress.
Life is just that rough.
But if you're feeling down
And have no one to love you,
Think about God,
Because He will always love you.





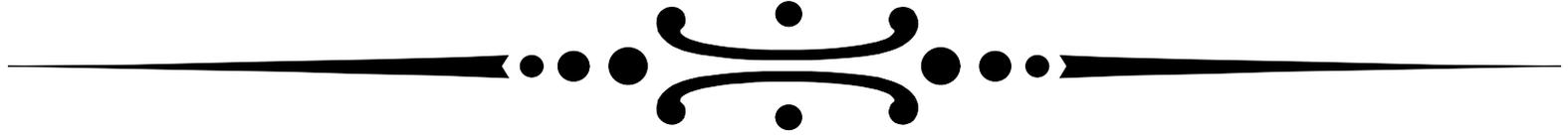
Albert Elias

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Jaquil J.

Welcome to my world as a young man,
People, they tried to warn me,
But I didn't understand.
I said to myself one day,
"What are they talking about?"
Me running the streets,
Is that what this is about?
People say that I'm a dead man walking.
So I said to myself one day
To get out of the game,
Because the streets are just a big game.
You're gonna win or lose.
It's almost like you're a target
In a shooting range,
Everyone is aiming at you.
Are you going to stay there or move?
What are you going to do?
I MOVED!





Camden Prep

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Torrence O.

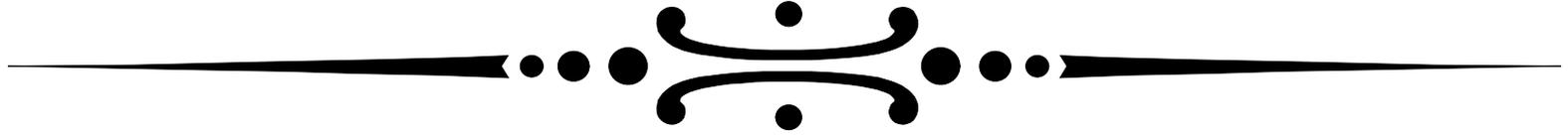
My world is where we laugh and play.
We hang out and have fun all day.

Step into my world where there's no violence.
Listen to the quiet streets of silence.

My world has no bad or hard times.
Just remember my world has unforgettable, great times.

Open arms are welcomed in any world, but
Remember yours is always "Welcome To My World."





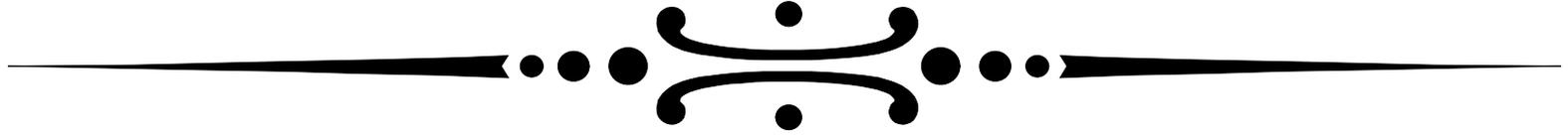
Camden Prep

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: D'von W.

In my world roses are red, violets are blue
Some people can be sweet, so can you.
In my world it's peace and quiet,
You can rest without a sound.
In my world the birds are singing every night and day.
Bad things happen but not for long
Because when the day is over people get along.
In the world I live in today
I wish I would never go away.





Camden Prep

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Antoine M.

Everyday I wake up and start the same thing I did yesterday.

Welcome to my world.

Everyday I got into trouble and I tried to make money.

Welcome to my world.

Everyday I hung out late with my boys until the birds chirped.

Welcome to my world.

Drugs and violence are nothing new to me and people are getting shot and stabbed.

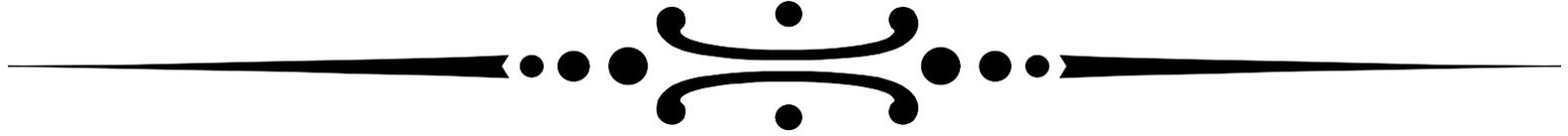
Welcome to my world.

Nothing good happens in my life, only bad things happen.

When I'm sleeping the same thing happens.

It's time for me to wake up.





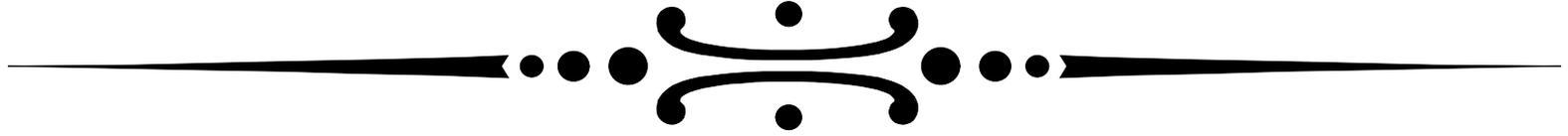
Camden RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Kalief L.

WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF POVERTY AND DISTRESS
WELCOME TO MY WORLD OF MONEY,
DRUGS, GUNS AND ALL OUT VIOLENCE.
WELCOME TO MY WORLD WHERE PEOPLE WILL
DO ANYTHING TO GET BY
AND THEY'LL EVEN DO IT IN SILENCE.
WELCOME TO MY WORLD
WHERE PEOPLE WILL TURN ON THEIR OWN FAMILY TO SURVIVE
AND WILL KILL TO BE THE NEXT BEST GUY.
WELCOME TO MY WORLD
WHERE COPS DIMINISH PEOPLE WHO DESTROY
THE COMMUNITY BY SELLING DRUGS.
WELCOME TO MY WORLD
WHERE BLACKS DEVOUR EACH OTHER
TO FIT IN WITH THE RIGHT CROWD.
WELCOME TO MY WORLD
WHERE PEOPLE GET STRUNG OUT ON CRACK COCAINE
WHERE THEY THINK THEY COULD TAKE A COUPLE OF HITS
TO ALLEVIATE THEIR PAIN.
WELCOME TO MY WORLD
WHERE YOUNG GIRLS DON'T ACT THEIR AGE
WHERE A MAN COMMITS A CRIME
AND WOULDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH
TO DO 25 TO LIFE IN A CAGE
WHERE THEY WILL HANG IT UP TO NOT FEEL THE PAIN.
WELCOME TO MY WORLD
WHERE PEOPLE ARE MATERIALISTIC
INSTEAD OF WATCHING THE NEWS
TO HELP FIND THE CHILD THAT'S MISSING.
WELCOME TO MY WORLD
WHERE PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING FOR RESPECT
WHERE THEY WILL KILL A WHOLE FAMILY
IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY FOR A STRONG REP.
WELCOME TO MY WORLD
YOU WILL BE THE PERSON TO CHOOSE
WHO'S THE BEST AND WHAT PATH YOU'LL TAKE NEXT.





Camden RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Lamar H.

Welcome to my world
Where anything and everything ain't easy.
Guns pop. Bodies drop. It ain't easy.
Welcome to my world.

Welcome to my world
Where people are dying everyday.
Determined to get rich
In any and every way.
Welcome to my world.

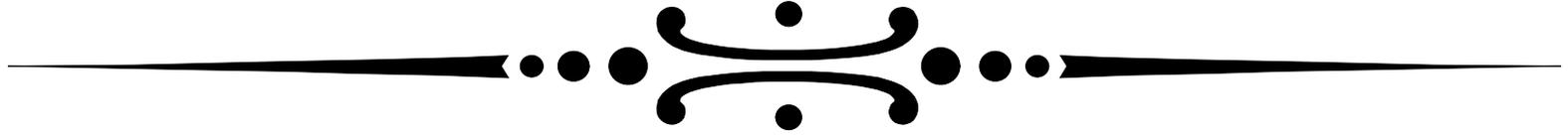
Welcome to my world
Where it's gangsters and thugs
Whose life is based
Upon bangers and drugs.
Welcome to my world.

Welcome to my world
Where instead of us trying
To help and heal each other,
We're out here with guns
Trying to kill each other.
Welcome to my world.

Welcome to my world
Where being broke is all we know
So we hustle no matter
Rain, sleet, hail or snow.
Welcome to my world.

Welcome to my world
Where respect you've got to earn to get it.
God save your life to live it.
Hurry up and get with it.
Welcome to my world.





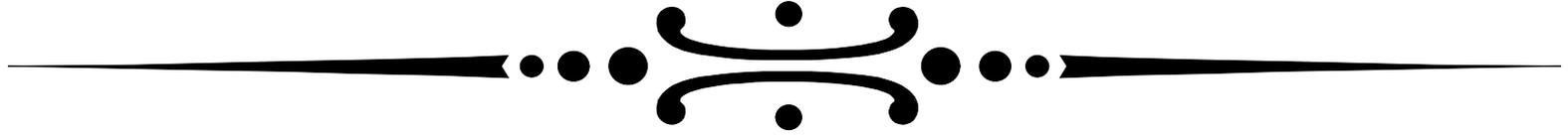
Camden RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Jamil H.

Things are crazy where I stay,	W
Friends getting high.	E
Where kids play,	L
people come to visit.	C
I'm try'na leave.	O
Spend nights getting drunk,	M
And mornings smoking weed.	E
Boardwalks and casinos	
and stuff like that.	
A lot of opportunities	T
but none for blacks.	O
Kids with no hope,	
a lot sell dope.	
Bums in the trash,	M
kids with no dads,	Y
single moms struggle	
And try to raise five.	
Others give up	W
and start getting high.	O
Drugs everywhere	R
in many forms,	L
hustling and making money	D
are neighborhood norms.	
Girls with mini skirts	
walk the streets,	
all night long with	
high heels on their feet.	
I love my world in a funny way.	
If it wasn't like this	
I wouldn't be who I am today!	





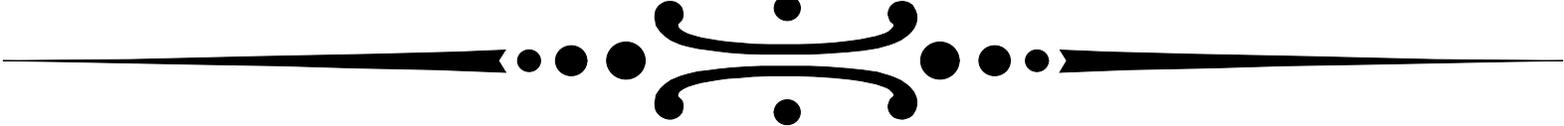
Campus Program

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Lavern H.

When you left I felt empty inside
Like my soul died
And my body just stayed alive
And many nights I cried
Wondering if you were safe
Because on T.V. it shows that evil place
I saw the look on the kids' faces when they are left alone
Then people wonder why the same kids are doing wrong
They don't have anybody telling them that they have to stay strong
And so then the same kids won't even be able to live that long
I have seen girls give up their body just for a name
11 or 12 already caught up in the game
The young boy on the block selling weed and rocks
Get hit with a stray bullet because he was in the wrong spot
You can believe it or not
Yes there is a God
And through him I'm able to keep my hope alive
Welcome to my world
You can hate it or live it
Only the strongest survive
And I have now made it and rose above it.





Campus Program

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Joshua B.

Welcome to my world!

This is when I used to puff haze not knowing my mind was in a daze.

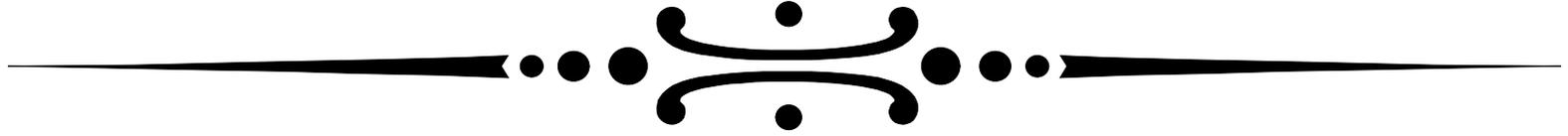
Let's take it back to the days when I was

on the block pitching rocks, grinding from sun up to sun down.

