
Honorable Mention, Poetry, Grades 10-12

“I Carry Words,” Kalman Greenberger

What do I carry?
I carry words
I carry them wherever I go
I carry them when I wake up
And to when I fall asleep.

I carry the weight of the words I’ve whispered
And the weight of those I’ve screamed
And I carry the weight of every word that I’ve said in between.

It doesn’t take a lot
Any word will do
I’ll take the word and carry it
Knowing that someday I may carry you.

The weight of words may seem great
But that isn’t always the case
Because if you have the strength
You can take those words and look them in the face
You can tell them that you are strong
You can say you can’t be stopped
You look at those words and you know they won’t be dropped.

So now you know my tale
The boy who carries words
Through even the strongest gale,
I take these words and hold them.

But what will you do with this?
Will you carry words too?
For if you do, know it won’t be easy
Know that you may fail
But also know that in the end, you will prevail.

Kalman Greenberger is in 10th grade at Hopkins High School. He enjoys reading, playing Ultimate Frisbee and participating with his robotics team.