## The Paradox of Life as Surveyed by Death

Ray Meyers - 9th Grade

Woodstown High School; Woodstown, NJ

This poem is about how peer pressure can cause people with diverse opinions and beliefs to silence themselves. They feel pressured and don't speak out because of the threatening eyes of others who don't reciprocate their feelings. I feel this myself, especially during the pandemic, where my views were ever-changing, just like how people saw me.

For some they will thrive And others they'll die Some will be truthful Others shall lie For some it's bliss And others it's fear When they shall see me The end is near Few will rise And stand up tall Others blocked Behind a shattering wall Pain is love And love is spite Enough to make one Sob through the night Green is yellow And yellow is blue Colors are blinding

As I am to you Words have power Actions more Especially when you're dead And on the floor. An inevitable sorrow Hidden in a field of dust My spirit rises as the peace is washed away. Excluded from my epiphany Are the thoughts soaring through the clear skies Of my crystal clear mind. They know not of the struggles and darkness Buried down underneath the land they trek Screaming to be released by their ill intentions and obliviousness. Life is not a poem Not perfectly scripted in soulful hymns, Instead it is written Scribbled Stained Across paper of lies The novel to be published By those who destroyed its characters. The corruption caused by the corrupters Who the world is unable to identify As the perpetrators A cruel fate we are assigned

For the universe reads not in between the lines. I'm not a poet

I'm not a poet I just know how to write. I'm not an artist I just color between the lines. I'm nothing special That's what you think Little do they know I'm creating art each Time that I blink. I'm not a rebel That's what they say They have yet to see the day When i speak out of line Say our world's not okay. I'm nothing special That's what I believe Little do I know I've got something up my sleeve

Something great to show Silencencing these unspoken words Most people turn A blind eye to me. I'm not anything special Nothing they want to see. A streak of madness across these Wanderlust eyes Subduing the sound of my inner cries. Im old enough now to formulate opinions Wondery why people make these decisions. Why the rain beats down Why the sun brings ashes to the ground. When I look I stare not into space But through your seemingly friendly face. Masked are your intentions Monsters you want not mention. I see your cold smile the sun turned warm But the moon steals it back under her pale touch. You know when you see me that I know too much. Your eyes gag my mouth so I cannot speak Gazes turned like daggers towards me so I cannot shriek. The world wants not what it doesn't know Telling me I'm wrong, my head moving slow. As I fade to darkness and close my eyes You assure the crowd there's nothing to see here, Lies, lies, lies.

Not even your motionary violence

Can silence

Our cries.