*I couldn't even lay my head down without watching my back,
so no one would try to throw me in the trunk or whip out the pump.*

*Now that life got me lying on a bottom bunk sending out kites.
I could live my life without fright and do it right and don't think twice.*





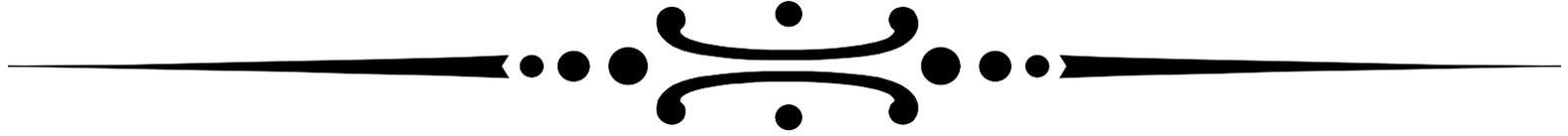
Campus Program

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Rudi D.

Welcome to my world
I'm the king
I reign over all
People, places, and things.
Welcome to my world
The vision of a dreamer
The air is pure
And the grass is greener.
Welcome to my world
I'm loved by everyone
Get respect by all
And hated by none.
Welcome to my world
Productivity is essential
Success is mandatory
Knowledge is fundamental.
Welcome to my world
It's a stupendous place
There's no discrimination,
No segregation and no race.
Welcome to my world
To my life and experience
It's my way, my rules, and my laws
So it is what it is.





Cumberland Day

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Donte B.

Welcome to my world
Known as a dark place,
Where smoke floats in the air
Like a go-cart race

Where everything is twisted
Seems you're guilty until proven innocent,
In the next world after this
I would love to have been a twin again

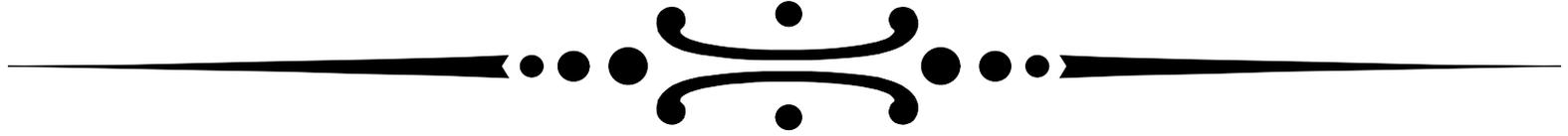
If I said it was Hell on Earth
That would be taking it lightly,
If you know more about my world
Someone needs to enlighten me

In my world
Rap stars seem to be bigger than God,
Where you witness more unbelievable things
Than the Wizard of Oz

Welcome to my world
No need for a welcome mat,
You enter at your own risk
Be lucky if you aren't welcome back

Similar to melting rims
You always hear a pop of the chrome,
Therefore in my world
It's necessary for me to hop in the zone.





Cumberland Day

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Brenda P.

In my world everything would seem fine on the outside,
but on the inside are many complex and distraught thoughts and memories.

When I lived with my dad every day was a party and he didn't care.

He was like a little kid through all that
and the loss of my mother in 2004 was just more suffering to deal with.

I was in trouble all the time and not caring about life.

Life was just something that didn't have much importance.

I just lived everyday like this was it.

Nevertheless, I've got my head on straight and now finally I think I am actually capable
of having some kind of life.

They say if it doesn't kill you it makes you build a bridge.

Well, if that's the case, then the bridge I built is very durable.

I didn't grow up with the best influences but I think after everything,

I am heading down the right path this time.

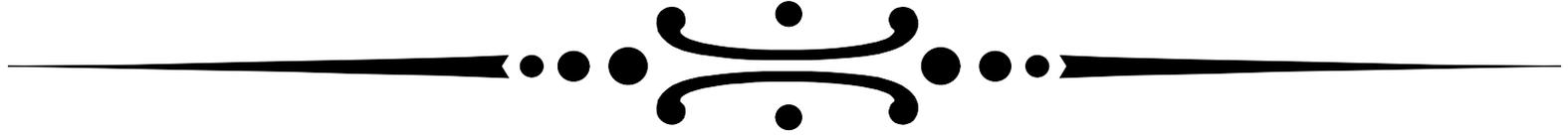
When I see myself slip, there is only one thing that I can do;

Think about everything that has happened to me in the past

and remember what I can do to help myself,

to stay strong and not let anyone try to bring me down.





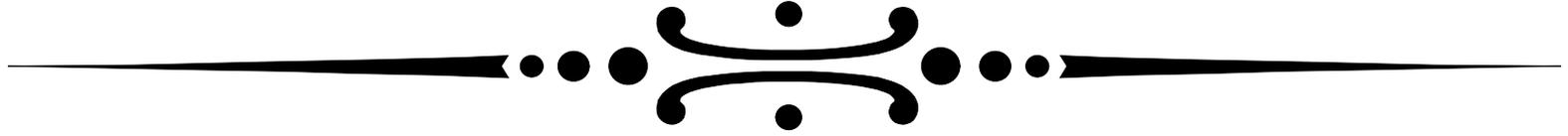
Cumberland Day

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Billy F.

My world is full of obstacles like a playground; some of them are fun and enjoyable.
My world is full of surprises and heart fulfilling moments.
As for the obstacles and surprises, I will overcome them to be a better person, but
on the other hand, there are moments I am not happy about.
Growing up on the PJ's has given me better eyesight on life.
There are many places to see and to go and many things to achieve.
But being in the eyes of the law is hard because there are many restrictions to obey.
Now you are welcome in my world if you dare.





DOVES

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Krystal C.

I can sit for hours staring at a night so clear
"Welcome to my world" I sigh.
As I hold back a tear.

You can find me on the beach with the sand between my toes
I'm far from a shore some say,
Hey that's just the way life goes.

I pick a rose, and you pick a daisy.
As I look back four years from now everything seems so crazy.

From softball practice sixth grade year,
with growth and development, came a new fear.

Ninth grade came with wishing wells.
Slowly turning into jail cells.

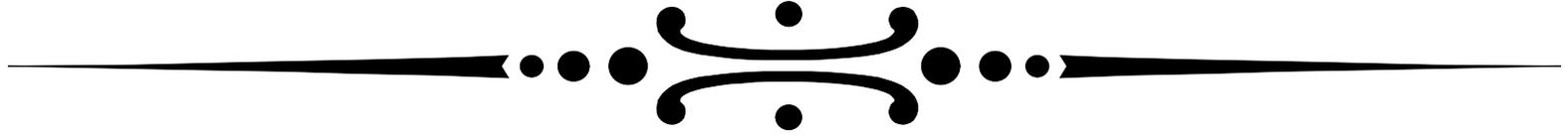
On the warm summer nights that I used to recall,
It'll no longer be of me getting drunk or going to the mall.

I know I can do it; I can do the best I can.
No longer will drugs be in my greatest of demands.

Instead of shoplifting and stealing, I want a life that's not so revealing.
Going forward instead of looking back.
This is just one of my ways to keep my new life on track.

Staying focused and determined are things I need to help me be well
These things I see in my future and remind me that I'm trying to excel.





DOVES

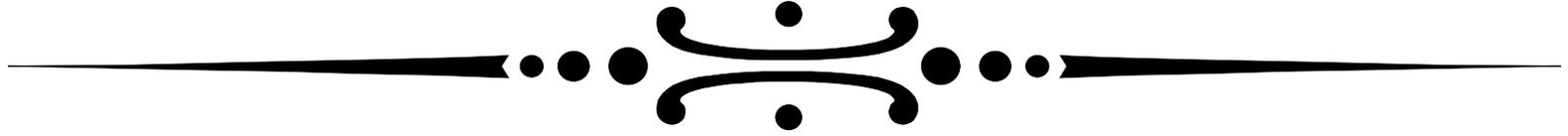
"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Britney M.

My life isn't simple, from the outside it seems fine.
I've been through so much but now I'm going to let you know just a little about my life.....

When I was young, I lost my mom
Her body was still living,
But it was far away from mine
And when she left subconsciously, she took a piece of my mind;
That's where all the confusion began.
Through my childhood years feeling neglected, feeling sad
Deep in my heart knowing there was love from my mother that I never had.
My mind so delicate.
No idea of the world.
I grew up kind of spoiled being daddy's only girl.
And even though the one who made me didn't raise me,
I had a mommy in my life who never ever strayed me.
Even though she didn't give me life in the literal way,
Without that woman who knows where I'd be today.
I want her to know it's not her fault I'm here in this place.
It's because I just wanted to do everything my way
But in my heart so much was going on
In the back of my mind, wondering where my mom has gone.
When I was old enough I found out it was my mom's love for drugs;
The reason why my mommy had no time to show me love.
That's when I started acting out,
Going the wrong route and being with the wrong crowd.
As I was growing I still didn't know what life was about.
I was still acting crazy, still acting wild.
My heart was getting broken because my biological was always in and out.
Here one second and gone the next.
So because of this I looked for negative attention,
Not knowing I am blessed.
Overlooking my uniqueness and settling for less.

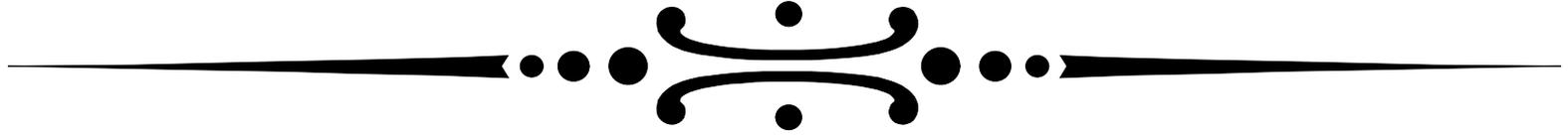




When I was 14, my mom had another seed
She left him with his father just like she did to me.
He has a good father but it's mommy that he needs.
Just a year ago I saw my mom out on the streets,

It broke my heart to pieces.
She barely noticed me.
I know God made that happen so I could give her the motivation that she needs.
I wanted to help her,
So I changed my plans, not realizing addiction was in her own hands.
So not knowing the ways of addiction, disappointment came,
And through my actions, I misplaced my anger and my pain.
Soon enough my feelings progressed into rage.
I put my sadness on myself because I had no one to blame,
So I turned to drugs.
My life became wrapped around my own addiction,
Being so unaware and playing with my life as if it were fiction.
But life is too real to play around as if your brain is missing.
People look up to me.
There's so much I want to do with my life from plan A-Z.
I want to see my brother so he can get to know me
And see how being positive can get you to where you want to be.
I want to tell young people wasting your life isn't worth it.
Life is so much more precious than what it appears on the surface.
I'll let all the young girls know how much their life worth is;
It's worth more than sex, drugs, money and men who treat you like you're worthless.
I'm learning how to love myself.
I'm not perfect, so I'll need some help.
I'm beautiful and beauty is based on more than wealth.
So many aspirations, I know I'll never fail.
So thankful to be in this program rather than in jail.
Because I'd make no progress,
I'd just be rotting in a cell,
Without my parents support I don't know where I'd be.
Their love keeps me grounded and now without the drugs and sex,
My mind feels free.
I can be more than a statistic. I can be me.
My insides were dying because of my depression,
So I acted out and now I finally learned my lesson.
I'm locked down but now in reality it's a blessing.
I'm in a program and I'm finding my way.
I learn new things about myself everyday.
I'm positive now and I won't let anything get in my way.
No one can bring me down, I have too much to accomplish.
So to all the people who hurt me, I forgive them now.
My success is so close I can almost taste it
And the time I spend at DOVES will not be wasted!





DOVES

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Heather M.

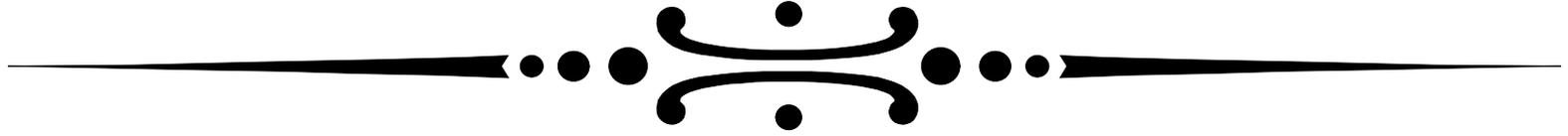
I was the middle man he just supplied.
Rain, sleet or snow I had ice in my eyes.
Had the boys out so I could get high,
And all these dudes were twice my size.
Stayed out till the light would rise.
I should have gotten robbed,
I should have gotten beat,
But I kept my feet planted right on the streets
And kept acting like a delinquent, I swore life was sweet,
But the vice ran down and now I'm fresh meat.

Someday when my life is right,
I'm gonna make it through and I'm gonna see the light.
Gotta breathe when my chest gets tight.
Repent and plead before I rest at night
Or I'll be in jail with a test to fight for my life.

All these things I wish I never did.
I should have lived my life like a kid,
But it is what it is
And I'm still here. How did I do it?
It's because God was near
But I got a second chance, the cotton's out of my ears.
No more hustling, smoking weed, or drinking beers
Because going to hell is one of my fears.
So I'm taking the broom and making my path clear.
I learned a lot in these 18 years
And I don't cry enough of these tears.

