

# Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing

---

Volume 16  
Issue 1 *Fifteenth Anniversary Edition*

Article 4

---

2018

## Is a 7-Year-Old Too Young for a Funeral?

Mikaela Westrick  
*Grand Valley State University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/fishladder>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Westrick, Mikaela (2018) "Is a 7-Year-Old Too Young for a Funeral?," *Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing*: Vol. 16: Iss. 1, Article 4.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/fishladder/vol16/iss1/4>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fishladder: A Student Journal of Art and Writing by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@gvsu.edu](mailto:scholarworks@gvsu.edu).

IS A  
7-YEAR-OLD  
TOO YOUNG  
FOR A  
FUNERAL ?

**MIKAELA  
WESTRICK**

You shoved your cancer soaked brillo pad down my throat  
sewed my lips shut with the string of promises you drag around  
and dear god  
if I dare utter groans of pain from the scratches  
let the blood pool bubble over like a geyser dribble down my chin  
I'd have to wipe it up with the corner of a white napkin pretend the table isn't broken  
patiently wait for family dinner

But Mom was sick  
they tied a blue balloon to her wrist and she was floating away  
I tried to jump reach extend these damn gangly arms and pull her back down  
my feet were strapped to tear stained bricked lead

We are all predisposed to lead feet a genetic vulnerability to the unpleasant  
some heavier than others but ultimately we are all fucked

I carved the words in repair onto my eyelids ate away at the lead  
and set the table