

*AMPERSAND

by Hayley Foo

Great Oak High School

the world is long & wide & splitting at its seams
& i carry the weight of distances i cannot name
& you carry the weight of me
too human & too heavy & too fleeting.
existing & not existing is the being of
a breath & a pause & the silence after
alone & together & together alone
& still we laugh & still we reach & still we fall.
a vow is a knot & a thread & a trembling kite string
& the wind is stronger than the word forever
& the sky unspools without asking
& i hold the string until it cuts my palms.
we wait & wait
for the echo of a moment already gone
& a song already sung
& a you who has already left.
the alleys bloom silence
& the cracks bloom ache
& the soul blooms truth
& the truth blooms absence.
& still i hold on
because the shape of &
is always two things
twisting to become one.