It's survival of the fittest, get ya shift in gear!





Edison Prep

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Robert M.

Welcome to my world
The real world
Where things are hard
And if you're not ready for it
You won't get too far.

Welcome to my world
Where life gets hazy
But I refuse to let others faze me.

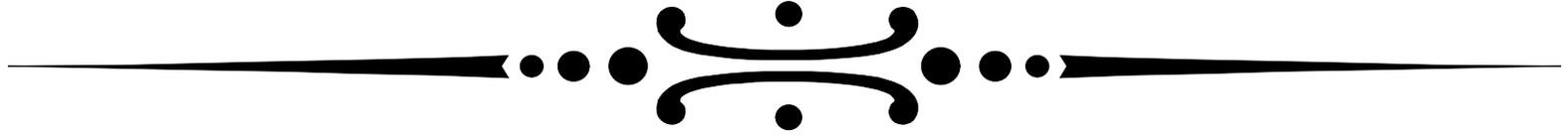
Welcome to my world
A world of hate and greed
Where young people are told they won't succeed
And kids in jail are waiting to be freed.

Welcome to my world
Where dreams can come true
But how you make this happen
Depends on you.

Welcome to my world
The real world where life is short
If you're not careful
It will pass you by
Because life begins and ends
In a blink of an eye.

Welcome to my world
Now you decide
Where you'd rather be,
In a dream world
Somewhere pleasant
Or here with me.





Edison Prep

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Khyir C.

Welcome to my world
In my world it's very hard to survive
Where people carry guns and knives to stay alive
The young never use their head
Couple days later, they end up dead.

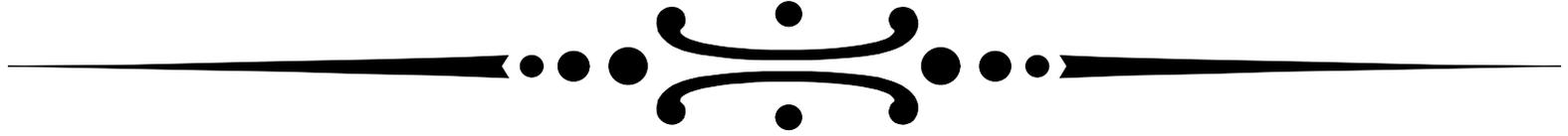
Welcome to my world
Where people smoke a lot of haze
We go to church just to get praise
Where young ones don't report to school
They're so into the streets, they think it's cool.

Welcome to my world
In the ghetto, broken bottles with needles everywhere
You have to watch your back twenty-four seven
Because people just don't care
Where the project hallways are dirty and smells like piss
Then we think to ourselves, how can we live like this?

Welcome to my world
Where we sleep under the windowsill
Because we're afraid the bullets will break through and kill
Where you see bums outside sleeping on dusty mats
While we worry about roaches, they worry about rats.

Welcome to my world
Where we go to just hang
Next thing you know, we end up in a gang
Where black people are killing each other
All over two different colors.





Edison Prep

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Anthony H.

Welcome to my world
Where it's hard to survive
Where young children have to pack heat
To stay alive

Welcome to my world
Where you have to hustle to eat
And you always have to watch your back
Because you can get arrested just for walking the streets

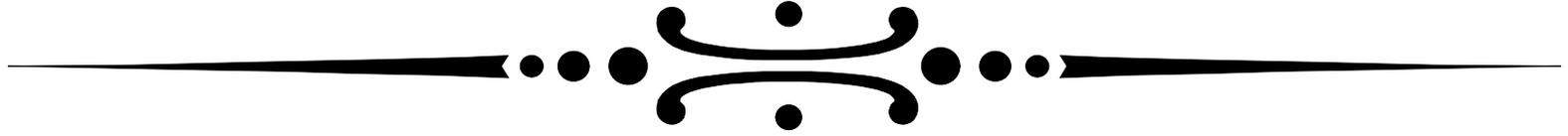
Welcome to my world
When the lights keep flashing
And every time you watch the news
You hear that guns keep blasting

Welcome to my world
Where you have to live
Like today is your last
So you run the streets
Get high and forget about class

Welcome to my world
Where there is some good
But you have to make an effort
To get out of the hood

Welcome to my world





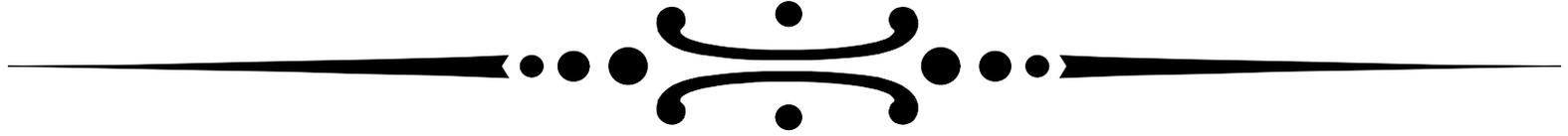
Elizabeth Day

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Jared J.

My life isn't sweet, you better believe that.
You can't walk through the streets without seeing somebody strapped.
But anyway it's my life and it isn't real nice.
Walk down the street, see your big brother playing dice
Say no to drugs; be a boss, stand up!!
You got to move smooth and you got to play the cut.
I did this and the judge said I committed that
But know I am moving forward, no time to go back.
I did the crime so I know I got to do the time.
Sitting on the E-Day van trying to unwind.
Go home and you get slammed in the dirt
Then come to the program and got to tuck in your shirt.
It won't hurt, yeah that's what they say.
Now I am focused on hard work, no time to play.
I have to have my boots laced to the top.
Damn, when will it stop?
I know it'll just be cool until
December drops and then I am out and it's back to thinking
Outside the box.





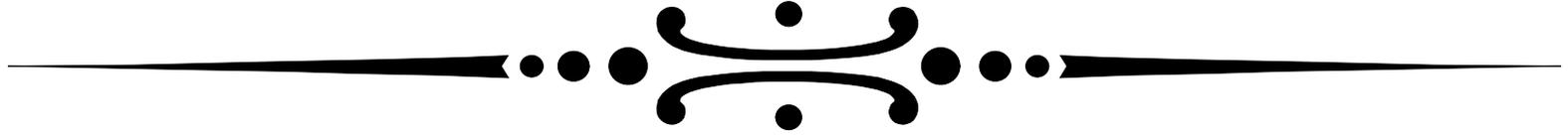
Elizabeth Day

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Donte L.

Welcome to my world
Men, ladies, boys and girls
Everything in my life isn't peaches and cream
My life is like hell if you know what I mean
Let me start by saying what's going on
Just listen to everything that went wrong
It all started at the age of eight (8)
I was this little demon child everybody used to hate
I used to steal and used to lie
I was young and dumb and I didn't know why
Being a good kid, I tried the best I could
I used to start so much trouble when I was up to no good
Now I'm getting older, thirteen (13), and popped up with a kid
Please children, if you're listening, don't do what I did
I know that it was a stupid mistake
I brought that upon myself, that's the price I have to pay
Now I'm sixteen (16), thinking I'm grown
I thought that I could do it on my own
I got in some trouble, had gotten my mouth wired shut
I couldn't talk, drinking Ensure and other stuff
Things are starting to get better, going into the age of seventeen (17)
Still going through some things
I've been locked up, stabbed up, shot up
I'm trying to live my life the right way.
I'm not trying to get back boxed up
Now I got 32 months probation
I'm doing ok but the judge keeps calling my name, feeding me cases
Elizabeth Day (E-Day) is where I'm going to change my life
When I get out in one month, I'm going to do right
I got a job at Pizza Hut making \$6.50 an hour
I'm doing positive things now. Can y'all give me that for starters?
Everything that went wrong almost led me to my death
I always thought I was superman with that big S on my chest
So take it from me ladies, men, boys and girls,
I would like to welcome y'all to my world





Elizabeth Day

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

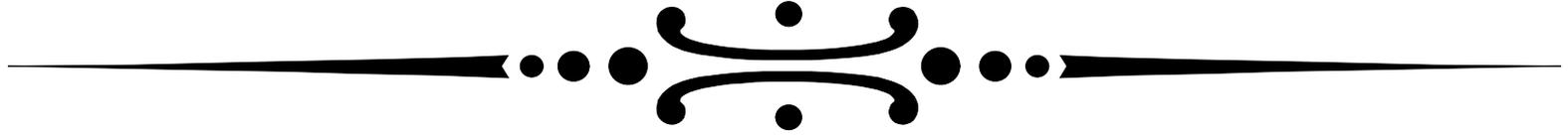
By: Roy M.

Welcome to my world
Where the sky is not blue
The grass is not green and
The clouds are not white

Obviously this is my world
And it doesn't concur with yours
Everything goes my way and
There are no rules of what
My world can do
It provides me privacy
And time to think
And put my thoughts
On a higher rank
Lets me go my way and you go yours

Obviously I am alone in my own
Special place
No one can visit unless I allow
But you will only get a taste
Because most of it goes to waste
This special place has a name
MY BRAIN!!!





Flip Paterson

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

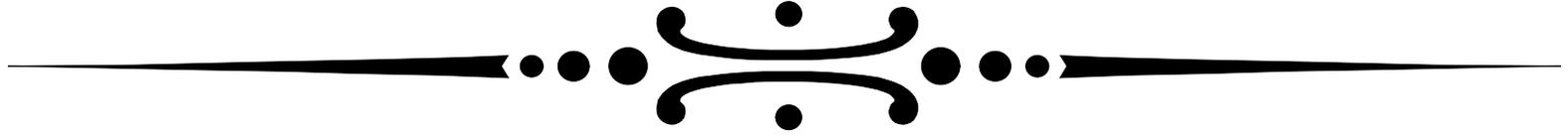
By: Ricardo R.

African, American, Cuban, Asian
Social Studies is what I am trying to major in.
I'm going to college so I can make a good wager.
Taking care of my family for a very long time,
Thinking twice about committing a crime.
Life is like a dime, you treasure it.
Take it to your grave then you bury it.

You have ghetto rappers and bad movie actors,
Some thinking they're hot just because they got shot,
but everybody can't be like Biggie and Pac.
We go to school to get a better education
Not for the Mayor to put in a police station.

We study hard to be something in life.
Growing up to be a man and maybe have a wife,
with two kids living your life up big.
Life is like a pearl. Now welcome to my world.





Fresh Start

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Bernardino T.

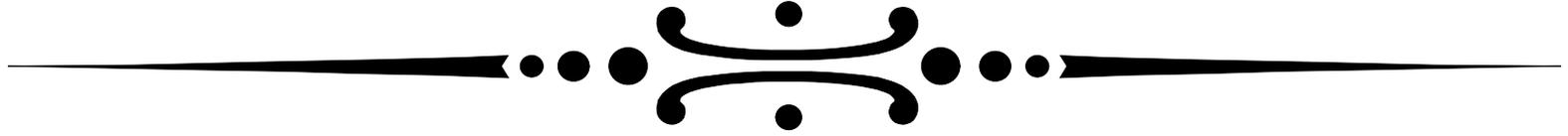
My world is something you can't ignore.
My world is something you can't adore.
With my life I decided to play.
Now it's time for judgment day.
I have a daughter who is the age of one.
The last time I saw her, was when she was two months old.

There is something I just found out...
That I should turn my world around.
I'm at Fresh Start, being all that I can be.
Now everything is working for me.
I just got in contact with my mother after three years.
I'm so happy I can't stop the tears.

When I first arrived at Fresh Start, I was very doubtful...
Then I learned the Program is really helpful.
I want to thank the staff for helping me out.
Even when I had some doubts.

I want to thank every last one of you....





Fresh Start

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Charles C.

