


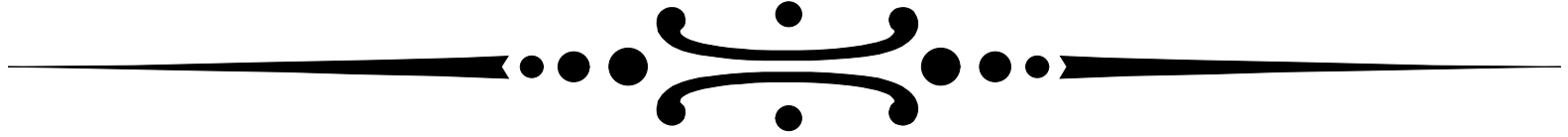
Albert Elias

**"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.

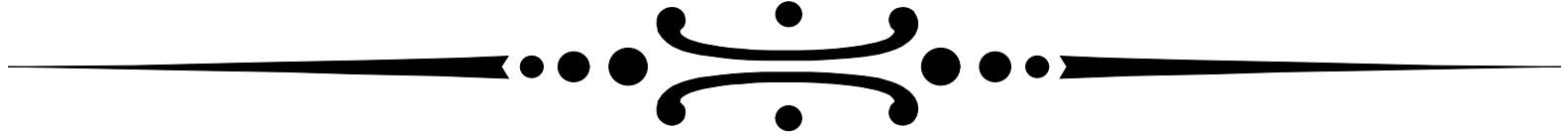
Tears and tears  
Coming from my eyes,  
A part of me wants to die,  
And a part of me wants to stay alive.  
My life is like a dark alley,  
No one seems to understand,  
I feel as if there's no point in living.

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.






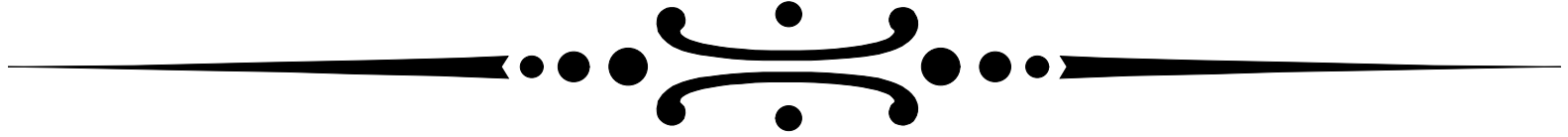
Albert Elias

**"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.

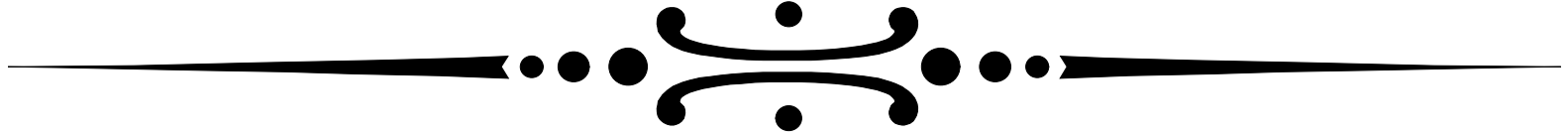
My world is where we laugh and play.  
We hang out and have fun all day.

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."





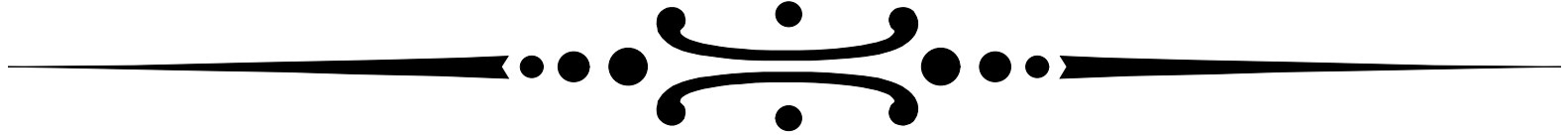
Camden Prep

**"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.

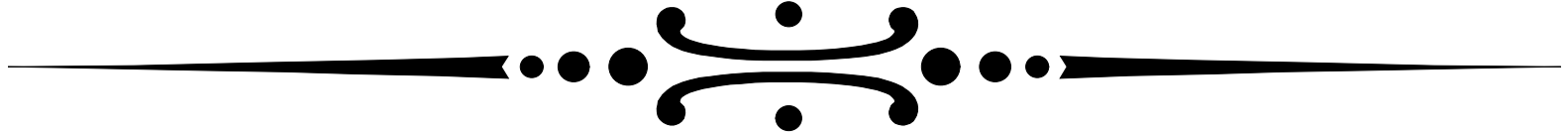
Welcome to my world.

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.






