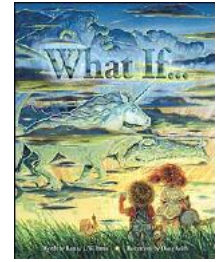


At the Northern Nevada Writing Project's 2009 Piñon Poetry Festival, students of many ages were inspired to write *What If... poems* after hearing Regina Williams' picture book What If...

Student poets worked hard on their *word choice* and their *idea development* as they composed these poems, then published them before the festival ended.

Look over these poems and talk with a partner about where you see each poet's strength with the writing traits of *word choice* and *idea development*. Be prepared to share with the whole class.

The lesson that inspired this writing can be accessed at the WritingFix website (<http://writingfix.com>).



Innocence

by Keon, tenth grade poet

What if our noses really did grow when we lied
and the rain was God's tears when he cried
and our thoughts and dreams became clouds in the sky?

What if Jesus and Santa were best friends
and any boy that believed could grow up to be Superman
and the Beatles were just bugs in a band?

What if invisible kisses tasted sour
and school only lasted for half an hour
and a whole new world existed in a flower?

What if I answer all these questions today
before my innocence gets further away?



Palm Trees, Friends

by Katie, tenth grade poet

What if palm trees grew everywhere and we could all share their
beauty even if the land was dry and we could all have that tropical
feeling?

What if everyone recycled and the earth would be healthy and
pollution wouldn't put us in danger, and our resources would last
and last?

What if you could turn back time and everything you did could be un-done even if it was
a mistake that changed your life?

What if food didn't make you fat and we could eat whatever we wanted all the time and
stay skinny, and cakes and treats and French fries would no longer be our enemy.

What if friendship meant more to people than it does now, people probably wouldn't
get hurt by someone they thought they knew and no one would be sent away from their
friends and your friends could be forever by just looking past their lies.



Sixth Sense

by Kellie, tenth grade poet

What if pets talked to you during scary storms and after having nightmares until you fell back to sleep?

What if stuffed animals had personalities, thoughts and advice when you are sitting in your room, wanting to talk to someone but knowing that your parents aren't an option?

What if pencils knew what you wanted to write during an essay or test after searching your mind for knowledge and got you an A+ in every class?

What if eyes could capture every special moment you had so you wouldn't have to carry a camera 24/7 which would provide more time to enjoy the moment?

What if temptation was never created by Adam and Eve during the beginning of the world which left the world sinless and without stress after death?

