

Junior Division, Poetry (16-20 years)

Cassandra Clowe-Coish, St. John's

**Ether, Appeaser**

Validation trumps trepidation.

It's a high-flying, contact high sensation:

The neurotic's narcotic for impotent excitation,

And the defunct punk's ticket to elation.

But hesitation creeps in and deepens,

Its pervasion gives way to depletion,

Turning the egregious impostor de-Cartesian

By ensconcing all forms of reason.

It's been a long night of ego-inflation,

But what a nice day for self-degradation!