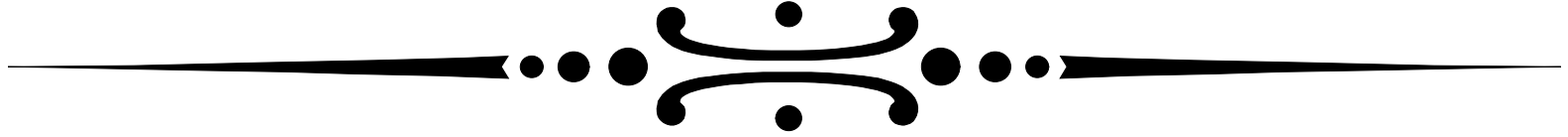
Camden RCH

**"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.





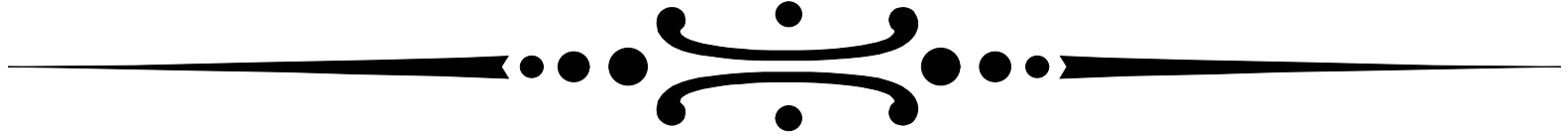
Camden RCH

**"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

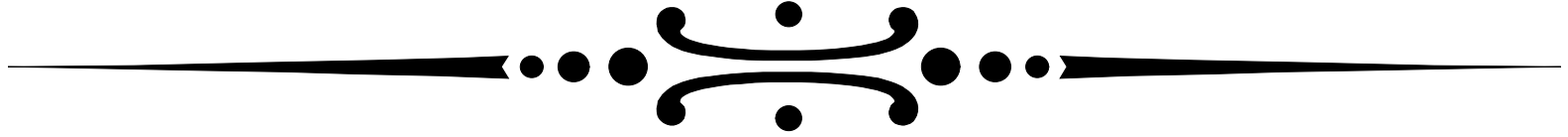
If I said it was Hell on Earth  
That would be taking it lightly,  
If you know more about my world  
Someone needs to enlighten me

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.






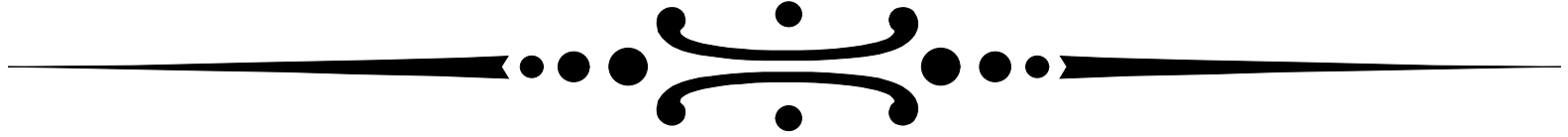
Cumberland Day

**"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

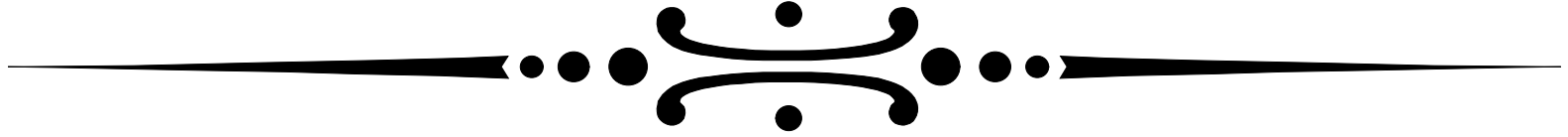
**"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"**

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.

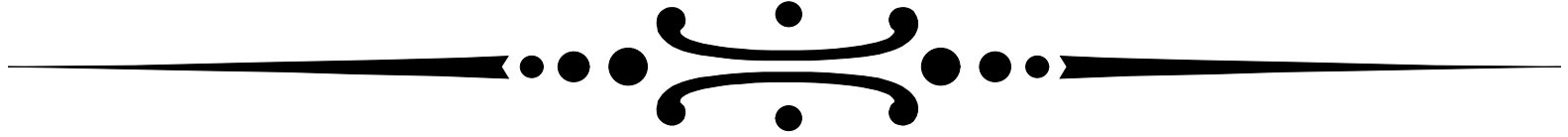
I was the middle man he just supplied.  
Rain, sleet or snow I had ice in my eyes.  
Had the boys out so I could get high,  
And all these dudes were twice my size.  
Stayed out till the light would rise.  
I should have gotten robbed,  
I should have gotten beat,  
But I kept my feet planted right on 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.

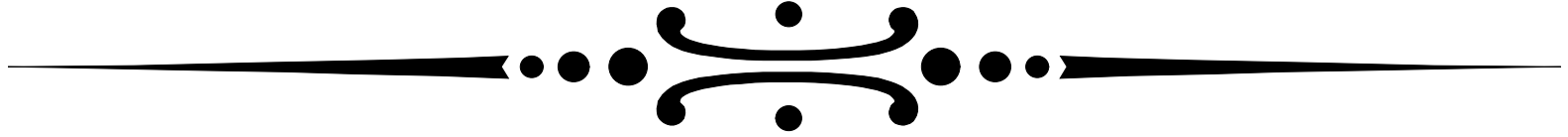
Welcome to my world  
A world of hate and greed  
Where young people are told they won't succeed  
And kids in jail are waiting to be freed.

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.

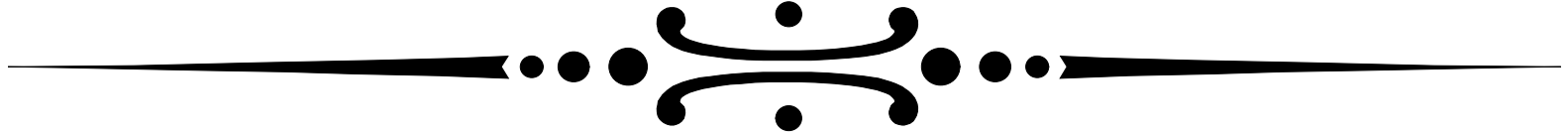
Welcome to my world  
Where people smoke a lot of haze  
We go to church just to get praise  
Where young ones don't report to school  
They're so into the streets, they think it's cool.

