

## CLAIRE KEYES STUDENT AWARD–WINNER

*Macy Jennings*

### A NEW DAY

I started walking somewhere around six in the morning and just started walking  
I wanted to know how it felt to pass like a ghost through the fog that the previous night  
had left behind and feel the promise of summer on my skin  
by this point, I was exhausted and strung out enough to hear colors and see sounds  
I made laps around the quad, saying good morning to everything I saw  
good morning tree  
good morning bench  
good morning grass  
good morning  
I got to see the sunrise come and burn away the mist  
it trickled into dew the way sand falls through my fingers  
I climbed behind the classroom buildings to watch it peer over the horizon  
good morning sun, I said  
good morning, it said to me  
and flickered upon my cheek before moving on  
you are not going to die, the new day said  
you're right, I said, I'm not going to die  
I'm going to live  
I may not always be okay  
but I'm going to live