

## Honorable Mention, Poetry, Grades 7-9, Elicora Estrin

Don't move  
Don't take a single step  
They're standing behind you  
Waiting  
Waiting  
For you to move  
But don't  
Don't move  
Just listen  
To the sound of the clock ticking  
And the light buzzing above your head  
And look  
At the dark brick walls surrounding you  
At a shadow that doesn't belong to your body  
The room is still  
They are silent  
Don't speak  
Not a single word  
They are waiting for you  
Just you  
To say something  
But don't  
Don't you dare speak  
Because what will you say  
To them behind you  
When they tap you on the shoulder  
You jump at the cold touch  
And they put their mouth up to your ear  
And they whisper  
"I'm here"