POETRY: THIRD PLACE

Kinzie McDowell, poet Nettleton High School Gabrielle Fife, teacher

Am I a ghost in a world full of stars:

The beep heard in the room covered in silence.

The beep heard by one, unheard by all

The beep getting louder and louder, pounding and pounding into my skull

Why can't they hear?

The beep focusing on me, my problems

The Beep. Beep. Beep.

I hear others speaking in the room

The beep just beeps and beeps over all

WHY CAN'T THEY HEAR IT?

Why is this beep focused on me and my problems?

Is it in my head?

Is it just my problems yelling at me from beyond the pit I buried them in?

Is it?

It couldn't be. I talk, talk, and talk and no one hears, no one at all, it's just me talking to myself Am I crazy?

Am I a ghost in a world full of stars? As if everyone shines so bright, as I sit in the shadows unseen

The words I speak now are words of truth. No one shines brighter than the sun itself

These are the words no one wants to hear

The words I speak are the only words that should matter to me

Why listen to that beep?

Why listen to the words other people spread?

Why listen?