

A Lively, Unruly Mind

Jian Shin, Age 11

My mind has one leg
It bounces and pounces
It flaps and slaps
It slips and trips
It is hard to control

First comes balance
Learning to be tranquil, have peace, hold still
Sense the direction “up” or “down”
To stand tall and upright
Aligning morals with an internal gyroscope

Finding comfort makes it braver
Nudging a jump towards ambition
Though adversity waits in corners, exposing secret fears
Accomplishment never strays
Confidence though leaps and courage through bounds

The desire to spring beyond borders
Begets the necessity to look back
With great care to tread lightly
Out of the rose garden, nearly stumbling backwards
To understand the past

Time makes passion and progress abundant
Allowing a natural joy to saturate
Sometimes clumsy and, yet, often graceful
The rhythm catches our leg
Seeping through as pure emotion

My mind still has one leg
Yet it balances, it jumps
And it moves backwards, even dances
Though control escaped my grasp
I'm grateful connection never left