

Taleah Sadler

Age: 17, Grade: 12

School Name: Cullman High School, Cullman, AL

Educator: Jennifer Calahan

Category: Poetry

Don't Hide

Nightmares

I had a dream
so vivid and violent
it took my breath and
swallowed it whole.

I had a dream
so real and riveting
it shook my bones and
swallowed my soul.

I had a dream
so finite and frightening
it overtook my body and
swallowed my control.

I had a dream.
That dream was you.

I Hate You.

I hate you.
you made me this way.

You made me feel that I was the only
support she had.
that I had to be her rock.
that I had to be everyone's rock.

You conditioned me to always be on
the lookout.
to expect violence.
to reluctantly accept it.

You instilled habits that I cannot
abandon.
like eaversdropping to know she is
safe.
like locating a weapon as a casual
task.

Lastly, you pushed me to hate me.

to hate these habits.
to hate what I've become.

I hate me.
you made me this way.

I'm Drowning.

I'm drowning.
drowning in a world of my own hatred.

deep.
dark.
dangerous.

How can I escape it?
I try to swim
but it pulls me back.

I'm afraid.
afraid that I'll never know what it's
like to float.
afraid that I'll be here drowning...
forever.

The Intruder

there was once a man in my life
who never seemed to put down the
knife
he'd always wield it like a toy
and it seemed that his main goal was
to destroy
then one day we finally escaped
and we'd thought our lives had been
reshaped
until...
my mother let this man back in
so now we have to do it all again

Fading Into Screens

I'm writing this to bring to light
the reality in our world.
people hurt.
people ache.
it's inevitable.
but the thing is...
no one ever stops to think that
it's not a phase
and they're not okay
instead, they pull out their phones
and record everything so the whole
world knows
just how quickly they fade away