Icy Kisses

            *By Amrutha Obulasetty*

A cold breeze pinched our cheeks.

Snow adorned our heads, creating crowns,

Gloves and dresses of frostbite,

Glass slippers of ice.

Pollution and noise pushed aside.

Laughter sings in the air.

Our breath leaves in whispers of fog,

Smiles in clouds of stupidity.

A lone tree stood tall, strong.

Its roots guiding me through the snow,

As they create organic shapes

Reminding me of my own veins and chaos.

Chapped lips touched cold fabric.

Platonic lovers embrace under bare branches.

Leaves tumble passionately like

The intertwining of two separate snowflakes.

Helianthus

            *By Amrutha Obulasetty*

Sweet summer dew

petals match soaring canaries.

Adobe, poppy seed, sunflower center

liberty weaves under, over,

and between velvet jade leaves

Stay, stay, stay

wind leans close, lifts a soft petal,

and whispers fair words of comfort

Stay, stay, stay

overcast hides the sun as it begins to set

tucking itself under triumphant waves

Sun doesn’t listen. Sun doesn’t stay,

but this sun will come back another day

and tomorrow

sweet summer dew will kiss

petals match wandering canaries

Adobe, poppy seed, sunflower center

the sun sends streaks of apologies

between velvet jade leaves, over and under

***Amrutha Obulasetty*** is a junior at Utah State University and had Poet Laureate Shanan Ballam as her Introduction to Poetry professor. Some of her other published works include "Saffron Honey Hugs" featured in the *Ekphrastic Magazine* and her nonfiction essay "The Best Shade of Brown" was awarded second-place in the Utah State University Creative Writing Contest and was published in [USU's *Sink Hollow Literary Magazine*'s Creative Writing Contest Issue.](https://www.sinkhollow.org/) When she is not writing, Amrutha competes regionally with the USU Speech and Debate team and loves to read.