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

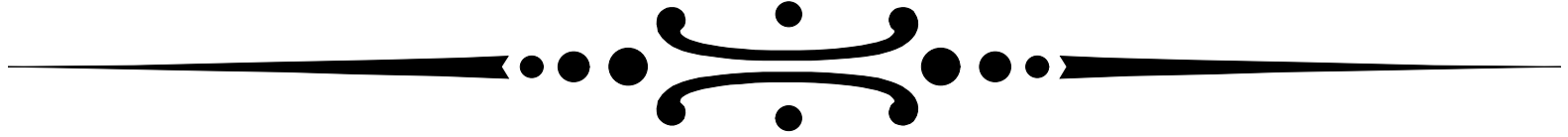
Welcome to my world  
When the lights keep flashing  
And every time you watch the news  
You hear that guns keep blasting

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






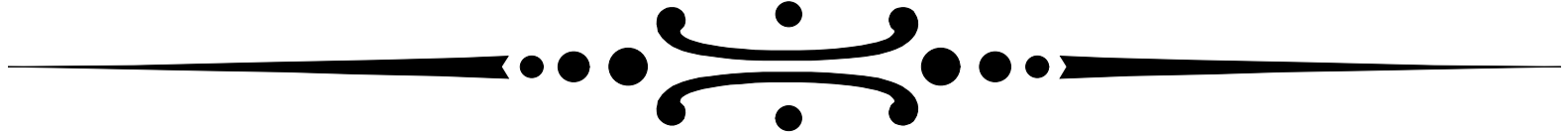
Elizabeth Day

**"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"**

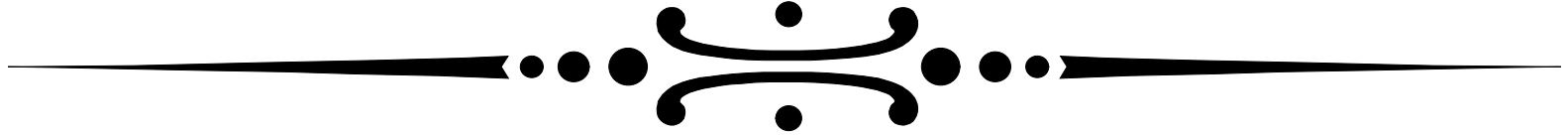
By: Roy M.

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"**

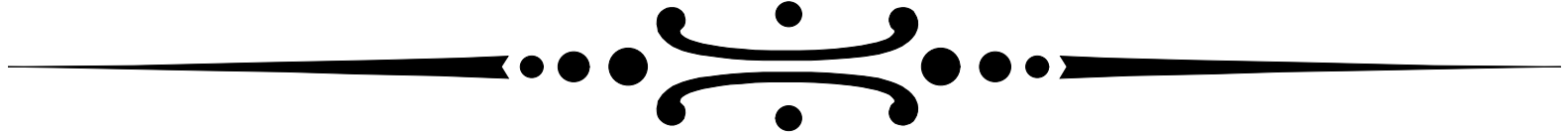
By: Ricardo R.

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.

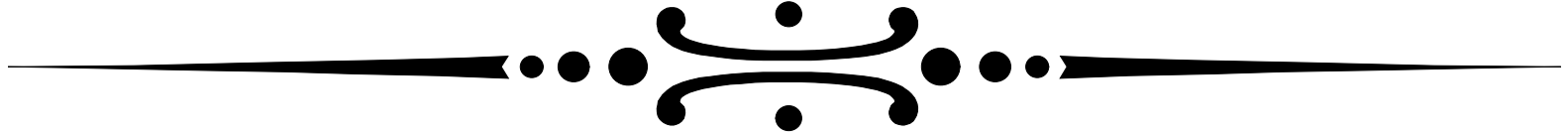
My world is something you can't ignore.  
My world is something you can't adore.  
With my life I decided to play.  
Now it's time for judgment day.  
I have a daughter who is the age of one.  
The last time I saw her, was when she was two months old.

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

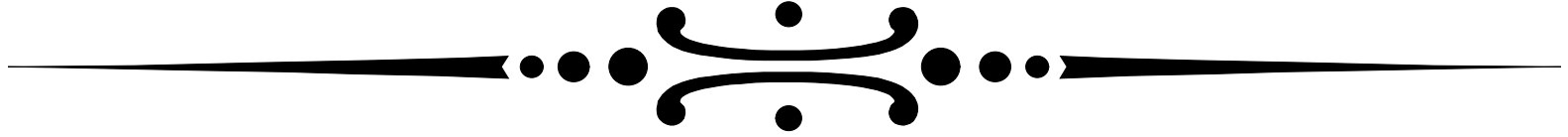
In my world  
People are crazy  
Everyone's house stinks  
Because they're lazy

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

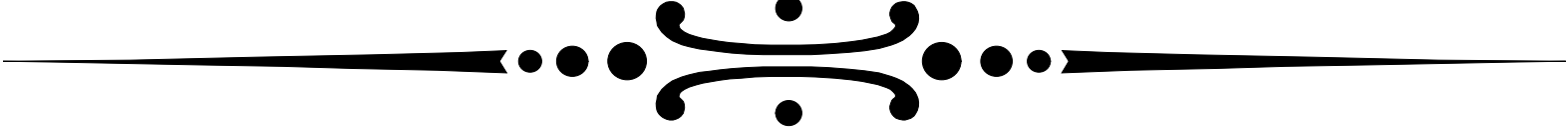
In my world  
Try to pick a good girl to date  
But don't show off  
Because someone will hate

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

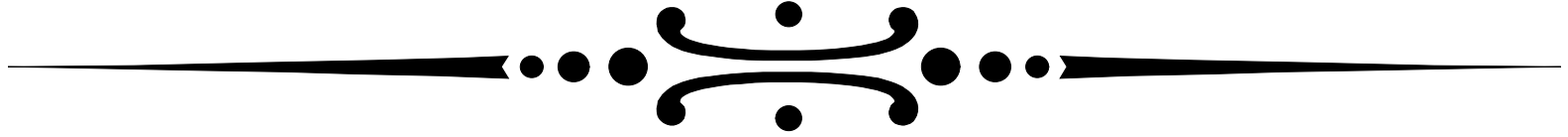
**"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"**

