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Words for My Sister

My sister
You are so young
and hurting.
And you try to pretend
that those boys
with their restless
bodies and consuming desires
are a reason to love yourself.

But this is not love,
I should say to you,
This is putting your body up for display.
This is pleading those to love you.
But I find it so easy to love you,
and you never asked me.

You are so filled with uncertainty
and determination. I see the
way you look at us, like a
timid child who covers herself
up because she is afraid
of her own beauty.
To realize that
would change everything.

Merlyn's Pen

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As I am a poet I express what I believe, and I fight against
whatever I oppose, in poetry.

”

-June Jordan

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I want to say to you,
'Be strong, love yourself'—
but these are only words and
they are said once, and
the second they are uttered
is how long they exist.

So I stay with you,
as my friend.
I won't say these words
to you. I won't ever tell you
you're beautiful. I won't
tell you to love yourself. I
will take your face in my hands,
and you will look at the moon
and see yourself in its inherent
loveliness,
I pray.

—Anjuli Dhindhwal,
Eleventh grade, East Brunswick High School,
East Brunswick, New Jersey

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