

2ND PLACE WINNER FOR POETRY

THE PINES MASK THE SUN

JOEL RODRIGUEZ

The rays,
 determined,
 stand their ground,
resistant to equally determined needles.
They negotiate,
 develop,
 and eventually produce
their destined compromise--
 Inducing the shade
And subsequent chill
 Administered on this page;
As i sit,
 ponder,
 and contemplate
What might have been,
 Had she not met me,
 Or i her.

AGRAPHIA

JOEL RODRIGUEZ

But
 what do i feel like;
and
 how
do i put that in...
to words?
 What shapes
 and symbols
should [my] brain
 produce
 to reach
 your brain--
to activate your wernicke's area--
and create
 intimacy.
 How can [i] help
 our
 minds work
 to
 ge
 ther?
What
 [words]
 would help
 us
 connect?

joel.