Welcome to my world
As long as you're fine
Welcome to my world
And you're welcome many times

In my world, it's only trouble
Whatever you've been through,
I've been through double

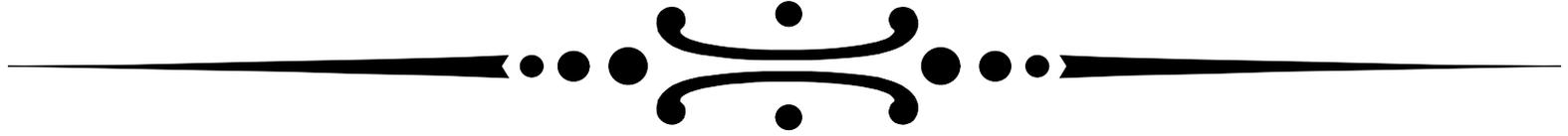
In my world
People are crazy
Everyone's house stinks
Because they're lazy

In my world
You must be fair
But there are stupid people
Who don't really care

In my world
People will do anything for money
I'm telling the truth-
I'm not trying to be funny

In my world
Someone dies everyday
In my world
All you can do is pray





Welcome to my world
Where everyone agrees
Try to be safe
Because most of the cute ones have daisies

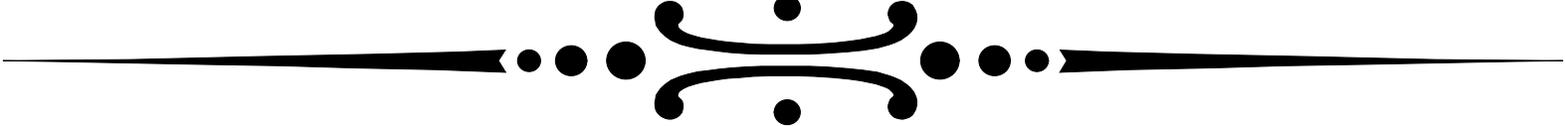
In my world
Try to pick a good girl to date
But don't show off
Because someone will hate

In my world
Try to live happy...
Don't date a girl whose hair is nappy.
My world is harder than you think
I see violence every time I blink

So love your life and live free
It is always best to live honestly
God is on your side and we are all adorn
Everyday someone new is born

Welcome to my world.





Fresh Start

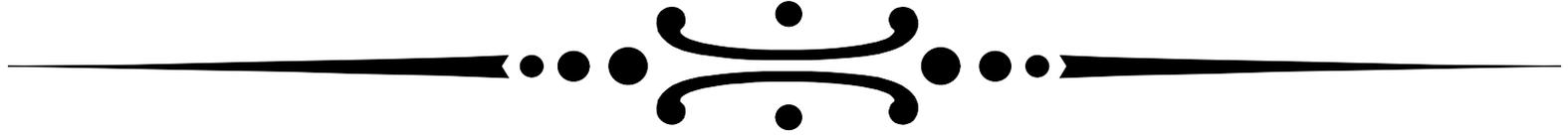
"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Tayron W.

To my city....I honor
To my mom....I love
To my school....I cherish
To my girl....I respect
Welcome to my world

To the cops that harass
To the laws they pass
To my Dad I never knew
To my secret that keeps this
My World





Green RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Jason P.

Welcome to my world
Where money, power, and respect count

Welcome to my world
Where ups and downs take place

Welcome to my world
Not just for you, for every kind of race

Welcome to my world
Surrounded by guns and drugs

Welcome to my world
Where everyone deserves a hug

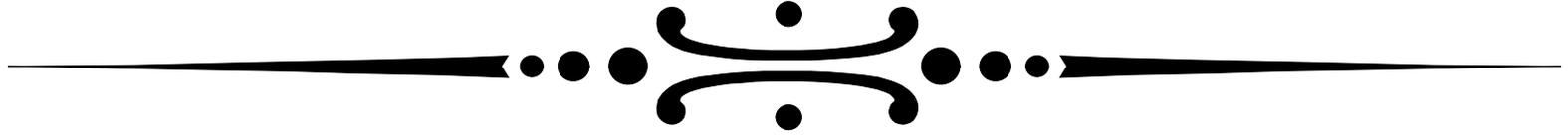
Welcome to my world
When love is great

Welcome to my world
Where it's a whole bunch of hate

Welcome to my world
When everyday is a blessing

Welcome to my world
Do wrong and you will learn your lessons





Green RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Luis G.

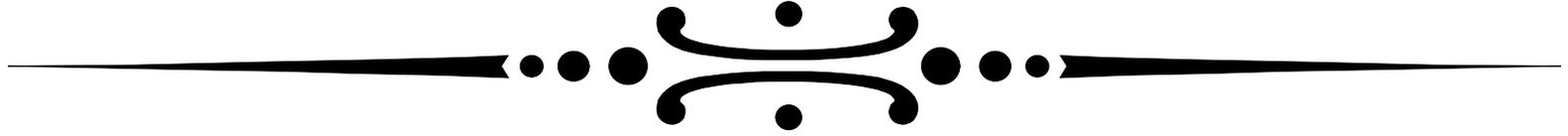
My world is just a game
That everybody plays,
But we all know life is serious,
Cause we all feel the pain.
But, I'm going through a stage
Where I like to see sorrow.
But every night I go to sleep
Wishing to see tomorrow.

So all the sorrow
I like to see in people
Came back to me,
But so evil
The evil wasn't good
Cause it got me in a place
Where people stab, fight and kill
And they hardly got space

But, I made my mistakes
And now I'm feeling sorrow
Wishing to wake up
Being home tomorrow
But all this sorrow
I'm putting it in the past
Cause I'm going home
And I'm free at last.

So all I've got to say
Is don't play the game
Cause all it's going to lead to
Is drugs, money and even gangs
So, I'm ending this poem
By saying I'm sorry
But don't break the law
Cause then y'all be sorry.





Green RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Jasper M.

Why am I here for a crime
I didn't want to do?
I needed the money
For my family...but YOU!
Why does God test me all the time?
Is it because the first time I held
A gun, I was near nine?
This is my life

I look at the sky
I wonder why
I do the things I do...
Is it cause I'm really missing you?
Sometimes I cry and I don't know why,
Is it because
My mother died?
This is my life

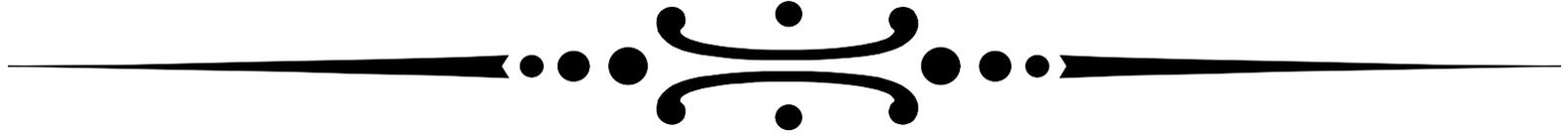
When she died I didn't even know her
I was 15 months then & I'm 15 now
But still...
What can I show her?
All my friends are gone,
They flew away
And all I have to say
Is...Where are they?
This is my life

Things repeat themselves
Like deja vu
And don't worry Ma,
I'll be right back with you

Although I choose the light,
I cry each night
Thank you for listening
And have a good night

And don't forget - This is my life!





HAYES

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Nadine D.

Stressed and depressed.
My life is a mess.

Down and feeling low,
The days are moving so slow.

Anxious to get away,
Just waiting for my day.

I feel like I'm about to go crazy,
Though these thoughts don't amaze me.

Eager to adjust to this place,
Putting up a front beyond this lonely face.

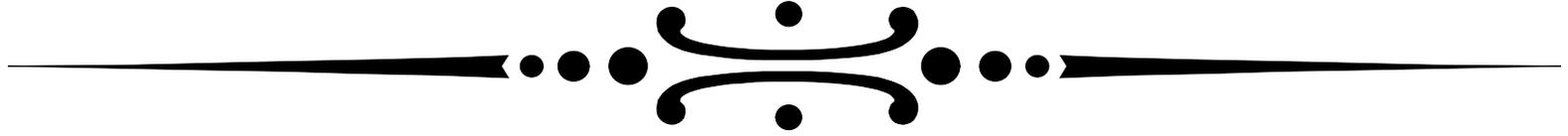
Will my friends still be there?
Will my friends still care?

Not sure how much of this I can take,
Though nothing will improve if I remain fake.

Believe me, I want the help I'm given,
Though I hate the idea of institutional living.

I have to follow every single rule,
Just keep focused and remain cool.





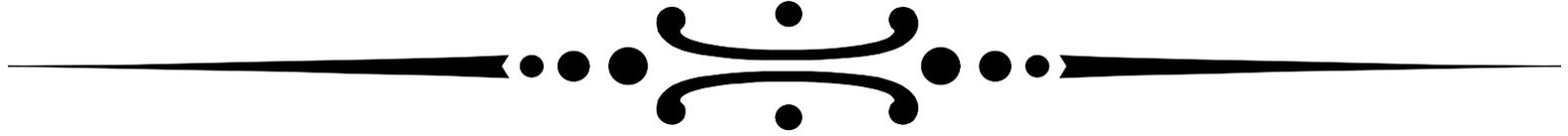
HAYES

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Sequoiyah T.

I cry but tears don't fall down.
I scream but there's no sound.
I touch but I can't feel.
I move but I'm still.
I have eyes but I can't see.
I have a mouth but I can't speak.
I have blood but when there's a wound,
I don't bleed.
I have a heart but I don't have a beat.
I have a mind but I can't think.
I have eyelids but I can't blink.
I have feet but I can't walk.
I have a tongue but I can't talk.
When things are funny to me I no longer can smile,
I have a body shaped like a grown woman
But I'm still a child.
I sleep but I am restless
I'm in the light but left in the darkness.





HAYES

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

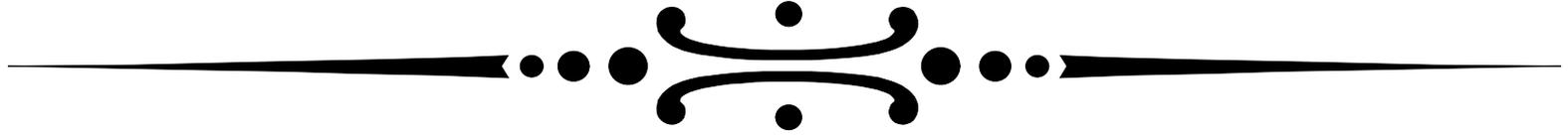
By: Tara M.

Everyday I pray
Everyday, Mom and Grandma
You're always in my heart to stay.
Everyday I pray that y'all breast cancer will fade away.
Everyday I pray the cancer
will decay.

Everyday, know that I'm mentally there.
Everyday I'm away
Know that I always care.
Everyday, though it's tough to bear
Everyday I think
"It's not fair."

Even though I'm far away for the season
Everyday things happen for a reason.
Remember, everyday I pray for you, Mom and Grandma
Everyday you're always in my
heart to stay.





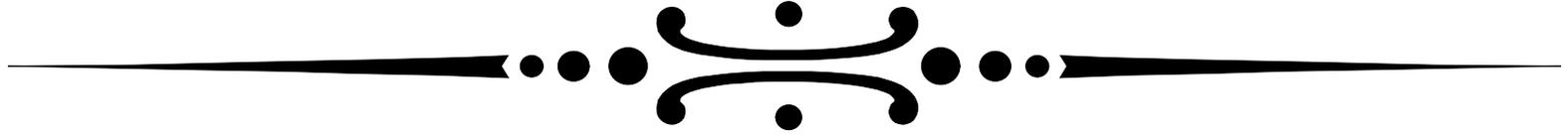
JMSF

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Kwayshun T.

Welcome to my world where nights are cold and days are lonely.
Welcome to my life where things go down and loving gets harder everyday and every step that I take is a mile longer.
Welcome to my world where I'm always sad and unhappy from the life that I live, from the money to disrespecting the women in and out of my life.
Let me take you to my block where people say things like, I'm not going to make it to 18.
And things like, "Get off the corner."
Welcome to my world where I have to smoke weed for me to get a reality check.
But the worst of my world is when females have babies and there is no father there to hold and kiss his child.
Welcome to my world where love doesn't mean a thing.
The only reason the word love comes out is because Legs Open Very Easy.
This is why we the gangsters and other people say they love someone.
It's to have sex.
Welcome to my world where things get even worse, like the number one killer is AIDS.
And the next one is his cousin, the gun and the next is drugs.
I ask myself, "Can things get better?"
I say yes.
But it takes time and love deep down in someone's heart.
This is only in my world.
Just another heart of the streets.
And my thoughts are most known to me but unknown to others.
I'm just a juvenile,
In my world.
What about you?
Welcome to my world.





JMSF

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Antonio K.

"The Way of Life"

When I was brought to this earth, I'm here for a reason
I'm here to live day by day, night by night and moon by moon
and by time within its four seasons.

I'm here to say my solemn words, my solemn thought and my solemn peace
But I'm also here to live my heart out because everyday is counted and every hour is
taken.

So I blink my way of life so my eyes can't be forsaken.

I am the Master of my mind, the Master of my heart and the Master of my soul.
The forsaken of my life and the bearer of my future and the lore of my passion.

You say to me that I'm nothing, I say to you that I'm all.
I stand alone for myself and I die alone when I fall.

Forever will I be myself and you'll love me for my realness.
No reason should I give you to hate me or my way of life.
But should I give you my word, my peace, my bond, and my way of life.

