

Saratoga Loves

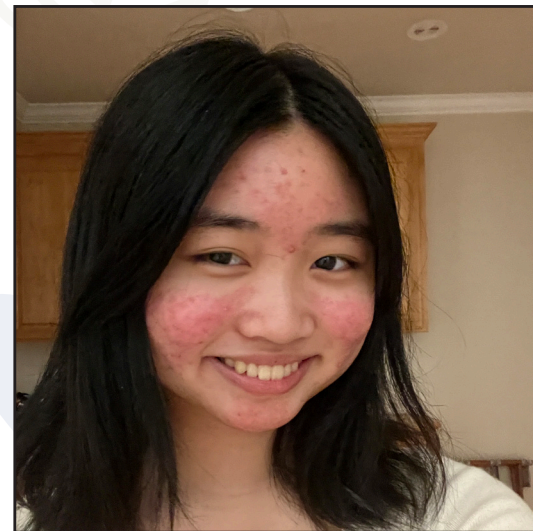
Poetry

A poetry contest for students in grades kindergarten through 12 who live or attend school in Saratoga!

Vivian Wang

2022 1st Prize

Grades 9 - 12



About the Author:

Vivian Wang is a senior at Saratoga High School and a Junior Editor at Polyphony Lit. She spends her time writing anything from poetry to college application essays. When she isn't writing, she particularly enjoys playing the piano, swimming, eating pretzels, and analyzing Taylor Swift lyrics.

Poem:

physicalities

sometimes I run my hands through my hair
and the chlorinated ends tangled around my fingers feel like straw.
my abnormally large head rests too heavily on my broad swimmer
shoulders
and my S-curved spine makes the right side of my back bulge in a
tank top (and in a t-shirt too).
the sunglasses propped open by my squashed, square-shaped face
slip off my miserable excuse of a nose bridge
and my dinner makes a gatecrashing appearance over the waistband
of my high-rise petite jeans that still shuffle along the floor.
but sometimes I hold safety scissors dangerously close to my forehead
and snip my overgrown bangs just for the thrill of it
and my abnormally large brain scores me the winning point in trivia
with its heaps of miscellaneous information.
my latissimus dorsi muscles propel me through dolphin-like butterfly
strokes as I undulate across the pool
and my opposable thumbs contort my fingers into awkward positions
that bring the grand piano keys to life.
my flexible hips endure my futile yet comical efforts to teach myself
the art of ballet
and my nimble feet carry me, fervently, into the arms of the people I
love
as I forget all the things I'm not, in awe of the things I am.

About the Poem:

My poem "physicalities" was inspired by the insecurities that plague us all at some point in time, but especially as teenagers constantly barraged with the heavily curated platforms of social media. My own self-worth is something that fluctuates from day to day, sometimes even from hour to hour, so I wanted to talk about the two ends of the spectrum, from deep self-hatred to appreciation for the parts of ourselves that allow us to experience so many things in life despite what we may have been conditioned to critique about them.