

Barrio Writers

Volume 1
Issue 1 *Nac/SFA 2018 Barrio Writers*

Article 8

October 2018

Ryleigh Swann

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/bw>



Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Poetry Commons](#), and the [Secondary Education Commons](#)

[Tell us](#) how this article helped you.

Recommended Citation

(2020). Ryleigh Swann. *Barrio Writers*, 1(1). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/bw/vol1/iss1/8>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Barrio Writers* by an authorized editor of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

Ryleigh Swann

Ryleigh was born in 2004 in Nacogdoches, Texas. She loves watching her favorite Youtubers and watching anime. She is currently reading the Attack on Titan manga series. She has one cat, whom She loves dearly.

Chapter One: Return

Christiana scowled as dawn engulfed the returning Survey Corps in deep shadow. How many of them had died on their expedition? At least a third, maybe more. Christiana shook her head, trying to dislodge the thoughts that buzzed like bees in her head. She instead focused on the back of Levi's head, his hair perfectly combed and manicured, as always. She had an uneasy feeling in her gut. There's something not quite right here she thought to herself. It's too quiet. Where are all the titans? They should have passed some by now. So lost in thought, she hadn't realized that She was still staring at the back of Levi's head until Levi turned His head to look at her. She blushed slightly. "What are you looking at, brat?" Levi said, slowing his horse down to where they were side by side. "Nothing," She said, shifting in her saddle. She swiftly turned her head so Levi wouldn't see her blushing. "It's too quiet," She said softly, turning back to face Levi. "I agree." He said, glancing around slightly. "Is there something wrong Captain-". "Get down!" he shouted, pushing me off my horse. I fell onto the coarse grass and managed to look up just in time for the world to go black.

Your Heart

You believe in ordinary acts of bravery

In the courage that drives one person to stand up for another.

The world has strayed far from that.

Moreover, the same, a long time ago,

Pursued knowledge and ingenuity

For the sake of doing well.

Now they pursue knowledge and ingenuity

With greedy hearts.

Writing Activity

1. Read “Chapter One: Return” and identify 2-3 things that Ryleigh does to build suspense. What does she do in terms of word choice, pacing, metaphors, dialogue? Now try writing a story beginning. Don’t get too hung up on where the story might go or where it might end; just try to set up a good beginning that will hook a reader.
2. In “Your Heart,” Ryleigh uses a poetic format to express her message. How might the message change if it were written in narrative format, or written in a haiku? Remember that a haiku is a type of short Japanese poem that has just 17 total syllables, divided into three lines: 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line, and 5 syllables in the third line. Start by writing a short free verse poem or a haiku. Then try to communicate the same message in a paragraph form or a longer poem. Does your intended meaning change? How? Why? Why not?