

Category E – Individual Poem – Grades 11 & 12

Tianru Wang

“Magnificent Day”

O, to capture the birdsong of the morning!
To hold with infinite satisfaction the darting piping thrill of hummingbirds
They – who nestle in the earthy sweetness of neroli on citrus trees rich with fruit,
Who praise the silhouette of branches against a dusk sky
And, ever faithfully, still to perfect the tableau.

O, but to dwell eternally in the bright lights and bright laughter of an early evening!
The sun courts the sea at seven o’clock, but the teachers, the researchers and writers trail home earlier,
showering in the sparks of achievement and scattering scintillas as they go.
The completion of day awakens relief, the progenitor of breathless joy.

O, the dreamer’s joys!
Night, velvet and gentle, the fabric upon which dreams are embroidered-
I remember your peace. Beautiful as the deliberate pause of an orchestra-
the third beat before the solo of Vivaldi’s Concerto in A minor-
enriching all that was before, and all that to be after.

O, to count the charms of the hours before dawn!
The city does not rest – the moon is mirrored behind kitchen windows,
planes cross stars overhead – yet primeval, pure solitude,
unilluminated with the light of day, glows in the darkness with the promise of silent miracles to come.