

## AUGUST WINNER Savannah Watson

Savannah is from Paducah, KY. She enjoys singing, dancing, drawing, and reading. Her favorite class is choir. She has many favorite teachers including: Miss Fallis, Miss Carver, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Dublin, and Mr. Williams.

## THE VOICE OF HOPE

By Savannah Watson

The Voice of Hope These loud voices They never stop, Questioning my choices, Saying I'm not good enough, Telling me I'm worthless. I'm ugly on the surface. That I need a cosmetic They say I'm pathetic I feel trapped in a cage That fills with water It keeps rising as if it's ready to slaughter The cold water rises Up, up, up it goes It's now to my nose How do I break free of the voices that drown I try to pound And to shout But it's no use No one can hear me While I'm underwater But the voices continue They drag me further down Everything races and races It's too fast I can't stop their booming opinions That continue to harass Eventually they'll surpass

Can I outlast The voices going past My already weakened threshold. Suddenly silence No longer do I hear them A sweet and relieved feeling starts to stem I begin to realize That one voice stays But this one displays A peace that's been away for far too long This one says that I belong That I am loved Don't listen to those that only shoved The voice is not like the others This one tells me there is light in the dark It only takes a spark This one asks

Will you continue to sink and drown
Or will you take my hand
So I can show you around
Will you rise from the ashes
And be found.

I take the voice's hand
And it shows me something grand
I take my opportunity
I wave it high
Like a flag in the sky
So all can see

This new free
I feel made new inside
I am no longer afraid
Or unsatisfied
But rather joyful
And hopeful.
I will not fall like Constantinople
But continue to rise
I grab hold of my courage
And step one foot in front of the other
I take a step
And another
And another
Then suddenly

I'm running as fast as my legs can take me Who cares where I'll end up For I am free And when a dark voice makes an appearance on my path I continue to fight And stay in the light When I walk to the bottom of a hill I will continue to walk back up to the top I won't give up And I won't stop. Something changed No longer do I feel like I'm walking on a tightrope For I have found a new peace, The voice of hope.