Inspired by Van Morrison's *Days Like This*, Lee Anne Womack's *I Hope You Dance*, and Dr. Seuss's Oh, the Places You'll Go, these seventh graders decided to write poetry to share their views of life. Read the three poems carefully, then discuss where each writer showed strength with the *idea development* trait and the *word choice* trait.

The assignment that inspired this writing can be found at the WritingFix Website.

Like Rain

by Ben, seventh grade poet

Life is like rain,
Drizzling, ever lightly,
From where it began
As a cloud.

Through the long rivers
Of its
Lengthy journey
Resting
In the calm lakes,

It may fall over steep waterfalls,
But when
The mist clears
It flows onward through currents
Of its path.

There may be rapids
In its path
To pitch it about,
But in the end
Its journey of many miles
Is complete
At the vast ocean.

Hopes and Dreams

by Veronica, seventh grade poet

Hopes and dreams, prosperous and bright,
Are all you need to succeed.

Life isn't that easy; it's full of grueling work.
It's also full of marvelous achievements.

The world can be brutal with evil eyes,
Just waiting for you to fail.

Stretch your legs.
Flex your muscles.
You're sprinting.

It's a race to the top.

So go start your journey,
Go on, take a step.
The true test will be
If you'll be better than the rest.

The Path

by Robyn, seventh grade poet

Choose the path within the distance, and
"Don't just settle for least resistance."
For your path, distant and wild,
You can't dash that whole mile.

Don't toss the plain old stone all the way home.
Your life is your own.
Don't give up.
Don't give in.
To take a chance,
Try to dance.
Live to your ultimate
Furthest.
Live. Laugh. Love.