

Third Place Poetry – High School

“Dream-like Land”

Lilah Johnecheck

10th Grade

Petoskey High School

Pouring through windows on warm July mornings, the sun cascades across cracked cherry wood flooring

Covering the boards in amber light as it rises above horizons only partially discovered

You see the sun and know that everything in its reach is your playground

The dewy grass and dusty gravel on your 6 a.m. trek, along with the echo of a rooster's call to start your day.

The sun is what warms the field in which you lay and what turns water droplets into prisms that paint the sky in rainbows

It is what crosses the river and connects the banks of sand, it is what graces the fins of fish below the surface of the sea

Cresting the hill you see sunshine spanning across cities and nature alike to create this dream-like land you live in

The sun's beams provide you with the warmth that fuels you on your journey. They are the force that allows flora to thrive along the path you take.

Passing by a meadow, you see flowers caressed by golden rays of honey, and with your hands now full of sweet-smelling wildlife, fog begins to cover the ground.

As puffy grey clouds coalesce along the horizon, the sun lays its final glance upon gravel and glass. Your trek is at an end as the rain begins

In the vase on the table above those cracked cherry wood floors are the flowers that were kissed by the sun rays not long ago

As the sun sets and the warm rains of July hit the glass outside, you slip away into yet another dream-like land.