

First Place: Bob Schulze Award for Poetry – Middle School

“Dear Society”

By: Riley Cannon

Grade: 7

School: East Jordan Middle School

Society today
Is worse than yesterday
Especially for the girls
Always getting judged

You tell us to not wear makeup
Yet judge every little detail
But if we wear a little more
You tell us that we are trying too hard

You tell us to dress comfortable
Yet say “It’s not pajama day,” and run away
But if we dress a little nicer
You tell us that we are trying to hard

You assume that we are indestructible
Like we can’t be hurt
And the second we start to cry
We are suddenly a little baby

If we don’t get good grades
You call us dumb
Yet if we do get good grades
We are suddenly a nerd

When will we not be pressured?
Will it ever end?
“She’s not pretty”
“She can’t sing”
“She’s a nerd”
EVERYONE STOP!

I yell
I get angry
No more reputation
Will it ever end?

I am more than that
We are more than that
Girls are strong

No matter what
Even if you play with our emotions
Give us a break

Dear Society,
Will it ever end?