

☒ Intermediate (Grades 3-5)

☐ Middle School (Grades 6-8)

☐ High School (Grades 9-12)

I understand that THIS FORM IS FOR the Literature Arts Category (Check ONE only) \*

☒ Literature

Title of Artwork (REQUIRED) \*

I'm Imperfect

**DETAILS** Include word count for literature. Describe technology/platforms used in the creation process, including any generative elements. \*

a poem

Artist Statement (REQUIRED) In 10 to 100 words, describe your work and how it relates to the theme. (Please DO NOT exceed 100 words.) \*

It is important that you "Throw away your self doubt" and know that you aren't perfect, but nobody is. Some teachers inspire that.

# I'm Imperfect (Mrs. Thomas)

They said my story characters' names were weird.

They said I'm Imperfect in every way.

You're too short, they said.

You're too weird to play.

Then one day, came the start of second grade.

I was nervous of the teachers, the noise,

and even of the grade

but then one heroic teacher saved the day.

Her name was Mrs. Thomas.

She was perfect in every way.

When they bullied me, she shooed them away

Even when they said I was too weird, too short to play.

She packed up my self-doubt and threw it away.

I was so tired of them bullying me each and every day

Even though she had already sent them away.

One day I was weeping under the willow tree

When the super hero came and sat next to me

In the shade,

On that cold, sorrowful day.

"Why are you crying?" she asked.

And I told her at last,

That I was too weird, too short to play.

After I finished speaking all that,

She told me to come sit down in her lap.

I asked her why she was perfect

And she thought for a long, deep moment.

Then she said with tears in her eyes,

That *no one* was perfect,

Even in their own eyes.

She said that God made us to make mistakes

To learn and grow from those exact mis-takes.

She said to tell them that I may be imperfect,

But that's okay

I'm still valuable in every way.