

## Winner of 2022 Marymount Poetry Prize Revealed!

Did you know that MMC's Department of Writing, Literature and Languages hosts an annual poetry competition for high school students? This year, we received over a hundred submissions! Selecting one winning poem proved to be a very hard job indeed, but, after careful deliberation, our jury decided to award the 2022 Marymount Poetry Prize to **"moving/dream" by Ziyi Yan** of Greenwich High School. Ziyi Yan's poem manages to be at once mysterious and colloquial, surprising and universal. It juts out in associative directions and, like a boomerang, finds its way back to the root of the issue: the pain of trying to make a connection. Here's our winning poem for your reading pleasure:

### **moving/dream**

two things are unique                    to a home:  
writers' block and wetting the bed. in sleep

my adult teeth pushed        each other  
from my mouth like dominos. you held

me, a wrinkled fetus        with long hair—  
we can laugh at that. but really, you held

old jeans like a plea. my stomach bulged  
from the fabric                    and i forgot why

we took turns apologizing.

/

whenever my sister wants to play  
a board game, i say    *i need*

*to write.* actually    i scratch out  
my hair and watch videos of celebrities

kissing                    in the next room. i crawl  
to her bed when i'm sure she's crawled

to yours. in a false dawn     you nestle  
me to your stomach, so i feign deafness

as you open the curtains. 五分钟走, you  
snap.     in haste, i paw everything

out of my underwear drawer—

/

i never wrangled our knocker to choke  
your screaming.     instead i sprawled

on the porch, winced at how even wood  
whined under me. the time you waste

in driving me has dribbled  
down my chin, groping for taste. mom

we whittle this house  
to a pyre.     tonight

my mouth is dried raw and i'm sorry  
i mocked you for this:

we've locked our keys in the new house.  
your jeans in my closet are moving.

\* “五分钟走” translates to, “we leave in five minutes.”