

The Five Stages of Dying

Stage 1: Day of Fireflies

Gray asphalt catches the heat of the day
Chain-link swings create the melody
Of Day fading into Dusk into Dark
Feet kick away from piles of dirt
Until we're soaring
Nothing but rosy cheeks and adrenaline
Faces glowing with youth in the night air
Turning children into fireflies
That smile into the horizon
Until the sun disappears completely

The Day of fireflies
Turns into nights of stories
Of flying into space from a swing
Of happiness that is unmatched

I had no way of knowing then
But the Day of fireflies
Turned into nights of goodbyes

Stage 2: Dawn of Butterflies

The Dawn of butterflies approaches
A new life begins in middle school
New people become new friends
 Become new experiences
Until everything freezes one day
 New people are hazy
 And the butterfly longs for
The sanctuary of her cocoon
This is the start of something
 Something that terrifies me

Stage 3: Dusk of Dragonflies

I'm convincing

"I promise I'm fine"

"I'm just tired"

"I'll get my grades up"

Six years of lies and pain

Crumble around a suicide watch

And I'm suddenly a dragonfly

Trapped in a jar labelled "Damaged"

And I'm strapped to a table

"Undiagnosed depression"

"You won't graduate on time"

"I used to be so proud of you"

I click my pill bottles together three times

I'm alone

I'm alone

I'm alone

Stage 4: Bats in the Twilight

The expiration date comes and goes
My trashcan fills with tiny pink fireworks
Meant to explode in my stomach and make me happy
“Of course I’m still taking my meds”
Yellow bottles rattle as they fall

I made myself a cave of dark thoughts
Bats hang from above with fire in their mouths
That sears across me until the pain becomes home
Flames overcome my senses and welcome me in
And little pink fireworks
In yellow-tinted rattles
Fall apart while I’m away

Stage 5: Evening for Spiderwebs

People I never liked file in
Running tissues along their faces
Grieving hugs to my parents
My coffin fills with spiderwebs
Silky strands to accompany me
When all is said and done

I was once a firefly of the day
An escapee from my own cocoon
I clicked my pill bottles together three times
I'm alone, I'm alone, I'm alone
I set myself on fire one time too many
Now they're alone
You're alone
We're alone