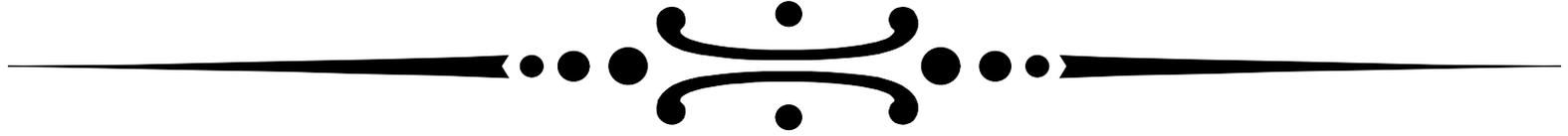
Sometimes I just wonder if life is just a blunder for me to fall deep down inside its womb.
Inside all the corrupt, greed and sorrow of a nation of one man, one army, and one soul.

Forever should our peace be sought and come up empty-handed,
with humbleness and forsaken pride of nothing but guilt

I can give you nothing but humbleness and words because forget the
knowledge that lies within your inner spirits

Shall you cherish this life and maybe the next because it's all just a way...
A way of life.





JMSF

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Al-Malik T.

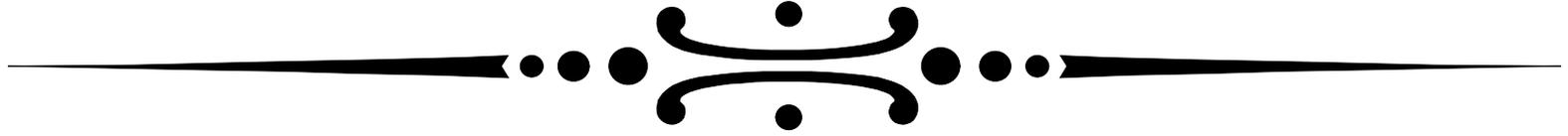
Welcome to my world, it's filled with so many doors.
Now I'm gonna escort y'all through each door.
As we enter Door Number 1,
It's filled with fun.
I was young growing up like everyone.
A baby doing what babies do.
Goo goo ga ga until I was able to walk in my own shoes.

Door Number 2 is pain.
I was taken from my mother, heart broken and soul filled with shame.
Separated from my family.
That's why I became the animal they made me to be.
Since 6 my world turned black.
I was adopted but didn't know how to face the fact my mother was on crack,
And didn't want me back.

Door Number 3, I went to the streets to be loved.
I stayed around gang bangers and so called thugs.
I adapted to their lifestyle and fell in love.
From that day on I became a thug and switched to a gang banger
Since they were my family and that's where I saw
And developed the love they gave me.

Door Number 4, I got into the streets too much.
Jail became my second home.
Streets were my first.
Getting shot at and doing the shooting,
And in the end it hurts.
Can't change my lifestyle because it's a part of me.
I just wish I had reunited with my family.
Six years in and out of jail now; I'm not beat.
I'm ready to wash my hands and rest my feet.

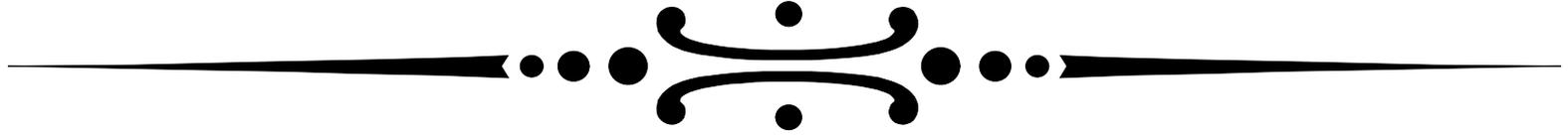




Door Number 5, I found my love
And got shown I can love and be loved.
Not by a gang banger or thugs.
She's showing me life from every angle.
I'm becoming the sweet man I was created to be.
I don't even know the real Al-Malik.
Hopefully I'll find him soon.

Door Number 6, it's the darkest room.
There isn't any telling what lies in that room.
Six doors.
Five are told.
One is on hold.
I'm about to open it to see what's there.
To my surprise I can see nothing,
I can only hear
And the voice is saying,
"Welcome to my world,
It's nothing here."





Liberty Park/Hudson Day

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: James B.

Welcome to my world, where the world
isn't really a world where you wake up
to relive the same nightmare
over and over every day after day
and night after night.

Where you can't walk without a ratchet.
I'm from where many murders occur and bullets fly.
Around like raindrops, one shot, boom.

The pain stops.

My world is my hood.

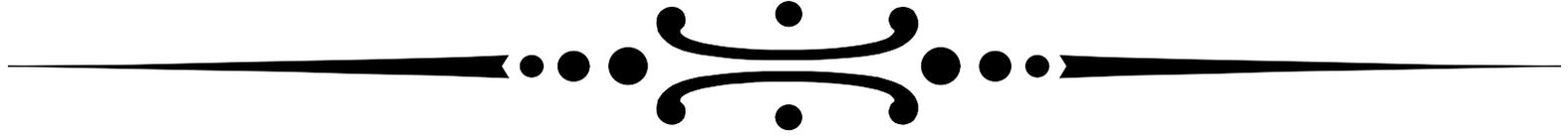
My hood is my world, bullet town.

I'm engaged to my knife

And my gun is my girl.

This is my world.





Liberty Park/Hudson Day

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Darren M.

Welcome to my world.

It's full of surprises.

Am I going to survive or am I going to die?

But the tears I cry from my eyes just make me stronger and to live longer.

Even though I'm a child, I have seen stuff that's wild.

From people being killed to people hustling to pay their bills

But I can and I will succeed because this is not where I want to be.

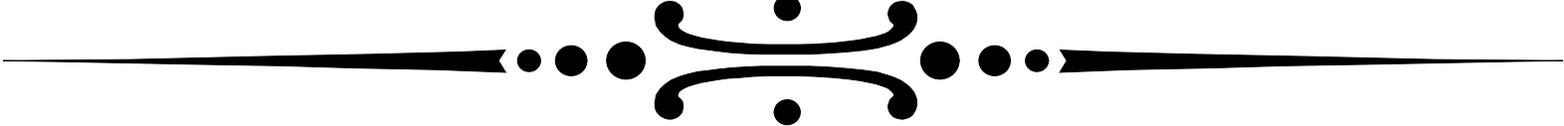
Everyday people are trying to get rich or die trying.

Bullets make your body melt.

That's what I think about walking around with straps, with a seatbelt.

But life is a game of cards...you have to play with the hand you're dealt.





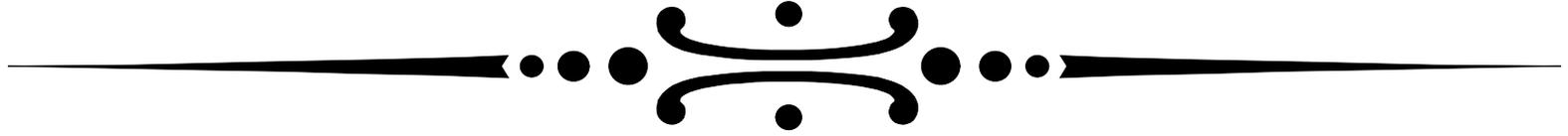
Liberty Park/Hudson Day

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Anthony W.

In the hood it's hard
In the hood you struggle
In the hood you hustle
In the hood you fight
In the hood you get into things you're not supposed to.





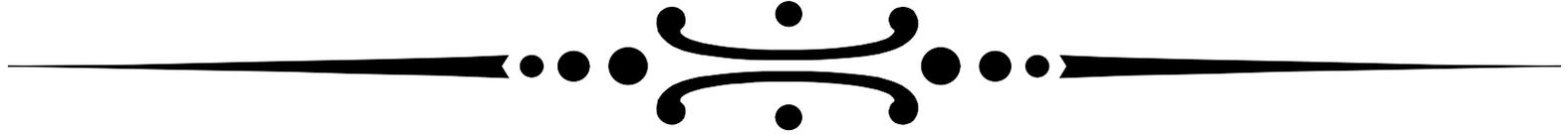
Manorwoods

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Rymeer S.

Welcome to my world.
I have been living in Bridgeton, staying home with my mom.
If I would have listened to every word she said,
then I wouldn't be looking at white bricks everyday.
I wish I could change everything and start going to school.
Instead of trying to be cool and being a fool.
I see a lot of people fighting each other.
People running around even fighting each other.
Instead of doing good and listening to their mother.
I see people just killing their own kind.
I wonder what the heck is on their mind.
I always dreamed of being a basketball player and living the good life
Because getting locked up is like getting stabbed with a knife.
I wish my world could change.
It's like a drunk person trying to drive down a lane.
My mom and the rest of my family don't have much
But they're always trying to give a lot of stuff.
So here you go, this is my world,
Where gangs and drug dealers are.
Sometimes I hope all the bad things will stop
And go back to old school where they had hip hop.





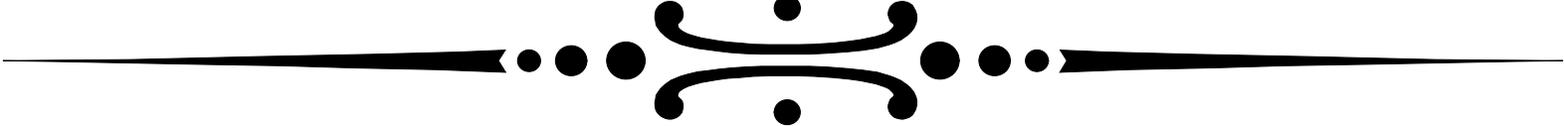
Manorwoods

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Joseph A.

Welcome to my world which is beyond complex,
where speaking your emotions is in a form of text.
There is not telling what will happen next,
but be assured the outcome shall be its best.
My world and your world are comparable in ways.
It rains and shines on both of our days,
there must be sand, sharks and water in both our bays.
But my world and your world can be different at times
but still remain in relation like lemons and limes.
One can seem like a paradise but filled with crimes.
Welcome to my world, with its ups and downs.
Filled with love, hate, emotions, smiles and frowns.
Also with city streets, buildings, cars and towns.
Sometimes I might feel like a king with a crown
or just play around and be the class clown.
Try to believe, but not to deceive,
that my world is like a magician with no tricks up its sleeve.
My world you are welcome to, where the clouds are white and the sky is blue.
Some fail in life but some try to do, but my world's destination is without a clue.
You can bleed from greed or read to succeed
but be thankful for your wants and even greater for your needs.
You've been welcomed to my world.
I have opened the doors. Now the time has come to welcome me to yours.





Manorwoods

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Jamer G.

Welcome to my world where the sun doesn't shine.

Now I'm incarcerated because I crossed the line.

I wish I could go back and change what I did.

But now I'm a man, not a little kid.

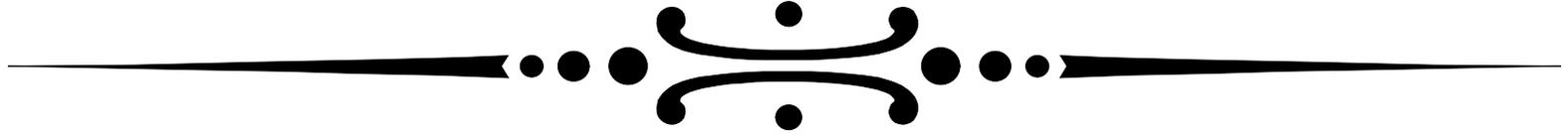
I wish I could overcome the dark so I could see the light.

But now it's too late cause I'm in this box for life.

I should have listened to my mother about my friends.

Now I'm here thinking once again.





Monmouth Day Program

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Thomas W.

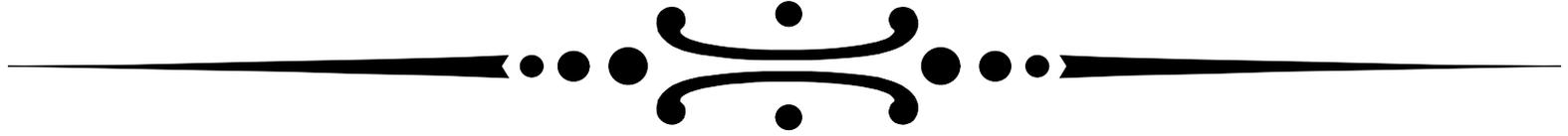
In my world, it's crazy.
Lots of drugs and thugs.

In my world, there's violence and killings.
The boys out there are lying and stealing.
I have a lot of friends.
They ride with me till the end.

In my world, my mother is queen.
Snitching in the hood will get you seen.
My sister and brother are in my heart.
I was with them from the start.
Basketball is my sport.
You can find me on the court.

In my world, I plan on going to college.
Taking classes to get a lot of knowledge.
My world is my stage.
Sixteen is my age.
I'm full of rage.
All my life it feels like I was locked in a cage.
Please save me.
Let me be free.





Monmouth Day Program

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Richie M.

My world can get a bit crazy.
Sometimes things are hazy.

I've paid the price.
There's so much I had to sacrifice.

My girlfriend has supported me every step of the way,
No matter what I had to say.

