



2014

First Period

Anne Wessel Dwyer
Madison High School

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/nj-english-journal>

Recommended Citation

Dwyer, Anne Wessel (2014) "First Period," *New Jersey English Journal*: Vol. 3, Article 13.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/nj-english-journal/vol3/iss1/13>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Montclair State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Jersey English Journal* by an authorized editor of Montclair State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@montclair.edu.

First Period

AJ, in Sponge Bob slippers
and gold star-shaped glasses,
philosophizes with boyish certainty
on the futility of life.
It is school spirit day,
I have assigned Virginia Woolf.

The moth cannot escape -
We cannot escape.
Nihilism!
Existentialism!
Abe, blue-haired and glittery, insists.

Like me, I suspect,
Some of the others are worried,
wondering if we
will analyze this struggle to survive
for another thirty minutes
or years
without stopping.

Maura waves nail-bitten fingers:
She has read the introduction,
reveals the writer's watery end.
This is important, she says.

We are silent.
A beaded lacrosse player
pulls at the edge of her skirt.

Outside,
a cardinal brushes across
an evergreen;
a white birch falls.

Inside,
we dance.

Anne Wessel Dwyer teaches AP Language and Composition and American Literature at Madison High School. She is completing her twenty-eighth year as an English teacher.