

2026 TMA Poetry Prize

3rd Place, Youth Category

Mary Moorman

Eastwood High School

Apollo, Still There

Inspired by Henri Matisse's *Apollo*

My mom would slow down
In the quiet museum halls
and point
to the curve of his shoulders
the brightness of his body
where sunlight warmed the marble
My footsteps were small
echoing softly
through cool air
I had to look up
to meet his calm
distant face
Back then
I didn't understand art
I didn't know
about myth
or marble
or time
I only knew
every time we returned
Apollo was still there
and somehow
I was a little taller.