

**Student Work Samples:** *Poetry from University of Massachusetts – Lowell*

**SAMPLE 1**

“Merrimack”

(based on “The Harbor” by Richie Hoffman)

This ground is sacred.  
Countless gallons of water  
Carving Lowell’s path.

**SAMPLE 2**

“Coffee Mill”

by Lindy

(based on “Little Chapel” by Richie Hoffman)

When will I learn  
these cobblestone streets, the noisy buzz,  
the smooth river, faded alleyways,  
small comfy coffee shops on street corners,  
a gypsy junkie in one big bean bag chair  
or a professor in a straightback wooden one,  
the hidden pocket of the universe uncovered?  
Is this your town too?  
Do you feel like this is home?

### SAMPLE 3

“Flock Mentality”

by Christopher G.

(based on “Wishbone” by Don Share”)

We sit on this rock under the great blue sky  
in the middle of the rushing river.

Waves crash around sending a volley of spray  
up onto the jagged blades of stone.

We stretch out wide to form a white blanket  
made of soft down and full-grown feathers  
across this lonely island in the rapids  
that’s always battered by breeze and mist.

We open our beaks to call to each other,  
to say, “What a chilly afternoon!”  
or “Who took a crap on my favorite spot?”  
or even, “Look, more goddamn humans.”

We all turn our heads to look at the shoreline,—  
spotting the scornful looks of three boys  
who are probably thinking, “Fly home, dumb birds!  
Go back to the sea where you belong!”

We pay little attention to their thoughts, though,  
as we go back to squawking and wing-stretching  
and resting on this small stone island right here  
in the middle of the rushing river.

## SAMPLE 4

“When I Was Hiding”

(based on “When I Was Straight” by Julie Marie Wade)

I was not as open as I am now.  
I always kept other guessing and wondering.  
I never gave many hints.

The place was unsafe, bred by  
Attitudes from internalized homophobia.  
I did what I had to and remained

A lie.

But since then I’ve moved on,  
To Umass Lowell to expand my knowledge.  
A nice new community to immerse myself in,

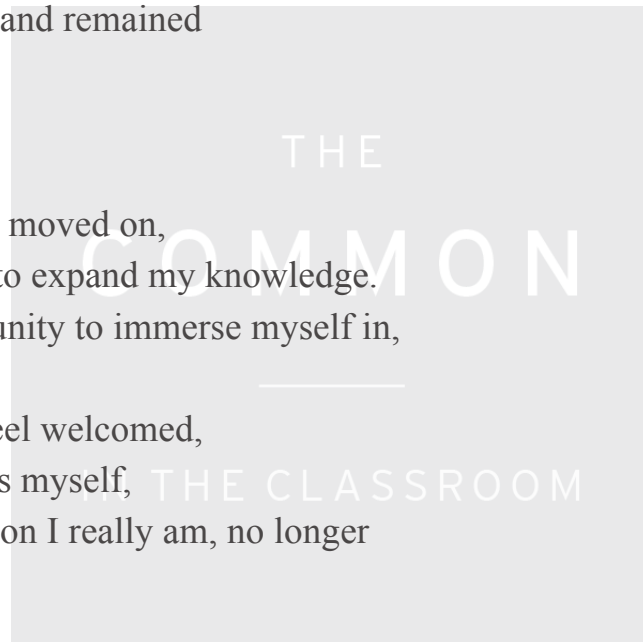
And one where I feel welcomed,  
And able to express myself,  
As the kind of person I really am, no longer

An outcast.

I feel more alive now,  
No more need to filter myself  
Or hide a part of who I am.

I have even discovered, it feels  
Safer here in a place where  
I don’t hide out of fear. I can really feel

At home.



## SAMPLE 5

### **Lowell-Scapes**

By Naomi M.

I based my Lowellian inspired set of photographs on the excerpt of Moonscapes, by Michael Kelley, in the Common Volume 01. It is a series of photographs taken from James Nasmyth's book, The Moon: Considered as a Planet, a World, and a Satellite. His series of photographs were used to show how the features of earth and the moon were similar, and how such features were formed. He made plaster models of the structures he saw on the moons surface and photographed them. He also has photographs in the common of a wrinkled hand, and another of a wrinkled apple. These photographs were used as an artistic, and somewhat factual, way to represent how mountain ranges were formed as the shrinkage of the earth. I took inspiration from his photographs, and wanted to use his style to show my concept of the change in Lowell.

THE  
COMMON

—  
IN THE CLASSROOM

In the first photograph, you see the dam in the Merrimack. The Merrimack holds a key factor in Lowell's growth. Lowell as a city made its name in the Industrial Revolution, which was powered by the forces of the water. The dam stands to show the sheer power of the humble water.



The second photograph depicts the construction site at McGovern Hall on South Campus. The construction zone I photographed because I wanted to show how the construction and renovations of the University of Massachusetts at Lowell have brought more recent growth to Lowell. The university has been slowly making a name for itself among the top schools in the country, and therefore bringing more money and a better name to the city of Lowell, which has been known for less glorious reputation.





The third photograph depicts a leaf. The Northeast is known for the changing of the seasons, and the trees drop the leaves. This photograph is of a leaf that had changed colors. It represents the way that Lowell has changed quickly in the recent years, and is now bright, like the color of the leaves. This photograph was done in a similar style as the photographs of the hand and apple, like James Nasmyth.

# THE COMMON

IN THE CLASSROOM



The fourth photograph depicts a succulent plant. The plant represents the way that water can lead to growth. The plant needs water, and thrives like the way that Lowell used the Merrimack River. This plant has a future as long as it is cared for well, and so does the city of Lowell. The city thrives like a living plant, and therefore when cared for correctly, it will blossom. This photograph also was done in the similar style to James Nasmyth.



## IN THE CLASSROOM

The photographs of the apple and the hand in Moonscapes were a single subject on a black background, and in my photographs there is a single subject is on a white background. I attempted to keep all the photographs similarly styled as the ones in Moonscapes, by maintaining the black and white theme.