

“Behind the Mirror”

Bella Wells-Fried
Odyssey Community School

When people were first evolving to best fit the world we were given
we made a mistake.

We made a mistake by developing our eyes and our sight to be our dominant sense.

We made a mistake by letting the clothes that we wear be more important than the thoughts that we think.

We created monsters of ourselves through a puddle.

We saw, reflected upon the surface, our faces, and decided to dive deeper,

only to bring up sand which we burned into glass, which we turned into a curse. The curse of knowledge.

The curse of being able to ourselves on the outside, which instantaneously became somehow more important than what we couldn't see within.

Somehow we forgot how to dive deeper.

Somehow we decided that there was nothing behind the glass, that we could not ripple the water.

In a puddle you see the beauty of the world upside down and abstract, and when you become skeptical you can drop a pebble and create ripples in which you can see the secrets underneath, but with a mirror if you drop a pebble it breaks.

It shatters into pieces. Taking your image of the world and yourself with it.

And as you begin to pick up the pieces and you can look into a shard, you see your eye looking back at you. This one tiny piece of yourself, with which you gauge so much of the world.

With which you judge people by color and style, gender and religion.

This tiny piece with which you've created this illusion of a reality.

This piece that once removed cannot be replaced, but can be filled in, and altered.

The organism of sight is not the problem. It's the way that we have taken this gift and turned it into a way of discriminating against people about something they have no choice in.

Yes, it is human nature to judge, and no, that does not make it okay.

But if you have sort people and decide where they should go in this world that we've created from the reflection in a mirror, then try doing it with your eyes closed.

Try turning off your first judgment sense, holding your breath, and diving deeper.