

Engineering Hope by Joshua Cameron, Nansemond River High School, taught by Carol Krauss

We are the generation
That looks at a broken world
And reaches for our tools

We draft hope
On graph paper lined with equations,
Calculate strength
In beams of passion
And measure twice
Before we speak

We take problems
Others say impossible
And look through them gently
In our hands
Until a solution shines through

Across seas,
Other young builders do the same;
Sketching clearer skies,
Stronger bridges,
And cities powered by wind and sun

We trade ideas like conversation,
Bolts and screws
Assembling a future
That belongs to all of us

In a world divided,
We create connections
In a world uncertain,
We design stability

We study the failures of yesterday;
Cracks in systems,
Fault lines within history
Not to dwell,
But to create something stronger
From lessons left behind

As we raise tomorrow
Beam by beam
We lift each other too,
Proving the most durable structures
Are built from shared dreams
Shared hands
And shared courage

Peace is not a treaty,
It is a structure;
And we are learning
How to build it