

Junior Division Short Fiction (16-20 years)

Leslie Claire Amminson, St. John's

Weight (an excerpt)

Yesterday I couldn't be what I'd been for Ava that day, when Bobby Callahan stopped swimming. I tried to, and that's what I want to tell Mrs. Callahan. I want to tell her *I was there. I touched his hand, but he was too heavy.* I wish knew how to cry about it, but it feels wrong next to her pain. From the corner of my eye I see Ava, her fragility that I protected, the weightlessness that saved her. And another weightlessness that can no longer exist, knowing she was the one who lived and he wasn't.

Our innocence is dissolved in a matter of hours, and we know something has changed that can never be reconciled, that will never be spoken of.