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

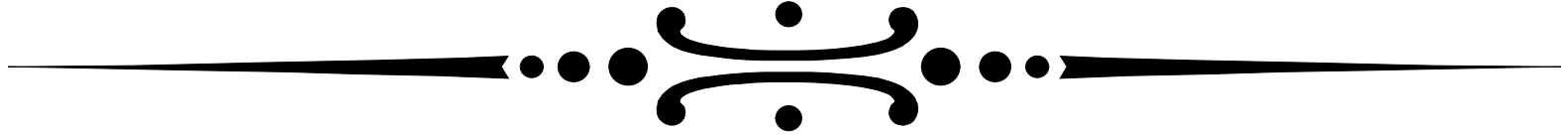
Welcome to my world  
When love is great

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.

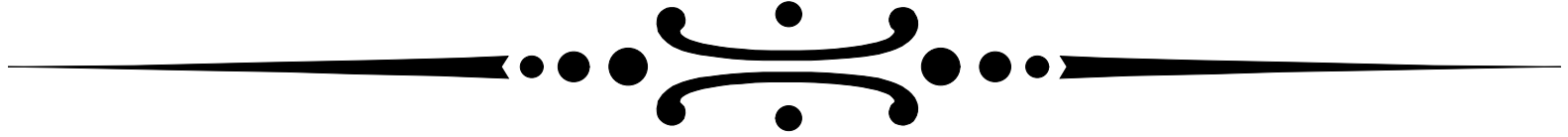
My world is just a game  
That everybody plays,  
But we all know life is serious,  
Cause we all feel the pain.  
But, I'm going through a stage  
Where I like to see sorrow.  
But every night I go to sleep  
Wishing to see tomorrow.

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.

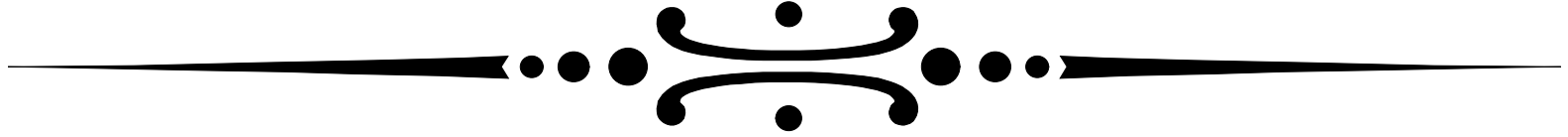
Welcome to my world, it's filled with so many doors.  
Now I'm gonna escort y'all through each door.  
As we enter Door Number 1,  
It's filled with fun.  
I was young growing up like everyone.  
A baby doing what babies do.  
Goo goo ga ga until I was able to walk in my own shoes.

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.

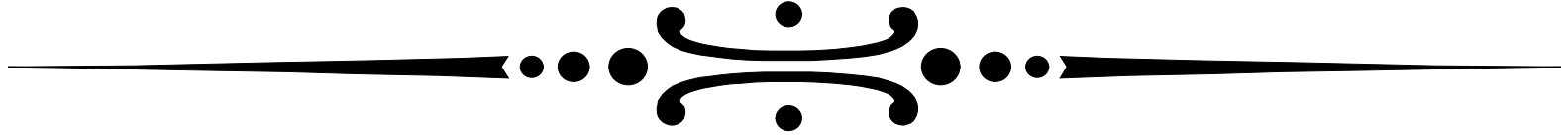




Door Number 5, I found my love  
And got shown I can love and be loved.  
Not by a gang banger or thugs.  
She's showing me life from every angle.  
I'm becoming the sweet man I was created to be.  
I don't even know the real Al-Malik.  
Hopefully I'll find him soon.

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.

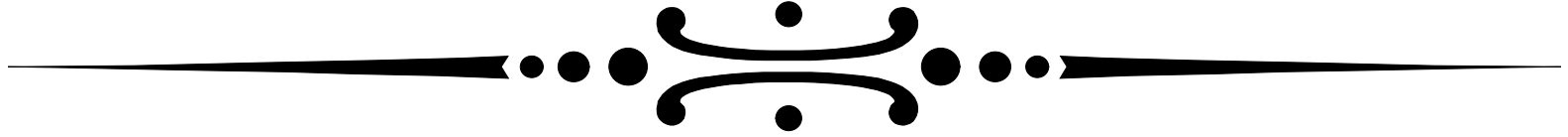
My hood is my world, bullet town.

I'm engaged to my knife

And my gun is my girl.

This is my world.





