

3rd place Junior Poetry  
Ava Swafford  
Old Donation School, Dr. Karen Luecke

***You Don't Know***

You know the awkward girl?

Everyone does.

The one who you all walk by, but you don't say hi because

Then the people would think you're friends,

And you can't have that on your conscience.

You know the weird guy?

Everyone does.

The one who's always in the bathroom crying.

But you don't try to console him because he's weird,

And you don't like weird people.

You know the girl that wears too much makeup?

Everyone does.

And you want to tell her to blend it into her neck,

But you don't.

You'll just laugh about how she's too self-conscious without it.

You know that guy who's always on his phone?

Everyone does.

You just think he's addicted to Tik Tok or something,

Like everyone else,

And you laugh when he gets detention for having it out in the halls.

You know the girl who's overweight?

Everyone does.

The one who struggles in P.E.,

The one who is always tugging at her clothes and doesn't ever wear shorts.

Your friends just think she needs to eat less junk food.

You know the guy who's way underweight?

Everyone does.

The one who's swimming in his clothes.

He is all skin and bones and doesn't bring a lunch.

No one ever tries to give him food either.

You know that girl in the wheelchair?

Everyone does.

She struggles to push herself through the halls

Because no one will help her,

Not even you, you have to talk to your bestie.

You know him, you know her, you know them?

No you don't. No one does.

The awkward girl never had a mom to talk to.

The weird kid's parents just got a divorce.

The girl who wears too much makeup is covering up the bruises her father gives her.

The guy who is on his phone is waiting for a call from the hospital to tell him if his brother died.

The girl who is overweight is starving herself.

The guy who is underweight doesn't have enough money for food.

The girl in the wheelchair was paralyzed when she was 4.

The truth of the matter is that you don't know these people at all.

But now that you do, you have to make a change.

It's a job, and it's your job.

Don't let your friends take advantage of them.

Help them.

Now that you know their struggles,

Don't let them be forgotten.