

■ Ella Appleyard | WYLIE E. GROVES HIGH SCHOOL, 10th grade

## Bookshelves and Bones

She has only ever known  
the back of the bookshelf:  
tucked into the  
muted corner  
of the attic

The same bookshelf  
read her bedtime stories  
about a place where bravery  
was not killing  
and courage  
was not killed

Welcome to the City of Bones  
Population: Over 6,000,000

Red, black, white:  
the only colors  
she's ever drawn with  
yet she managed to create  
a rainbow

Tell me how such a story ends

Her cheekbones were so sharp  
she carved a story into  
what was once  
considered  
her life

“Don't worry,  
you're safe”  
is the euphemism for  
“Don't worry;  
you'll die quickly”  
I don't think they anticipated  
how long it would take  
to take her (life)(courage)(hope)

After all, how do you  
kill a girl  
whose (life)(courage)(hope)  
is in her writing

She had more stars in her eyes  
than stars in the skies

Welcome to the City of Wishes  
Population: 7 Billion