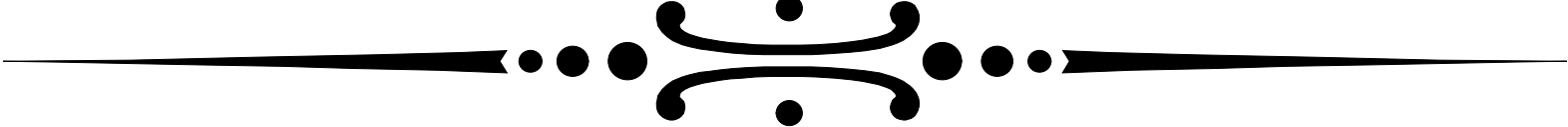
Liberty Park/Hudson Day

**"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.






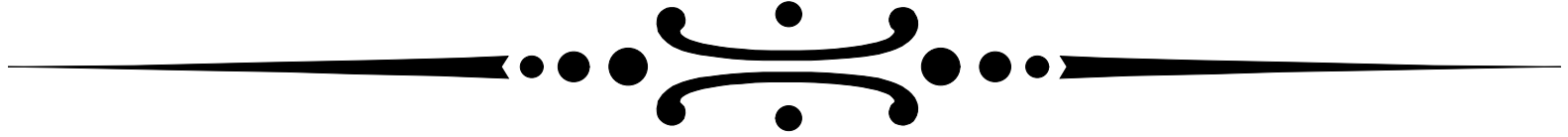
Liberty Park/Hudson Day

**"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.





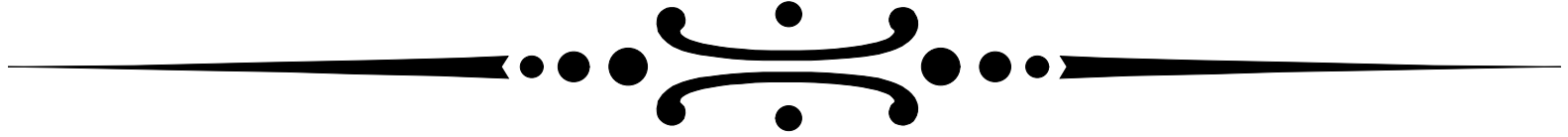
Manorwoods

**"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.






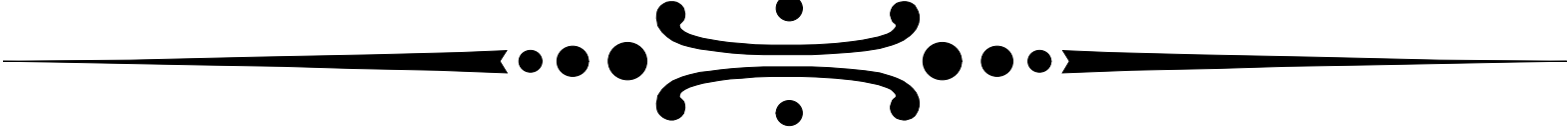
Manorwoods

**"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.

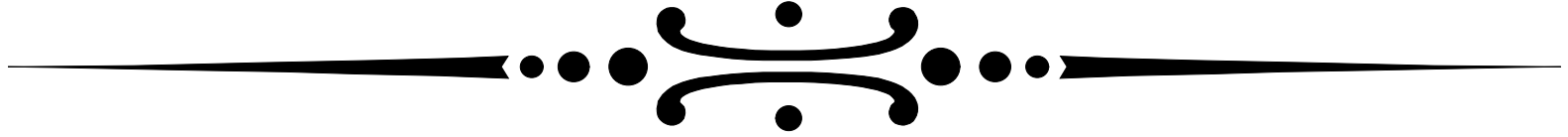
I wish I could overcome the dark so I could see the light.

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.

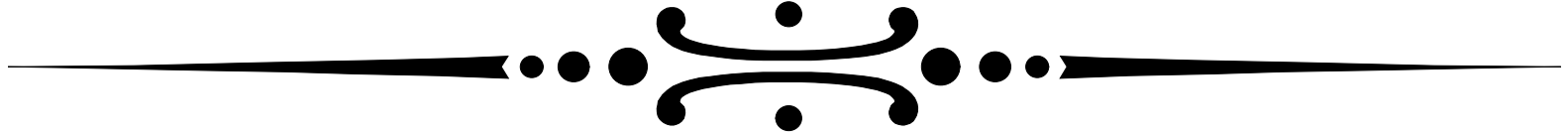
In my world, it's crazy.  
Lots of drugs and thugs.

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.

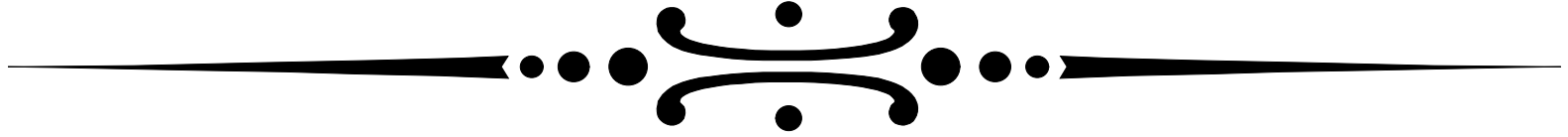
She would hold my hand  
While we walk in the sand.

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.

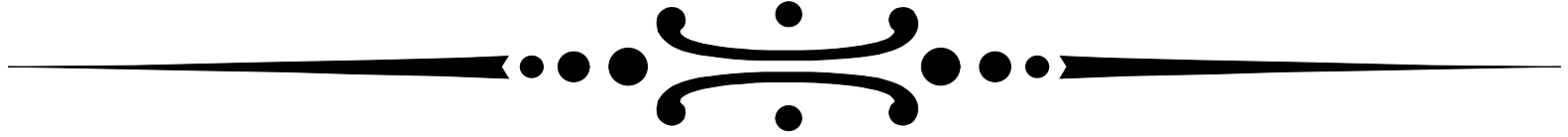
"Welcome to my world"  
which is Camden City.

"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!!"






