

**"The Little Things"**  
**Emily Turner**  
12th Grade  
Berkley High School

She tells the anorexic girl, "*You are beautiful.*"  
She eats lunch with the outcast.  
When she walks through the park,  
She picks up the litter, and recycles it  
Even though the trash can is conveniently next to her  
And the recycling bin is far away.

She smiles at the depressed boy.  
She thanks her Dad for driving her to school each day.  
When her math teacher is gone,  
She listens to the substitute  
Even though nobody else in her class does,  
And she follows the substitute's directions.

She refuses to gossip.  
She does chores without being asked.  
When a freshman drops his books in the hall,  
She stops to help him pick them up  
Even if it means she will be late,  
And marked tardy in her next class.

People laugh at this girl,  
Saying her way of life is pointless,  
Saying her acts of kindness are useless.  
But they are blind and foolish  
Because...

## 1st Place

# POETRY

The anorexic girl started to eat again.  
The outcast felt blessed he had a friend.  
    With more items recycled,  
The earth thrived, and in the park,  
    The animals could roam safely,  
    And the plants could grow.

The depressed boy didn't commit suicide.  
    The girl's Dad, feeling less haggard,  
Became more accepting of his large workload.  
    The substitute, feeling appreciated, beamed,  
    And her confidence bloomed.  
    And the girl's math teacher was pleased.

The gossip faded; people lost interest.  
The girl's mom could finally relax, because  
    She didn't have to clean the house.  
And the freshman whose items scattered  
    Made it to his class on time,  
And was fully prepared for his presentation.