

**SECTION INTRO: ECHOES**



Our memories often have a way of influencing our lives long after we've experienced them. Good or bad, they shape us into who we are. Each piece in this section presents a significant moment in these authors' lives that have done just that. They show us how much these moments have impacted them.

There are certain parallels within these four pieces that link them together—the feelings of love, loss, and growth. This section begins with Grace Richardson's "Her Name Was Hayley," a moving piece about the death of an infant and how an older sister was forced to grow up too fast. "The Day the Flowers Stopped Smelling Beautiful," by Taylor Parks, illustrates a young girl's loss of innocence after experiencing sexual assault. Both of these pieces are stories of strength and growth.

Sarah Crawford's "A Picture in Time" and Olivia Antonia Velazquez's "The Reason Behind My Tattoo" exhibit similar expressions of love—the love of friendship as well as the love for a mother who was there during a time of need. Even though these stories are very different in terms of what each author was going through, they both display how the people around you can change you as well.

Our pasts greatly impact our futures. Sometimes our memories come back to us in flashes, in pieces that make up the puzzle of our lives. Sometimes they resurface when we least expect them to. But most often we remember things in echoes. They reverberate around our minds over and over again, and sometimes the only way to get them out is to write them down.

—Ryley Bonferraro, Tyler Howcott, and Katie Randall