MARSHALL, CHERYL KAYE

Cheryl Kaye Marshall

Age: 16, Grade: 11

Home School, Birmingham, AL Educator: Emily Marshall

Category: Poetry

Power

We are given so much power in this world. In my opinion, it is far from deserved. We can take a turn while driving and end a life, accidentally or on purpose. We can turn a heart to stone by being wordless. We can break souls with one word. We can fix someone by letting them be heard. We leave footprints in sand. We destroy others' land. We create magic in the late hours of the night. We change the meaning of what's right. We fall in love. We fall out of love. We live and die multiple times in our lives. The parts that survive, Make us who we are. We may taste the world's honey or the world's tar, But at least I have some chocolate to go back to in the hard times. In art and love, I have the sonority of rhymes, In my life. You have a knife For a tongue. Breathe life into people's lungs. Please use your life wisely. Please use your power and your influence precisely. You may think it is small but it is big to someone. That makes it like a handgun.

So, be kind but resilient, Careful but adventurous, Independent but loving, Be everything. Live in every way, but I warn you about the power you wield. Be careful, for fairies and sirens can cause destruction. We are no different. Use your power for good magic.