

Clean Jeans

By Sophia Campbell, First Place Recipient – Years 9-10 Poem

t _____ t
e _____ e
w
h _____ My _____ h
i pants spin in the washing machine i
t cotton darkened with the suns of another land t
e helix strands unzipping with enzyme-jelly pods e
w DNA whirring on high (re)production speed w
h programming alleles into a dress-code more h
i _____ homogenous _____ i
t t
e
w w
h the bleach is introduced h
i pockets lighten, nucleotide bases removed i
t molecules assaulted and pregnant with threads t
e weaving inserting deleting assimilating e
w _____ its sequence of ancestry _____ w
h until one emerges dominant; h
i _____ superior _____ i
t t
e
w w
h fabric tumbles h
i snagging another genotype's memory i
t a different length, pigment; displaced and deported t

e like a cell in anaphase, chromatids pulled apart— **e**

w two sisters on opposite poles **w**

h unable to recognize their parent cell's **h**

i face **i**
t **t**
e
w **w**

h the machine beeps, cycle complete **h**

i clothes clotting into Punnett Squares of conformity **i**

t XXXY denim pure inside the lines **t**

e chromosomes diluted, stripped by detergent **e**

w colour bred out inside the barrel of a gun. **w**