

# \*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.