

## Let's Get Critical

*You've written book reviews and movie reviews. Now it's time to get creative with criticism. Write a review for someone your age, about a place in your neighborhood. Here's an example taken Coring the Apple: The Best of New York.*

**The Best Worst, Smelliest, Smallest, Rudest,  
Soy-Sauciest Place in All of Manhattan**

***Happy Joy's Chinese Restaurant***

***West 52<sup>nd</sup> Street at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue***

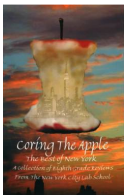
**BY JELANI BEYAH BARBEE**

That's right readers, if you are looking for a Chinese restaurant to go get something good to eat, then do not, I repeat, do not come to this restaurant. It's called Happy Joy's, which is a very misleading advertisement.

There is always a woman standing at the counter. Once you walk in, she automatically calls you to the front to try and get your order out of the way. Once in the restaurant, there are two small tables with stools next to the window, so your back is against it. At the counter, there is glass in front of you and a showcase of the sodas they have in stock. Behind the rude, nasty woman, you can see all of the chefs working hard cooking and cleaning. The whole restaurant is painted in a dark, dingy off-white, which is very boring. Behind the cooks, you can see an old clock and a tilted calendar in Chinese.

You have to look at the menu and observe very closely at the price of the order. You must do this because sometimes she'll lie and tell you another price. One time I went to the store and I ordered French fries with a Snapple. When it was ready I asked her what the price was, and she said, "This will be \$4.00" I asked, "\$4.00? French fries are \$1.25 and Snapple is \$1.00" Then she said, "Oh yeah, you're right." So after that I paid and just left as soon as possible.

So watch out—and when you see Happy Joy's—try to avoid it.



*Coring the Apple: The Best of New York* (Bags of Bees Press © 2002,) collects the advice of 128 eighth grade "experts" at the New York City Lab School. Their expertise ranges from "The Best Place to be watched by What You're Eating" to "The Best Park Bench to Quietly Finish Your Homework." This book offers many examples of how to write criticism and was edited and written by students. More info at [www.publishspi.org](http://www.publishspi.org)