

3rd place Junior Poetry
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Reality

Just sitting there

Alone in her chair

She breathes slowly

She knows

Her time is ending

Soon she'll be gone

And gone with her

Her story

All around us

Around our world

They float away

Strong ones forgotten

And their stories too

She remembers the pain

The joy that expired

That flew away

Like a bright bird

When the birds leave

The storm flies in

The rain of souls

Rolling thunder of stress

The storm hits hard

Pounding at the doors

Shaking whole homes

It seems never ending

Pounding, shaking, moving

Nothing can protect you

The storm is fierce

Unforgiving

Then, just suddenly

It all stops

The clouds float out

The bright birds return

The storm may have left

The birds may have returned

But the damage stays

An unwelcome guest

Some damage is fixable
Others wound too deeply
Houses are put back together
Yet people stay apart

Years come and go
Wounds begin to heal
Yet the world still changes

Ideas grow older
People do too
Old becomes forgotten
Forgotten brings new pain

The safe ones forget
The ones with the wounds
Their scars don't let them

The scars may not be seen
Yet they hurt more inside
No one sees it
But you feel it
Constantly

If you don't personally feel it
Unseen things are forgotten
No matter how powerful
Or how important

These lost thoughts
Give the scars more power
A step up to boost them

Yet some show the scars
Instead of hiding
They are proud
Hard fought battle marks

This gives a better power
A power for change
It breaks the ignorance cycle
A reminder of consequence

Eventually
The reminders will be gone
Fighters laid to rest
Their pain seems gone
But ignorance grows stronger

As she sits there

Alone in her chair

These thoughts rush around

Like bees around a flower

Soon she'll be reduced

Just a static

A survivor who once was

Her story

Molded and morphed

Not what it once was

She's one of the few

And when she leaves

One less

Without her

And her survivors

We are exposed

To ignorance

And to a space

For it all to happen again