

**3rd place: Mia Fernandez**  
**Colgan High School, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**“River of Thought”**

Breaking the blockage of discarded thoughts  
Creativity is allowed entrance to the headspace  
Flooding and flowing in like blood  
Domesticated words seep into their nature  
Charging its newfound heart

Surges of similes explore the land  
Filling up the glass of self-expression  
Allegories fuel the burdensome deluge  
It's strength imperious on shallowness;  
Shared by simple words such as pattern

The archetype of its unity  
It's intertextuality with past floods  
It runs through aged grooves created by them,  
Sore from use  
Exhausted from exploitation

When poets create their page is their river  
Currents replaced by pen strokes  
It's ink the wind which they're moved by,  
Be careful where you choose to stand  
And watch with a wistful eye  
Indulge in its curiosity  
Feel the pressure of interest grow on your back

Place caution between yourself and it  
Its personification is stronger than most  
And it may hide its alliteration

Stay attentive,  
Don't get caught up in the tide  
It'll carry you off into the unbroken and undomesticated  
And I promise the world won't be as kind as you think;  
Gaze with wonderment; don't interfere  
Let it wash by

Soon the storm will cease  
And its' rapids will disperse alongside it  
Don't worry, it won't let you forget  
The muddled lawn keeps a gentle reminder

And you, the writer, satisfied with your words  
Will watch the concluding swell break at shore  
Then go and lay in the last of its backwash  
Resting as foam settles into sand

And the dam is rebuilt once more