Honorable Mention, Poetry, Grades 10-12

Ping Pong Balls—Hannah Goldsmith

The ping pong balls live in my head.

Their existence, a constant weight.
Their presence, an impossible obstacle.
And I cannot get rid of them.

They bounce furiously, rattling in my brain.
They move so fast, too fast for me to process.
They fly through my head, my thoughts moving faster than I can speak.
They jumble my thoughts, stopping sentences short.
And I cannot make them stop.

People say that I talk too fast.
People say that I have too much energy.
And I do not know how to explain.

How do I explain that there are ping pong balls in my mind?
How do I explain that I cannot control how fast I speak?
How do I explain that my excessive energy is a physical manifestation of my chaotic mind?
How can I explain my mind when my thoughts are moving so fast that I cannot form a coherent sentence?

I have ping pong balls in my brain.

Hannah Goldsmith is in 11th grade at Robbinsdale Armstrong High School. She likes dancing, reading, technical theater, singing, digital art, photography, and writing.