

2015 MCC Creative Writing Contest

Poetry Category

First Place: "I Am Not a Weapon," by Elizabeth Enos

Once.

I am not a weapon

To be used against myself.

I took the sticks and the stones

And built the walls to protect

The recreation,

A rebirth from the ashes and destruction

Ytui (to) (my) un. I wak 6.11 Owhrel

And yes, I died

But a spark remained,

An ember to flare into existence

This person with the passion and the will

To survive, despite your efforts.

Here I stand.

Still haunted by the echoes of depres

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

The speaker has a strong voice; the language is direct and concrete. The stanzas of the poem cover the other party, the history of the relationship, and the present: they are comprehensive. I think the poem would be even more powerful if it were condensed, while maintaining the various dimensions of the current version. As a reader, I don't need the line that is all in caps. The writer has more than made her