She would help me out,
No matter what it was all about.

Whenever I'm down
She'd never kick me to the ground.

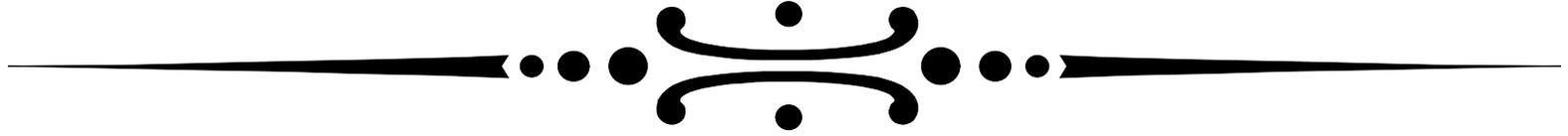
She would hold my hand
While we walk in the sand.

She would make a sound
That comforts me when I'm around.

She is daring
But very caring.

Welcome to my world.





Monmouth Day Program

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Michael M.

I'm drowning in felonies
I'm full of hatred and bad memories
Nobody is going to carry me
So I'll walk through life with my two bare feet

I'm so scared of messing up
That's why I was doing drugs
That's why I'm getting drunk
To cover up bumps like cover-up

I ain't a thief, a rapist or a thug
I'm just a man
Without a plan
Feeling ignored, hated, and unloved

I know this girl
And she's all I ever think about
She wants to know why I don't ask her out
Because I don't know what she'd do when I'm not around

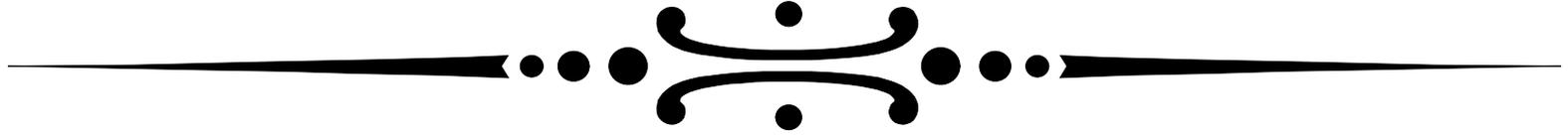
She says that she loves me and cares for me,
Over the phone
But I don't know if she really loves me
Or if she is cheating while she's at home

My stress is about to overload
I can't take it
I'm about to explode
Break down and go insanely crazy

If you see the good, quiet me, it's fake
Don't go by it when you see me
I'm just scheming
I'm one of those psychos you see on T.V.

I wish in life I would stop walking
And start running
I'm done messing up
God I want to become something





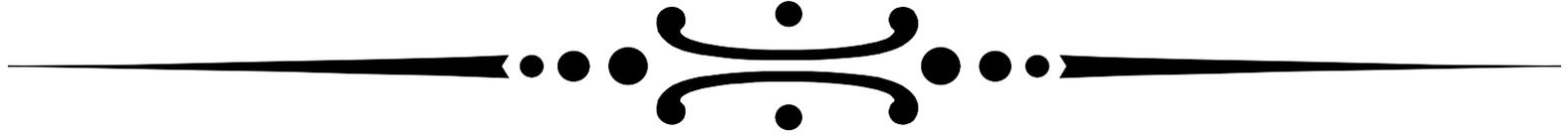
NJTS

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Santiago R.

My pain is like pain coming from the heart.
It is pain like the pain coming from the pages of the Bible.
Welcome to MY world...
My world is big but it gets smaller as you walk through it.
My world is like a chain of gold, never tarnished, never growing old.
It is a place where I think the person who hurts me is hurt.
I cry but it's not me....it's him inside of me.
Do you see now why my world is big?
My world tells me things...but what can the Bible tell you?
Do you follow it?
You say that you do, but you do not.
Do you even think God follows it...No!
Why do you think God did not come back?
They say he has power....
I am praying and praying for the man who hurt me....
Shhh...God is coming....let me....





NJTS

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Timothy I.

Welcome to my world

The world I live in

Let me show you how my thoughts are driven

Just think about a place, fathers beat mothers

Divorce is common

And younger siblings look up to older brothers

Or older sisters

That are doing drugs and skipping school

Did you know?

Our country has the second most amount of fools

And money

Money is the root to all evil

The one thing that can get to all people

It's true

Just think about all the people in prison that have nothing to do

And everything and anything can be diagnosed....

As a medical problem

That's society's way of having an excuse...

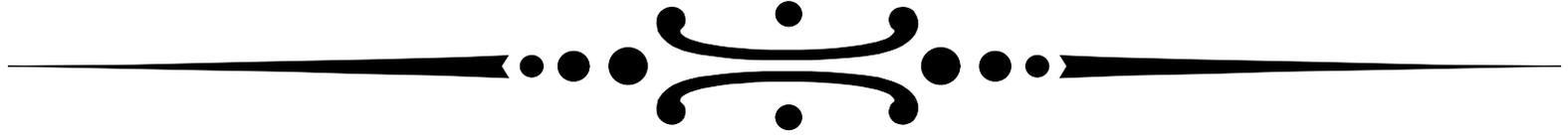
For everyone's problems

But there's a good side and bad side like everything else

It would be a lie if I said nobody helps...

Some people care





NJTS

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Ephrain F.

"Welcome to my world"
where gangs pop and bodies drop.

"Welcome to my world"
where the good die young.

"Welcome to my world"
where smart people in the long run become bums.

"Welcome to my world"
where violence and drugs never stop.

"Welcome to my world"
where people move high in the drug game and some just drop.

"Welcome to my world"
where most corners and blocks are hot.

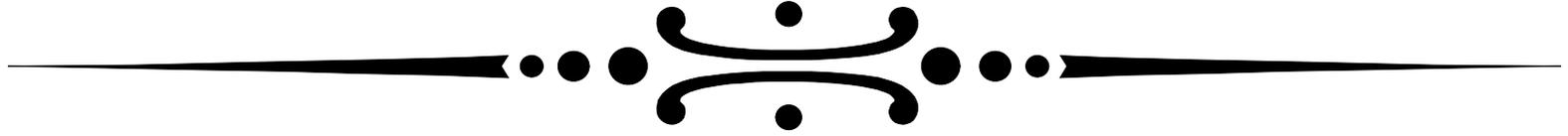
"Welcome to my world"
which is Camden City.

"Welcome to my world"
where life is hard and never pretty.

"Welcome to my world"
where if you want, you can come.

"Welcome to my world!!"





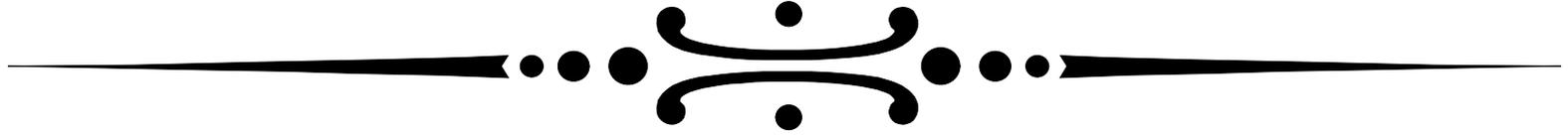
Ocean RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Shawn C.

Above I'm calm and cool
Below it's nothing but a fool
Your thoughts are how I mold
My fears are how I fold
I want to get out of me
Or these thoughts to be freed
My fights are all within
I don't know how to win
There has to be a time of change
I believe I see it in my range
I cannot reach for fear has had me fold
I believe my destiny has been sold
Anger's clouded my eyes and head
What kind of life have I led?
Here is where I say no more
Because I now have found the core
Life is what I make it
Now I have to start off naked
I've made my road hard and long
At least it won't be wrong
The fights have stopped from within
Here is where I shall begin
Now, I am how I mold
And fear can no longer hold





Ocean RCH

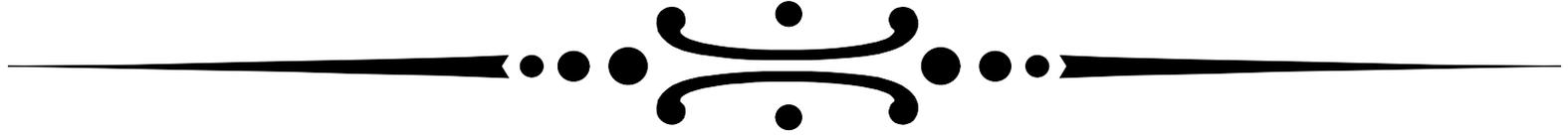
"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Kevin C.

Welcome to my world...the world of different days but the same time.
Welcome to my world...the world of tragedy and new lives.
The world of no love but peace...the world of insanity and grief.
Welcome to my world...where there's hateful desires of humanity,
Where there's discrimination and impatience.
Welcome to my world...where there's no way out.
Welcome to my world...where there's some way out through God or Death.
Welcome to my world...where people don't cherish their last breath.
Welcome to my world...when peace arrives.
Welcome to my world...where every hour a child has arrived.
Welcome to my world...where cops are bribed just so the next wrong man can get BY.
When relatives' homes are destroyed and the nation's capitol avoids.
Welcome to my world...of lust and your best friends you do not trust.
Welcome to my world...and also yours, the pain and suffering, the burn and sores.
Welcome to my world...of love and hate and the world that doesn't appreciate.
Welcome to my world...of shadows and corners trapped in by no light.
Till God has given me the power and insight.
Welcome to my world...of who cares? If not me, who would be there?
Welcome to my world...of fast cars and money, where people will give their souls for
money.
Welcome to my world...where a dollar means so much.
Welcome to my world...where a dollar bill says In God We Trust.
Welcome to my world...where in every life there's a gift.
Welcome to my world...when your life can be dismissed.
Welcome to my world...when in life you have to submit.

WELCOME TO MY WORLD





Ocean RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Kyle H.

Up in the morning and out to school,
They thought it was water
But oh boy were they quite fooled.

Up in the morning to catch that smoke,
A pack a day was okay,
Began to realize it's no joke.

Four forties would do the trick,
Couldn't stand no more,
Falling down and getting sick.

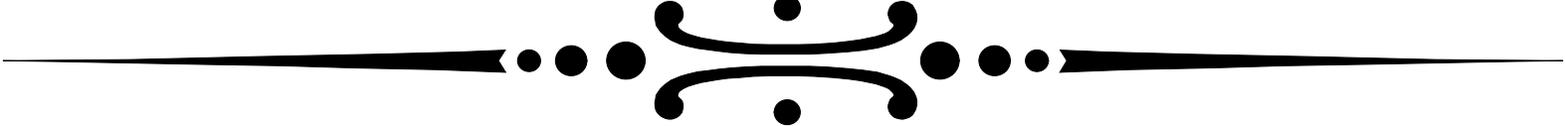
Cops all around and me in cuffs,
Still drunk,
Looking back at that time I was tough.

Being locked up caused me much change.
Drug rehab that's it,
Looking back I must rearrange.

Now I am clean for a year,
No smokes or drink,
Not even an urge for beer.

Looking toward a future of being clean.
Anger down,
Going home so I can show the new me.





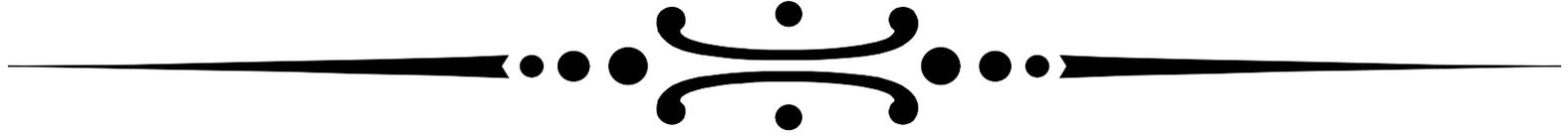
Pinelands

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Richard M.

In my world there are things you've never seen
In my world you see a lot of people scream
In my world there are no candies and dreams
In my world there are a lot of pains with steams
In my world all I see is darkness with no light
In my world all I see is nothing but fights
In my world all I see are struggles and pain
In my world there is nothing but fog and rain
In my world there are too many people talking strange





Pinelands

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Anthony H.

I can't do anything I want around here.
I have nothing in common with most people near
I'm a social outcast.

When I came here, they took away my music and games.
Now that's getting lame.
But soon I'll be insane.

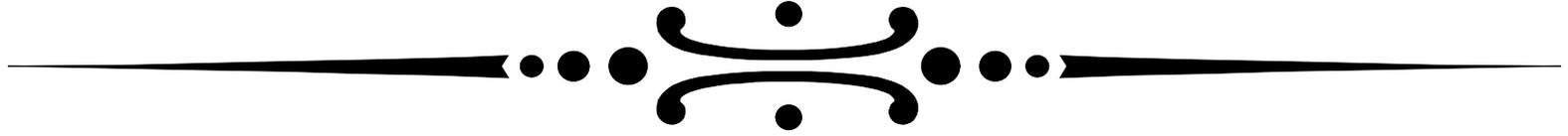
I know I messed up.
So now I'll pay my debt.
And I know I won't mess up yet.
And now I'll try my best.
When I leave here I won't be a mess.

