

Greetings and welcome to *Lit Kids Magazine's* Issue 4: HEART STRINGS AND FAMILY THINGS!

First, a peek behind the curtain. *Lit Kids Magazine* features writing, photography, and art from kids ages 5 to 13 from all around the world! Our young creatives can choose to participate in a month-long revision process with the *Lit Kids'* mentors to polish their work for publication, or they may decide to keep their piece original. Either way, *Lit Kids* offers a fantastic opportunity for kids to experience the publication process firsthand, and we're happy to do so!

In this Issue, our central theme captures the essence of family togetherness and complicated emotions! Our mentees ran with the theme in unexpected directions, reminding us that being part of a family has its ups and downs. You'll find an honest glimpse into life and trials of the heart in each of these pieces, as well as nods to different cultural backgrounds and family traditions. We couldn't be prouder of the hard work exhibited by our young mentees, and Issue 4's publication fully embraces them into the *Lit Kids Magazine* family.

As we bid farewell to 2024, we remember our inaugural year as a whirlwind adventure, and I'm particularly grateful to the talented and selfless individuals who made it possible. A huge thank you to my team of mentors for helping make this dream of mine a reality, and an even bigger thank you to all the kids who entrusted us with their dreams. 2025 will carry its own set of challenges and no doubt boundless excitement, but never forget: we're all in it together and each hurdle is its own accomplishment!

Congratulations to these talented kids and keep an eye out for big news on the horizon! Stay creative and keep shining, everyone!

Happy Reading,
Rebecca Weber
Lit Kids Magazine's Mentor-In-Chief

P.S. If you enjoy Issue 4, please subscribe to our website to receive updates about open submissions and future issues! Also, if you know a creative kid who deserves the spotlight, please point them in our direction. We open to submissions quarterly and can't wait to highlight new voices!