

Courage

by Jessica Webber

A million memories ago
Before everyone was too busy
And when time was taken for granted
Trembling hands would clutch crayons
And display the world's largest act of courage.

Fear did not exist
In a world where we could shade the sun purple
Dot the sky with orange snowflakes
Or blanket the ground in magenta grass.

Imaginations ran free
No boundaries
No limits
Never told to draw within the lines.

Our eager eyes would scan the horizon
Seeing open doors
While now we see walls
Seeing a gleaming opportunity
In the darkest of shadows.

But everything changed in a heartbeat
Sometime during recess
Eyes learned to glare
Mouths learned to whisper
Voices learned to burn
And everyone forgot who they had once been.

Society is our dictator
Suns look best drawn yellow
Snowflakes are supposed to be left white
Grass is to be colored green
And we must always stay within the lines.

Silenced voices plead
Fingers desperately pray
That someday
They will clutch a crayon
And live with the courage they once had.