

CLAIRE KEYES STUDENT AWARD – RUNNER-UP

*Felicia LeBlanc***3 AM**

it is 3 am
you and i
do not sleep
your words are text
on a too bright screen
and you are burning on the other
side
you are
fire that consumes a newborn daisy
or perhaps
the undertow at midnight
sucking yourself out to sea
maybe
the sound of gunfire in a civilian neighborhood
where small children try to sleep
but nightmares keep their eyes peeled open
or really
a news segment on tv about a girl
who felt she did not deserve her life
and figured it was time to give it back to the world
with a length of rope
you are
the creeping feeling in your chest
when you are alone and lost and scared
and you find you cannot breathe
and neither can i
here at 3 am
and both our heads are pulled under the waves
as we drown together