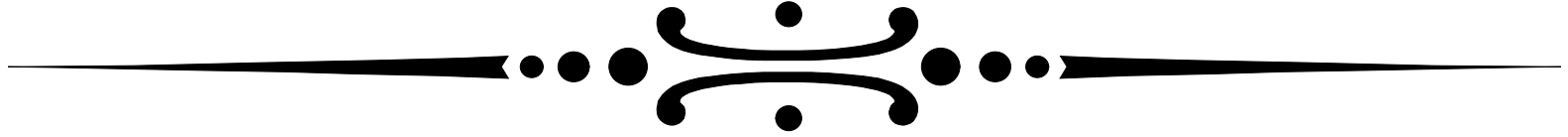
Ocean RCH

**"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

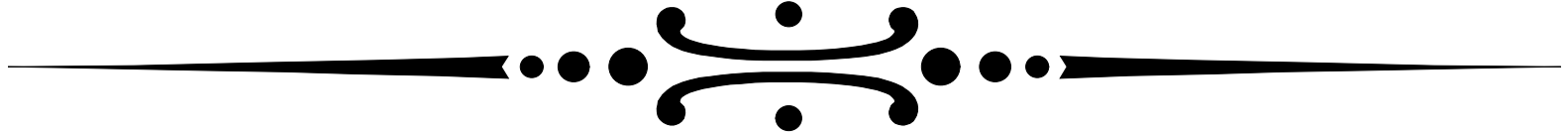
**"WELCOME TO MY WORLD"**

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.

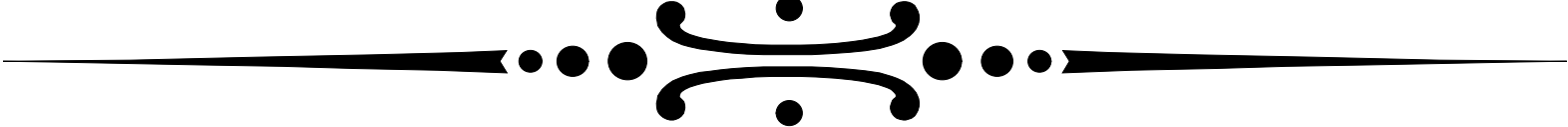
Cops all around and me in cuffs,  
Still drunk,  
Looking back at that time I was tough.

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.





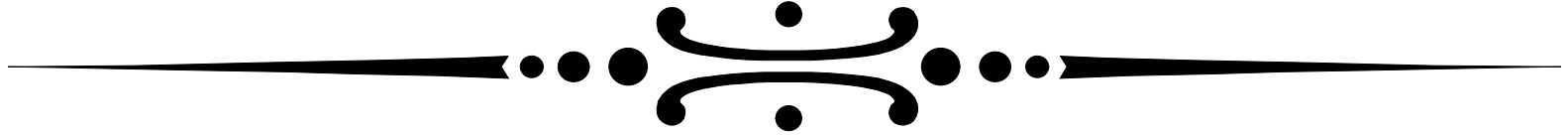
Pinelands

**"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.

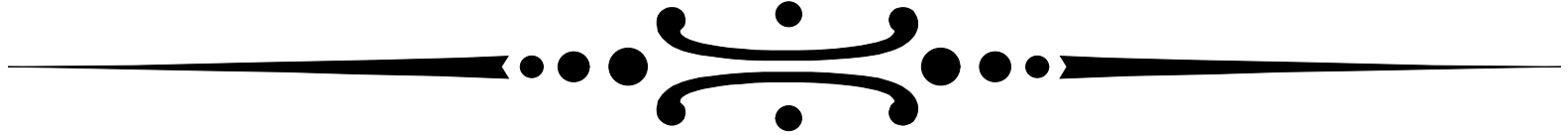
I know I messed up.  
So now I'll pay my debt.  
And I know I won't mess up yet.  
And now I'll try my best.  
When I leave here I won't be a mess.

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.

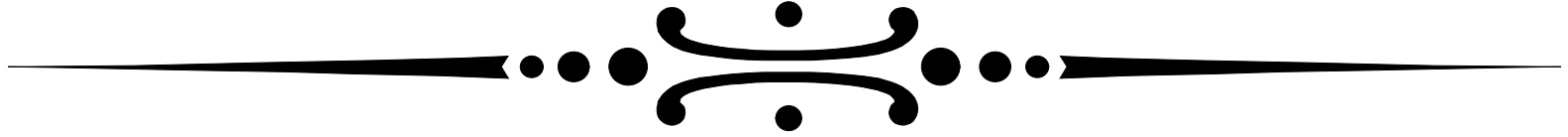
In my world different religions come together  
To speak Peace  
While the whole world is trembling  
At the same time  
It's becoming a war zone  
People screaming out  
The President needs to get out of the White House  
They try to do what they can  
But some votes don't count

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.

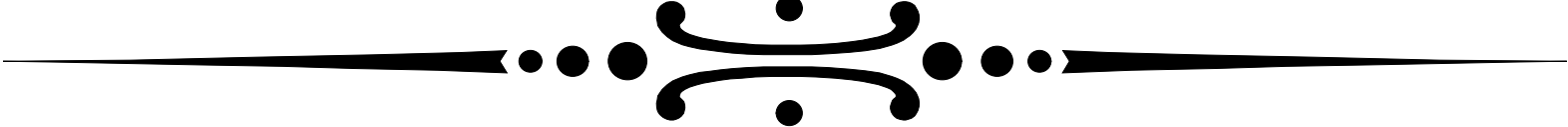
And don't be mistaken  
By the smiles they're fakin'

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.

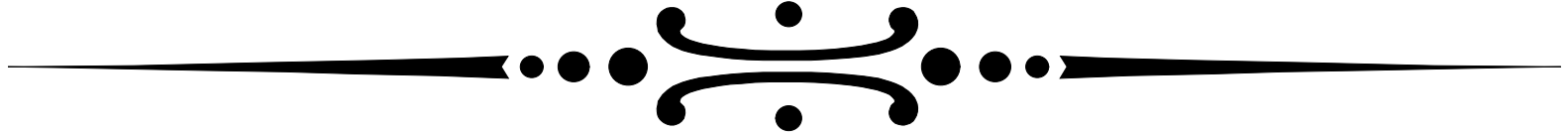
Lying, cheating, dishonor  
is the name of the game.

