

## beautiful monster

everyone made fun of her.  
they would say, “what’s the point of being good at art if you’re ugly?”  
art was supposed to be beautiful-  
but she wasn’t.

one day she sat under the tree at recess with her notebook on her lap,  
she drew a beautiful girl with big blue eyes;  
hers were ugly and brown like the color of mud  
she hung up the picture over her mirror and wished every day to have big blue eyes,  
she wished so hard that one day her eyes turned blue.

the next day she drew more parts of her face,  
and each time she wished to be prettier and prettier-  
maybe then everyone would like her.

the next week she had a little button nose  
the week after that, beautiful blonde hair.

walking to school that day, she couldn’t contain her excitement  
“i’m finally going to be popular!” she exclaimed  
but when she got to school, no one would play with her.

she ran back home in tears longing for her mother’s embrace,  
but when her mother answered the door, her face was full of confusion  
“who are you?”  
“it’s me mommy, you’re daughter.”  
“my daughter has soft brown eyes like a deer,  
a nose just like her grandmother,  
and beautiful black hair that i love to braid,  
you are *not* my daughter.”

she ran away in tears  
even her own mother didn’t recognize her.  
walking past a building, she caught her reflection in the window,  
and there she saw an ugly monster where a little girl should be.