

Found

Margaret Wong, Grade 10

Once upon a time, there was a little girl
Once upon a time, she danced in a whirl
Once upon a time, she grew in a swirl
And once upon a time, I was the little girl.

Once upon a time, I thought this great big building to be intimidating
Once upon a time, I felt my meager confidence dissipating
Once upon a time, I was welcome to integrating
And once upon a time, I sat here contemplating:

Since when did I ever speak out?
Since when did I ever so speak loud?
Since when did my words ring through hallways our way?
Since when did I find this pride so proud?
Since when did I ever get over my doubt?
Over drought's devout I chose this bout
Since when did I ever choose this route?
Become a poet, a writer writing what this is about
Since when. Since when. Since when. Since now.

It is on this campus that I found myself
Shook my spirit to my soul and pulled my talents from the shelf
Took a word made it words made it rhyme made it well
Took a girl made her strong made her whole made her bells
Made her bells of voice bells of choice
And so she'd get up got up when she fell.

It is on this campus that I faced my reflection
Told me I am who I am and there's no need for correction
Raised my heart from anxiety and ash depression
In the dark I stood and watched my own resurrection
Found friends bound together found together in a single club
section
Found adults who never laughed at my poor inflection
Found mentors who stood for me and became my protection.

It is on this campus that I learned to speak
It was in these hallways where I found my peak
Where I realized each thought let out a creak
Where I listened to where the voices did leak.

It is on this campus where my second home did settle
Where I forged my weapons from pen and metal
To show my mettle through barbs and nettle
To carve stone cold to bursting petal.

So hear me now and I urge you to listen
A voice needs to grow if it's going to shine going to glisten
In the moonlit starlight when the sun has risen
Gateway is home to us spirits kindred
So let's be homes for homeless school children.

