

Best in Show Poetry: Hanna-Renkes/Jan Smith Literary Award – High School

“Introduction to Womanhood”

By: Grace Daniels

Grade: 11

School: Petoskey High School

Puberty, getting groomed, and being seen as only phases
Don't they see how easy they have it?
They have it better than most will admit
They don't have built in survival kits
They don't see the lens they have been accustomed to
The patriarchy clings to them and their perspectives are askew
A true mother knows when their sons are doomed
When the propaganda in the media about women is consumed
Doubled up victims and the porn industry
We consume it like it's not bigotry
I've been followed one too many times to not be afraid
Tired of this ongoing manic pixie dream girl charade
It's an awakening to a nightmare and realizing it's your reality
That all you're viewed as is your sexuality
It's not all men but it's most
My femininity wants to hide like a scared ghost