

## CLAIRE KEYES STUDENT AWARD – WINNER

*Rebekah Aran*

### IN THE HEAT

In July,  
You let me pick you up  
and we went to the store and got red ripe cherries.  
It was hot and we were up all night  
with crimson stained smiles, watching scary movies,  
laughing at the gaudy faces, scolding actors for their bad decisions.  
In my basement, I lay on the floor and you were on the couch.  
We slept late into the afternoon  
when the sun was hot again.  
In August,  
My grandmother said we could spend the weekend at her house  
So you drove the two hours to the cape with me.  
The beach was cold but we pretended to tan anyway  
Making cupcakes to make up for the clouds.  
I discovered that I couldn't mess up baking if you were with me.  
The last night there, we wrote poems to each other on my laptop  
and passed it back and forth in a bunk bed.  
It's cold now.  
I tried to buy cherries at the store the other day,  
but they didn't have them.  
I haven't written any poetry until now,  
and I can't bake without spilling something or forgetting to preheat the oven.  
I delete text conversations so that I don't dwell on rejection.  
I considered deleting your number too.  
But I still love you. So I leave it.