

2026 TMA Poetry Prize

2nd Place, Youth Category

Macy Shoemaker

Eastwood High School

The Life of a Fruit Bowl

Inspired by Raphaelle Peale's *Still Life with Oranges*

A single light finds fruit and glass,
Within the dark of years that pass.
An orange, sliced, reveals its heart,
A golden wheel of painter's art.

The rind, a ribbon curled and thin,
Beside the fruit's thick, textured skin.
Green grapes spill from the woven tray,
In shadows where the soft tones play.

A slender glass of amber wine,
A steady glow, a quiet line.
No hand is seen, no breath is heard,
More eloquent than any word.

Upon the wood, the nectar stays,
Preserved within this timeless gaze.
The Peale tradition, crisp and deep,
A harvest that the centuries keep.