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.

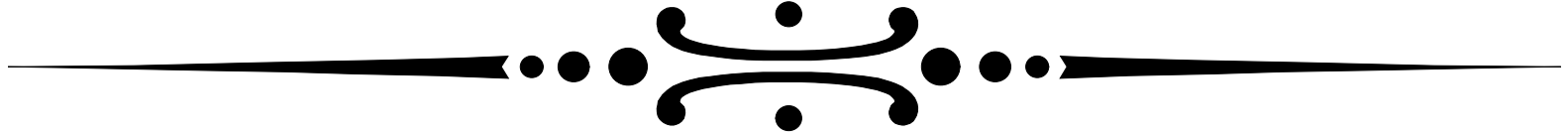
One thing you will feel is lots of pressure  
And there'll be some problems too tall to measure.

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.

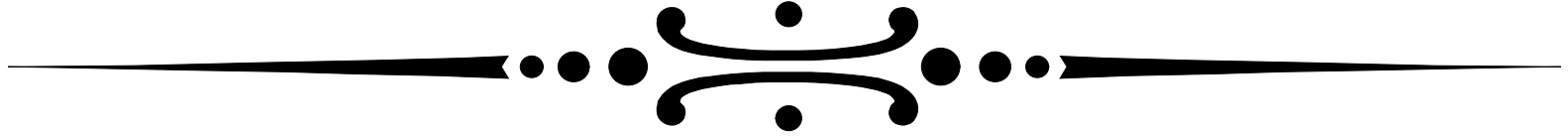
As I grew up I got in trouble for things that I saw.

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

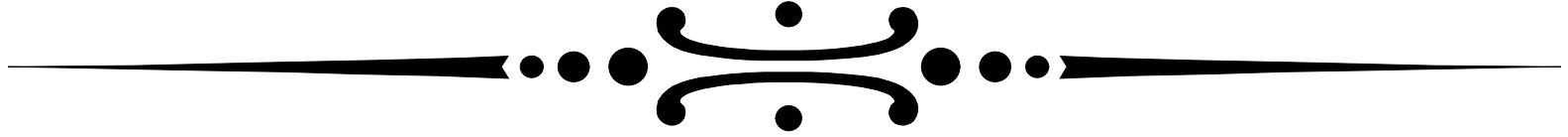
I'm trying to do the things I never thought to do

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.

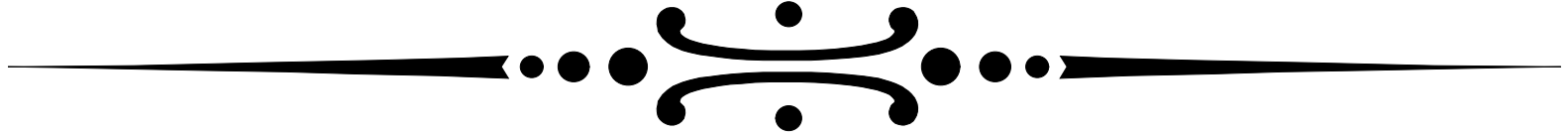
My world is mostly made up of my family, friends and my community. I live in a suburban town in Union County, New Jersey. My town is small but it is still fun. I have a lot of friends there and I am with them whenever I have some free time. All we do when we are together is just chill and have a good 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

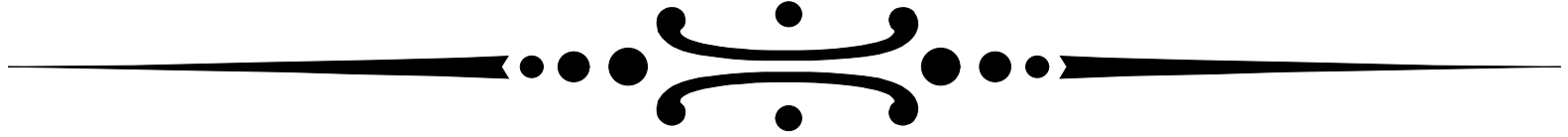
Welcome to my world  
When you become the family's disgrace  
That when you come to say hello  
They can hardly look you in your face

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






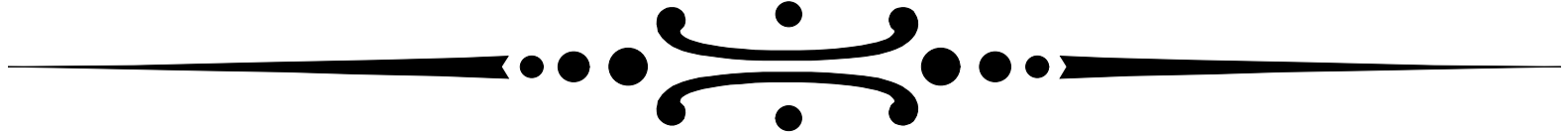
Welcome to my world  
Where I know it's a higher power above  
And with him I can get the ultimate

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






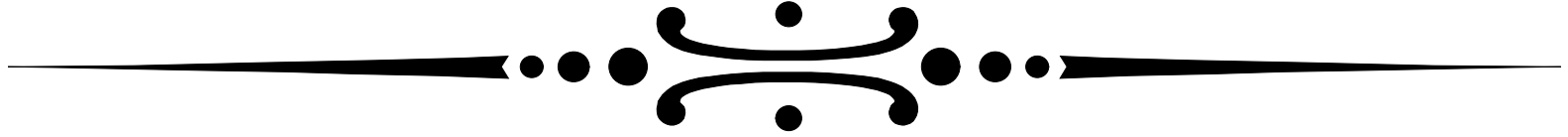
Valentine

**"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

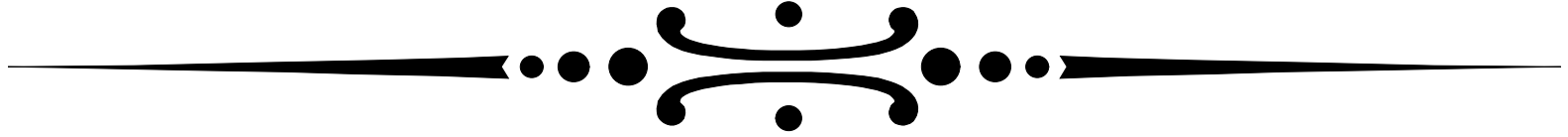




That it is a lie that words don't hurt  
Because sometimes they do  
So welcome to my world

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.