I know that I'm not cool.
But I am good at school.
Don't confuse me with those tools.
When I might act like a ghoul.

When people talk to me they always tend to yell
That's when I feel like I'm in hell.
After that I listen for my bell.
And that's when I sometimes become swell.

So welcome to my world
It feels like I just hurled.





Pinelands

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Timothy B.

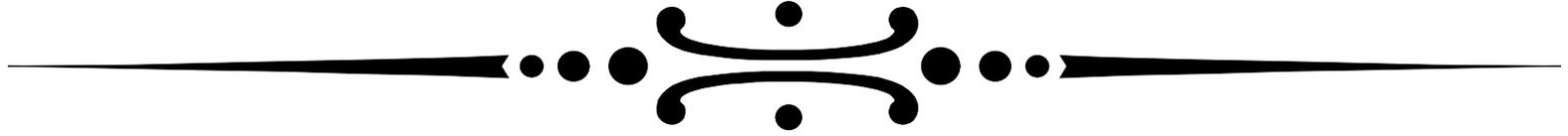
In my world different religions come together
To speak Peace
While the whole world is trembling
At the same time
It's becoming a war zone
People screaming out
The President needs to get out of the White House
They try to do what they can
But some votes don't count

It's crazy, that I know
But personally
Only thing I can do is give you my opinion
Plus stay strong with the family

My world I wake up with money on my mind
Yes young. But I could get real stupid at times
Right now
I don't get to rob,
Nor steal
All I got to do is support
And that's hard sometimes

In my world STUFF happens
Some say it happens for a reason
Or it's another way of God's response
But fact is fact
Do what you can
Then maybe the world wouldn't be so dark





Southern RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Joseph T.

Happily ever after
That's what they want you to think
But welcome to my world...
It's the home of the brave.

Today is filled with hate
And death is a common fate.
People...not your friends
You can see it in their eyes and face.

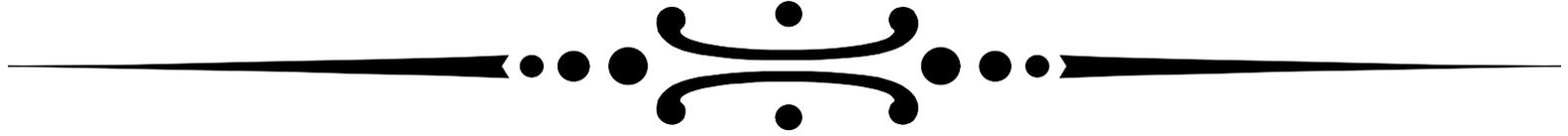
And don't be mistaken
By the smiles they're fakin'

But anyway...
My world is a tragedy
With all the pain and hurt that goes with humanity.
I will tell a dream
But my world is not a fantasy.

So please listen to my life
And I will tell it right.
My world is a war zone and I deserve the stripes.

This just goes to show you
My life is not a pearl.
I hope you've had a real good look
And "welcome to my world."





Southern RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Mitchel C.

You don't want to be in my world.
It's full of pain.

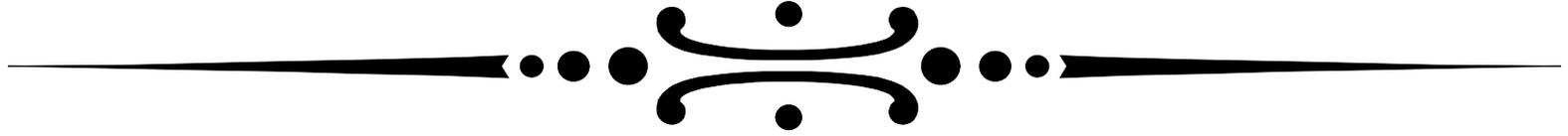
Lying, cheating, dishonor
is the name of the game.

Everywhere I turn, someone is dying.
I feel pain and frustration and hear so much crying.

Welcome to my world of dangerous streets
where children are focused to take bitter for sweet.

Where my world fell apart and my folds unfold
like memories of my stories yet untold.





Southern RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Noel O.

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls
Take a step into my world.

Hop in my sneakers and tie them tight
This ride will take you to another height.

You'll go up and down, fast and slow
Bullets will fly so please stay low.

The cops will harass you without a doubt
At times you may feel that there's no way out.

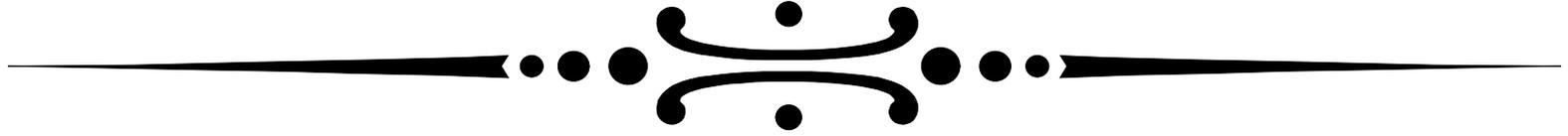
One thing you will feel is lots of pressure
And there'll be some problems too tall to measure.

You're going to feel hungry and the streets will call
And giving in will be your downfall.

You'll spend time in a cage, but you'll be back again
To the same old world with the same old friends.

The difference is this time you will be smart
The way it ends depends on how you restart...welcome.





Union County SIP

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Javon C.

When I was little I saw someone fight, so I started to fight.

When I was little I saw people sell drugs, so I sold drugs.

When I was little I saw people smoke weed, so I started to smoke weed.

When I was little I saw a lot of guns, so I started gettin' a lot of guns.

When I was little I grew up around shoot outs, so I started shootin'.

When I was little I saw an armed robbery, so when I grew up I got locked up for armed robbery.

I saw death, but I'm not ready to die.

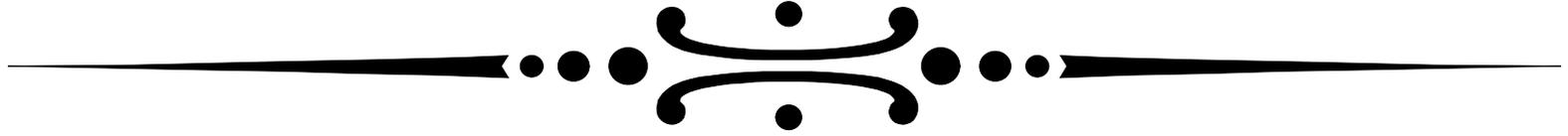
As I grew up I got in trouble for things that I saw.

As I grew up, I learned that what you see is not always the right thing to do.

So, be a LEADER and not a FOLLOWER.

Because what I saw is not something I should have done.





Union County SIP

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Angel C.

I knew I wasn't a kid anymore when I first smoked weed

Then I started selling drugs and got into a gang

I was thinking I was **BIG** but I was only fourteen

I started chillin' with the girls when I got locked up

Got sent to SIP and it helped me out a lot

I'm going back to school

Tring to get a job

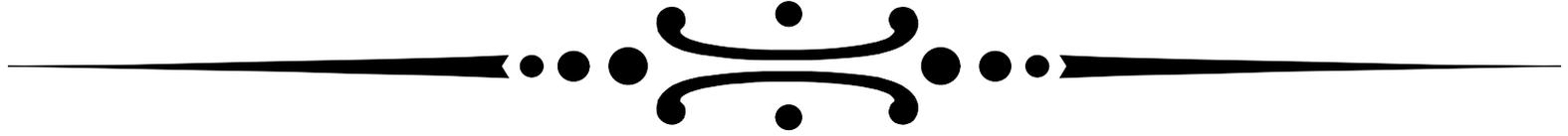
I'm trying to do the things I never thought to do

But if chillin' in the hood with your boys is good for you

When you go to jail nobody's your boy no more

The hood is good for nobody!





Union County SIP

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Evan F.

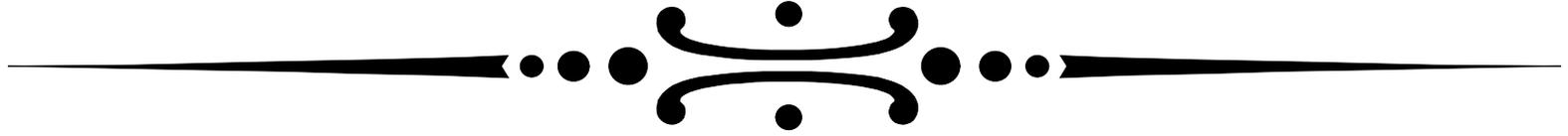
My world is mostly made up of my family, friends and my community. I live in a suburban town in Union County, New Jersey. My town is small but it is still fun. I have a lot of friends there and I am with them whenever I have some free time. All we do when we are together is just chill and have a good time. When I am not with my friends, I am by myself at my house, either watching TV, on the computer, or working out, but what I like to do the most is eat, relax, and listen to music. My favorite type of music is rap, but I'll listen to pretty much anything that sounds good.

As of right now, the school that I am going to is Union County SIP, but in September I will be attending Vo-tech. While I am in Vo-tech, I am going to study auto body and auto technologies.

If I do well at Vo-tech, I will be graduating and looking for a good college to go to. I would like to go to a college out of state or out of county because I've had enough of New Jersey.

At my house the people that I live with are my mom, my sister and my step-dad. I get along with all of them pretty well. My mom and my step-dad are rarely around except on the weekends so I don't see a lot of them. It doesn't bother me that much though because I like to have the house to myself.





Valentine

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Brittney M.

Welcome to my world
Where the pain is so deep inside
It's so obvious that I'm hurt
I can never ever hide

Welcome to my world
Where the walls come falling in
Where I acted out in mischievous behaviors
Obvious that I'm covering myself in sin

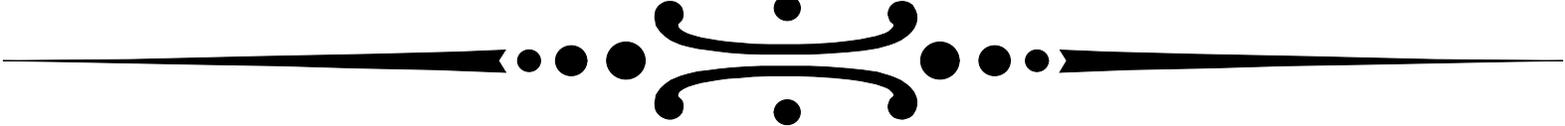
Welcome to my world
When you become the family's disgrace
That when you come to say hello
They can hardly look you in your face

Welcome to my world
Where the only thing you're looking for is love
You look in all the wrong places
And get "all of the above"

Welcome to my world
Where my family wants me to change
They look back at the old me
And tell me I'm not the same

Welcome to my world
Where I know there's a young lady within
And with a lot of help and love
Realize I don't have to make
The same mistakes again





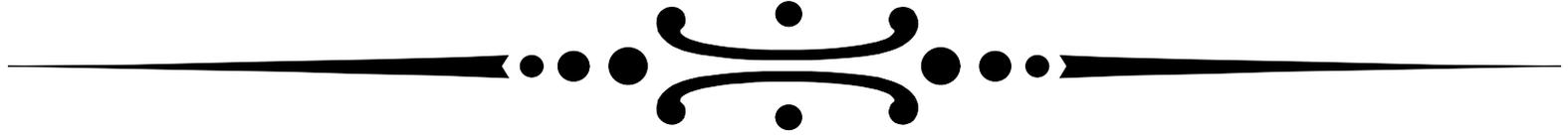
Welcome to my world
Where I know it's a higher power above
And with him I can get the ultimate

Love!!!

Welcome to my world
Where change came as hard as a brick
I had to change so much
The pain was just so thick

Welcome to my world
That will never be replaced
Now I can look in the mirror
And see my true face





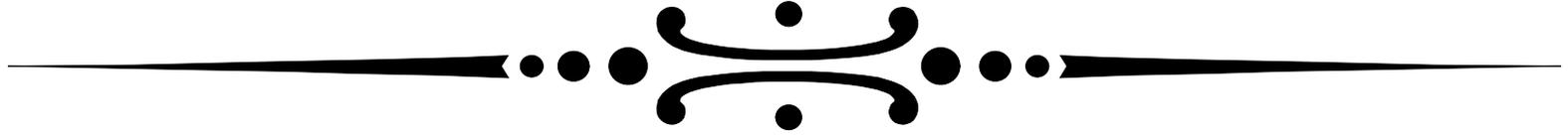
Valentine

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Ashley B.

