2017 MCC Creative Writing Contest Poetry Category

Honorable Mention:

In just one minute I could leave Leave this bench I could throw myself into the river Drown out all of my sorrows All my pain created The water filling my lungs And letting me leave this world On this bench in just one minute A car from the street and I could collide Crushingme Intopieces My heart My body And my soul In just one minute

BLAST

And kill us all

The seconds are ticking by fast

55

56

57

58

59

60 seconds are gone

And the only thoughts I had were all the ways

I could die

In the next 60 seconds

Teen suicide is on the rise. Awareness can save a life. We can't be afraid to ask for help.

The poem represents the interior monologue of a person contemplating suicide. It uses line structure and typography inventively to reinforce the meanings of lines, as it catalogues the diverse ways one could die within sixty seconds. Some seem more likely than others, but the reader senses that the overall mood of the poem is more important than whether the methods are plausible, as the poem is to be read as a cry for help.

Dr. Joel R. Brouwer is retired from teaching English and Communication for 47 years, the last 21 on the faculty at Montcalm Community College. During that time, he taught creative writing and mentored numerous aspiring authors. He also coordinated the stat