

Tyler Penfold

Age: 14, Grade: 9

School Name: Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen, MI

Educator: Brittany Cavallaro

Category: Poetry

My Teacher Asked What I Did This Summer And I Told Her I Went To The Beach

What happened this summer? I went to the beach.
Someone filled a plastic bottle with alcohol and didn't make it
to the hotel room. And this summer
my grandpa was still confused why
I wore shorts in the water. Even though
this summer isn't the first summer by far.
But the girl that never existed wore a bikini. What happened
this summer? Appalachia was warm. I got my first
Credit Card. This summer I remember what she did
to me. What happened this summer? I picked
my nails. I watched the colored flakes fall
at my feet. This summer my therapist quit
twice in a row. What happened
this summer? I put my fingers through
my best friend's hair. I worked in the dye
until my hands matched the night sky.
And her hair was sick dark blue
seaweed to her shoulders. This summer
it was only us. And we learned
how to put faces on each other. What happened
this summer? Opioids. What actually did
happen this summer? If you listen I can't say
what happened this summer. I wondered
what's next. It came. I went.