Welcome to my world...
Welcome to my world where sticks and stones may break my bones,
but words can never hurt me.
Words can alert me
They can divert me
And convert me from thinking that my dreams can be real.
Words can divest me
And arrest me, and all my ideas that percolate
Ideas that generate
Thoughts that I contemplate
Thoughts that define me
And refine me
And align me with the person I wanna be
And I wanna see a reflection
That stands up to inspection
Not a body that is wounded and bleeding
Conceding that my dreams are no good
I've got to be stronger
So I can last longer than the words that have inflicted
And constricted
And restricted
Yes, it's true I can't hide from the rain of destruction
But I can
Keep my mind under construction to fight with a sword
All the words that were sworn and all the words with truth
So I will let it out of the booth to be free to compete
And defeat the words that somebody said can't hurt
Make me feel like dirt
But I am here to relay
What they can't find a place in your head
Only if you choose to be strong
But I will not deny

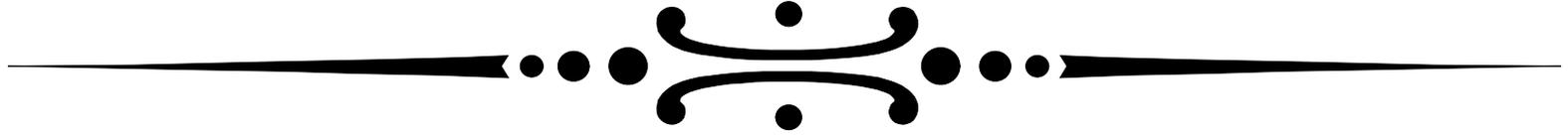




That it is a lie that words don't hurt
Because sometimes they do
So welcome to my world

Where words make people
And fake people are *see-through*
Where words hurt feelings
And that resorts to killing
Where people can't take a joke
So criticizing words go unspoken
This is my world and words do hurt
But I'd rather say they don't
It's less work.





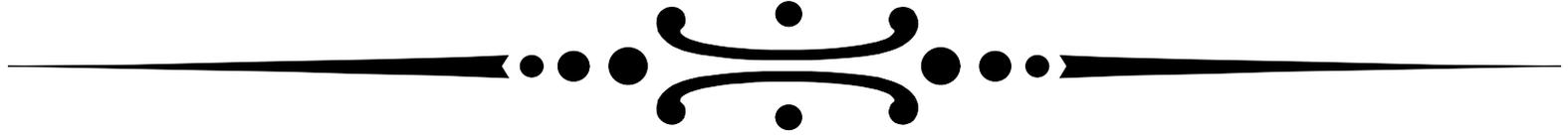
Valentine

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Danielle R.

Welcome to my world where it wasn't easy,
wondering when my mom was going to come home and stop pleasing me.
All I needed was bras, panties and socks,
Instead all I got was a heart sealed like a rock.
I wish it never happened like that,
Me moving from family member to member.
From Aunt Pam to Uncle Jack.
Everyday I had my ups and downs
But to put on a front I acted like a clown.
Missing my mother day and night
Living in the real world was just a big fright.
From running the streets to the late night creeps
To living the life like I was twenty-three
But deep down inside I knew I was only fifteen.
From selling drugs to smoking weed,
Then I got locked up and knew it wasn't the life for me.
Every night I cried and screamed
Hoping that my life was only a dream.
Night of nightmares,
Trying to find a way to fight tears.
Wishing that my mother's addiction will no longer be there
There is more to come about my world
But this is just the beginning of a fifteen year old girl.





Voorhees RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Nicholas L.

Welcome to my world where being a good father

Is most important to me.

Where it feels good to get my daughter whatever she needs.

Even though milk, diapers, and clothes may make me broke,

I'm good as long as I don't take fatherhood as a joke.

I love my baby more than anything in the world

Even when she gets older she will always be daddy's little girl.

Right now I'm locked up but I'd rather be home doing my job.

Instead I'm in Voorhees saying, "Keep that up, I think that's positive."

But lucky me, I go home next month.

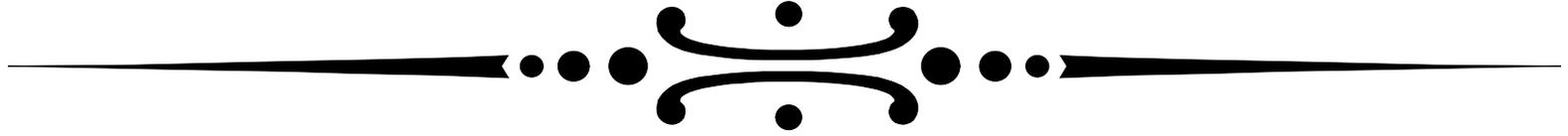
Then I can take my daughter wherever I want

But until then, I must stay strong.

Because with my daughter is where I belong.

Welcome to my world.





Voorhees RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Armando R.

I'm from a world of pain and strife.

So I'm forced to live this ghetto life.

All I ever wanted was to be loved.

Or even just to love.

I've always been alone.

So at times I thought jail was easier than home.

But now I know it's time.

Time for me as a man to shine.

As a kid I was scared of change,

But now I have no one but myself to blame.

I finally realized that life is what you make it.

So no longer do I have to fake it.

No more guns, no more drugs.

Outside my world I am no thug.

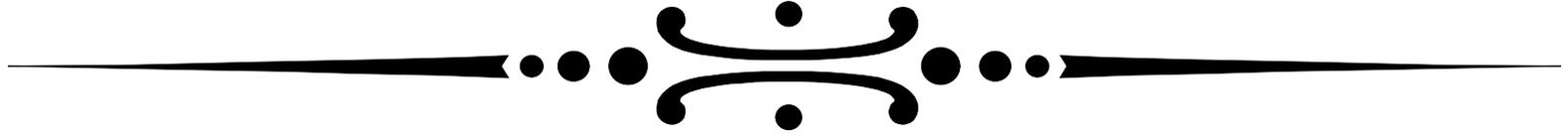
Doing things like that I'll end up dead

And I'm not ready for my life to end.

So now I can stop the front

Because in my world you only live once.





Voorhees RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Charles D.

Welcome to my world
Where it's filled with anger and hate.
Welcome to my world
Where young boys join gangs to feel in place.
Where children lose their parents to dope and base.
Those are some of the drugs they chose to take.

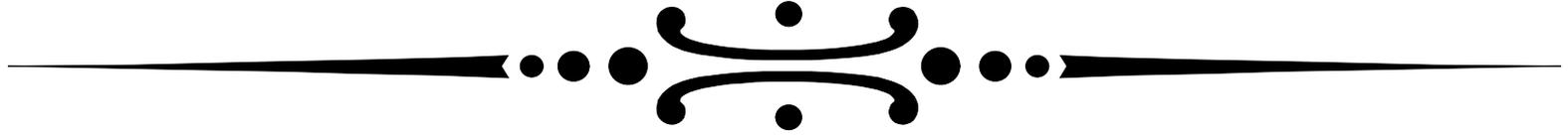
Welcome to my world
Where your child can get stolen.
Welcome to my world
Where your home can get broken into.
Welcome to my world
Where you get robbed if someone thinks you're holdin'
Welcome to my world
Where everyone you laugh at ain't really jokin'.

Welcome to my world
Where young girls get called chicken heads.
Welcome to my world
Where men whip their women.

Welcome to my world
Where we call treatin' trickin'
Welcome to my world
Where you can get tricked for treatin'

Welcome to my world
Where sports is a way out.
Welcome to my world
Where groupies wear short shorts with their legs out.





Welcome to my world
Where people scheme day in and day out.
Welcome to my world
Where these are some ways people believe is a way out.

Welcome to my world
Where I'm my father's son.
Welcome to my world
Where I lost my older brother to a gun

Welcome to my world
Where I think my life is coming to an end, but it's just the beginning.
Welcome to my world
Where we sell crack to make our money come.

Welcome to my world
Where freedom is so close but yet so far.
Welcome to my world
Where racism has left an unremovable scar.

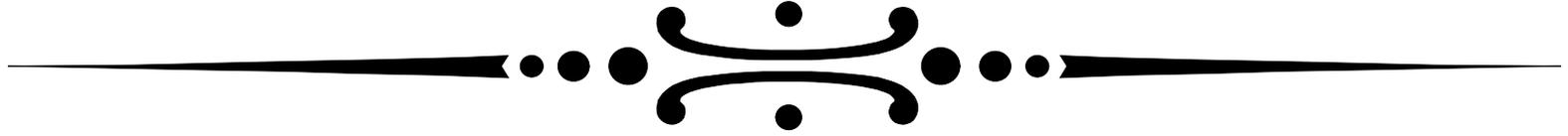
Welcome to my world
Where times have changed but not up to par.
Welcome to my world
Where we wish negativity would go away but we're in so far.

Welcome to my world
Where my body is pure with no tattoos.
Welcome to my world
Where I need a passport for my brain because my mind travels.

Welcome to my world
Where my soul is clean with no dark rooms.
Welcome to my world
Where people never like you for you.

Welcome to my world
Where you're welcome to see
What's going on from day to day with me.
Now that you know everything ain't hugs and kisses.
I'm just one person, one voice, one view, who will listen.





Warren RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Anthony H.

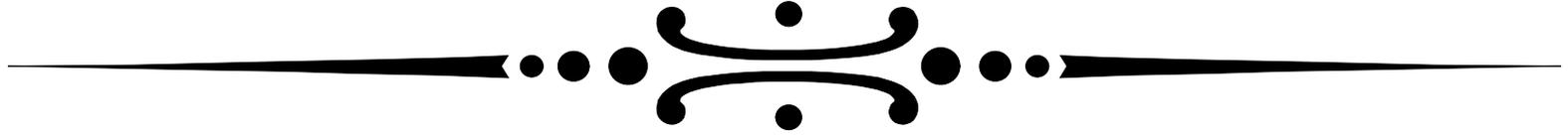
In my world
When I do something right
No one ever remembers.
But when I do something wrong
No one ever forgets
That's the saying I stand by.
That's my motto in life.
And the truth that comes with it.
It's as sharp as a knife

In my world
Reality is nothing but a word
And to think anything else is down right absurd
There's no truth and no lies, no family ties
A man's only reason for living is to see that he dies

According to my world,
There's no courage without fear
Anyone who thinks differently,
Well, that's their idea
Also, in my world, what goes around comes around
Karma can't be escaped and that's a known fact.

My world differs from yours
If you could only understand
My world is like a phase that turns
A boy into a man
It's a shame cause my world, you could never comprehend
But tell me how can you judge a world
You cannot live in?





Warren RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Jimmy G.

Welcome to my world
Where everybody's life
Is an adventure
We live day by day
Ducking the law
Cuz we live life fast and
There ain't no looking back
We all have the same dream
Or is it the same
Nightmare?

In this world
There are two ways to live
Ride or tell
As Juveniles
We are taught to
Live by the street code.

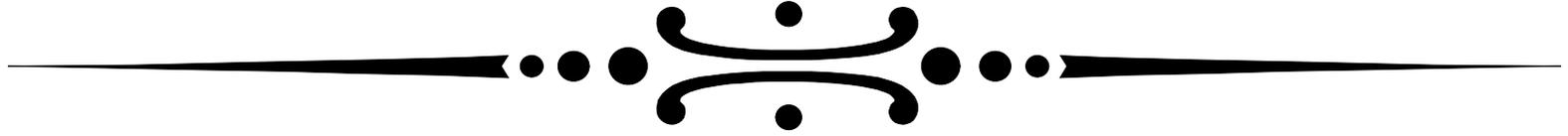
This is the place
Where mothers give birth
To these cold blooded thugs
That are anxious to be a boss.

In my world
A dollar bill is powerful
In God we trust?
How can we trust in God
Knowing what that bill
Does to people?

These district attorneys
Try to condemn,
But they don't understand
That we are forced
To live this way
And THAT will NEVER change.

Welcome to my world
Where these streets
Will swallow you
And there ain't no telling
What will happen to you.





Warren RCH

"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"

By: Shamell M.

Welcome to my world
Where the next man is waiting
To get on top
But you can't worry about him
You're trying to keep what you got
Cause in my hood
You're not given, you earn spots
And sometimes, that might
Take a couple of shots

In my world
The drinking age starts
At thirteen
When you were trying to be down
Getting girls and smoking weed
I was just a young boy
I didn't know what I was doing
But I signed up to be enlisted
And the streets were recruiting
I started off with boosting, then
Gradually made my way up to
Selling what friends were shooting

Before long, I was moving
Too fast for myself,
But I couldn't see it
I just wanted cash for myself
I thought what I had was wealth
But it was only a mistake
Now I look back on
Things I thought were real
Are really all fake

Your world is what you make of it
So take your time
And everybody's different,
So don't make it like mine
Welcome to my world

