

## **All That Remains**

Pale yellow paint placed carefully over peeling blue hues,  
Flowers uprooted in exchange for extended space,  
Modern minimalist furniture replacing familiar frayed fabrics,  
And silence surrounding a once loud living room

Long gone are the summers spent  
Laughing and lounging,  
Instead there is cleaning and clearing  
Boxes of dusty discarded prizes of the past

What was once a second home now sold,  
Once knowing every inch of familiar, now refurbished, rooms  
With rugs worn and rough  
But now barely being able to recognize them through  
Perfect pictures curated for the perfect replacements

All that remains in this peculiar place are  
Shiny porcelain blue birds sitting on sacred shelves,  
Faded smiley stickers sticking to clear windows,  
A sturdy japanese maple still standing tall,  
And the memories spent with you.

Emily Tsujihara  
First place, second period