

Second Honorable Mention – Grades 5 & 6

Different

I stare out the window
as the boats float over the river.
I hear the screen door clicks
as Mom walks through with another U-Haul box.
Aidan, the youngest, follows close behind,
clutching his stuffed dinosaur.
I can tell that he's nervous,
and I don't blame him.

I trudge over and pick up Pengy, my stuffy,
for the first time in the new house.
I feel his black string hair
slipping through my fingers.
I head upstairs.

I find Mom's
bedroom, then spot mine
on the other side.
Paint is peeling off my new wall.

I realize this will be stranger
than I ever thought it would be.

As I trudge into my room,
my heart beats fast.
I gaze around and wonder:

Will it ever be the same without
Dad in the house?

by Katie, Edgecomb, ME