

Sarah Mook Poetry Contest 2017, Grades K-2, Third place, "Wrigley"

The third place poem in this age group, "Wrigley" captures the heartbreak of losing a pet, then the joy of that pet returning. The poet successfully uses metaphor in describing emotion in this poem.

In the opening four lines of the poem, the speaker reveals negative feelings at the loss of his or her dog, Wrigley. Because her beloved pet ran away, the speaker declares that life was "not just happiness and joy" and admits to "trying to feel brave and hopeful." This courage in the face of misfortune is admirable.

The next four lines of the poem, however, reveal the true feelings of Wrigley's owner. Using original comparison, the speaker says the following:

But
Sometimes I'm shy and scared
Sometimes my heart is small and sad
Sometimes I feel like ashes in a fire

This freshness of language reveals the speaker's honest and heartfelt emotion. I especially admire the simile, "I feel like ashes in a fire"; this phrase more than adequately demonstrates the speaker's hopeless feelings at the loss of Wrigley.

The poem takes a thrilling turn in the last six lines when Wrigley returns. The speaker sees a "shadow racing towards me," sheds tears of "happiness, and joy," and wraps "my arms joyfully around her." The last ecstatic line of the poem, "'Wrigley, you're back!'" demonstrates how much Wrigley has been missed and loved.

Congratulations to a fine writer!

Thank you for the pleasure of reading your work!

Marie Kane
Final Judge
Sarah Mook Poetry Contest, 2017
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