

Apophis

LUCY MAO, GRADE 5

Seattle, WA

Apophis is the Egyptian god of chaos. In this poem, he represents hate, pollution, and inequality.

sun shone high in the goluboy sky
now covered in dust, smoke
cars rush by spilling choking strands of poison
fresh air long gone, throttled
by pollution, division
a world broken
in two

then chaos, calamity
street cracked
in two
explosions ringing
down the block
fire hydrants snapping
from their ancient foundations
blasting jets of water
geysers
no match for oil fires
crawling
down the street
cars smash
into buildings, each other,
six, eight, twelve, twenty

bloodred screams
filling the air
snake bursting
from the ground
coils wrapping
around city
crushing hope
alongside buildings
leaving only destruction
behind

twelve rats flee from street
last of the rodent species
rest poisoned, killed off

SECTION FOUR

scales unfurling
long neck reaching for the sky
jaws unhinge
wider
wider
wider...

up
twist
wider,
wider,
open
snap
shut
plunge
frigid
ocean
darkness
drowning
no one
no one
gasp
whisper
breathless
lost
echo
hopeless
hopeless
no one
no one
no one
no
o
n
e...

sharp claws bring me back,
scratchy tongue
rough
on my cheek,
furry body pressed
against my chest
warmth
in the cold
a light
in the dark

SECTION FOUR

heed my words, my voice
we cannot go on
without a path to stand on,
live
without a world
on which to thrive.
but there is always light
pooled with love, with hope
only when the pack is divided
is a wolf truly lost

hide not
behind a glacier
a face made of ice
your heart hides love,
i know —
find the light in the depths of your heart
open the door to those you trust —
sometimes to those you don't.
brave the fathoms
of the life
you've been given.
seek your golden butterfly
no one else can choose your path
only you
can pave it.

like ants,
humans
are social creatures
find dawn together
even as the stones fall
a rolling stone gathers no moss,
but a castle stays strong—
build a fort of trust
find your home,
place your stone on top—
a single pebble
can make all the difference
on the scales of order.