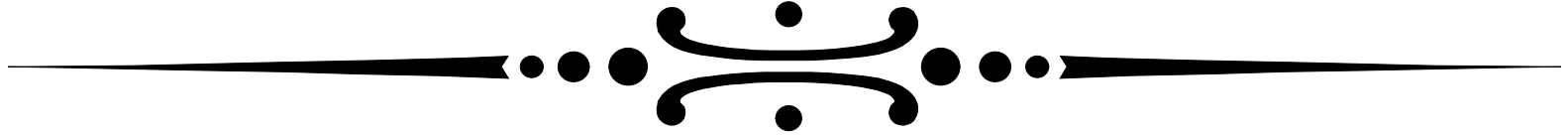
Valentine

**"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.

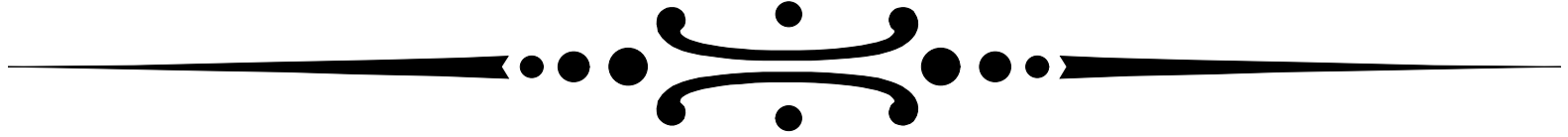
Then I can take my daughter wherever I want

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.

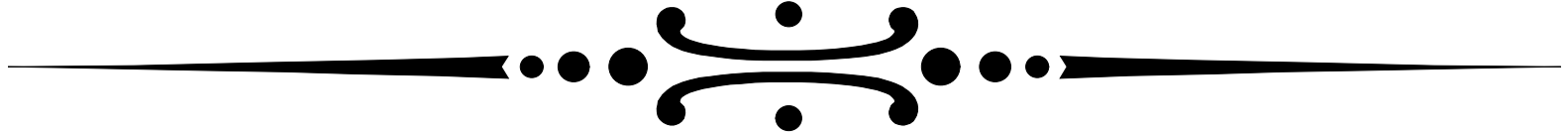
Doing things like that I'll end up dead

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.

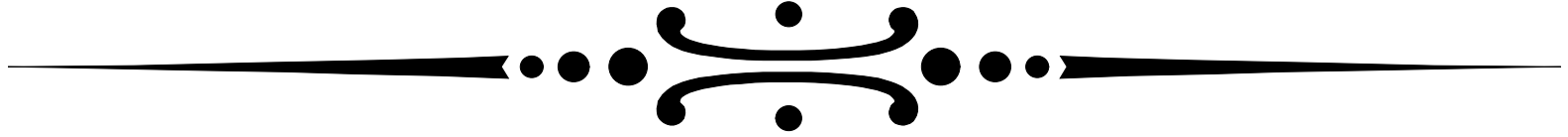
Welcome to my world  
Where your child can get stolen.  
Welcome to my world  
Where your home can get broken into.  
Welcome to my world  
Where you get robbed if someone thinks you're holdin'  
Welcome to my world  
Where everyone you laugh at ain't really jokin'.

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.

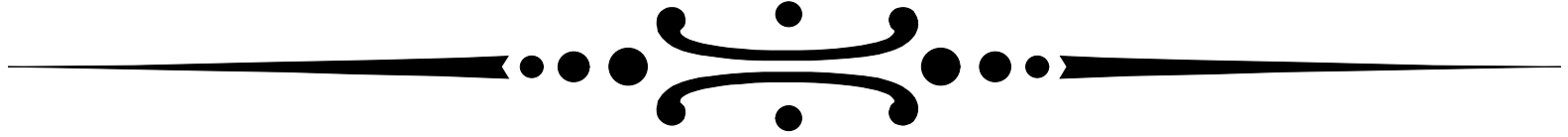
In my world  
When I do something right  
No one ever remembers.  
But when I do something wrong  
No one ever forgets  
That's the saying I stand by.  
That's my motto in life.  
And the truth that comes with it.  
It's as sharp as a knife

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.

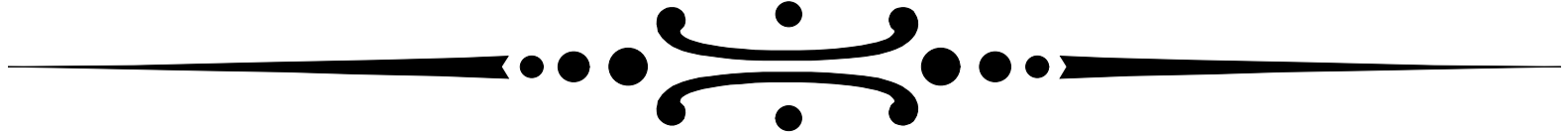
This is the place  
Where mothers give birth  
To these cold blooded thugs  
That are anxious to be a boss.

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

