

Epiphany Giovanni Victorio, Lamar High School

"Happy New Year!",
the only words I hear,
whilst wishing vehemently that I could disappear;
I'd much rather be elsewhere, anywhere but here.
I never intend to sound so insincere,
but I feel nothing but a constantly overbearing fear,
crawling across my face, drilling into my inner ear.
Repelling those who treated me kindly, never letting them near,
perhaps this was my biggest mistake; in an instant, it all became clear.

"How did I get here?", I pondered as I concealed myself behind a deceptively welcome veneer. At that moment, I realized lifelong change was near.

Every memory grazed my head, piercing through my eardrums akin to howls of the wind.

A million years of my life, all encapsulated into a singular span smaller than a second.

My vision was no longer blinded by ignorant belligerence. I was born again. I was given one more chance to define myself.

This time, I'll aim to become the world's light. This time, I'll avoid being the world's blight. This time, I'll strive to make things right.