

# Patricia Dobler Poetry Award, 2009 Winner

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## Goliath

By: Heidi Johannesen Poon

I was higher than the bicycle I rode in a circle  
until the grass wore away and wouldn't come back.  
I was higher than the hardpan, I thought  
in the dark, as it lay in a circle: Goliath was in the weeds  
out beyond the house lights, hiding, and I was flying.  
When my chest passed into the unseeable,  
Goliath hit me in the pinpoint of my heart, yelling  
"Black Dog! White Dog! Yellow Dog!" as if he could pop me  
out of his mind. But I was trying to give myself a chance  
to break and win the breathless wishbone of air I'd  
feel for a few seconds inside me. Isn't that how  
you improve your lot? To believe you are only afraid  
and only ugly, and so thankful that no one inside  
was having a problem with me or Goliath  
fighting in that darkened field, and no one was going  
to get help, or shutting the flood lights off on me either.

## About the author

Heidi Johannesen Poon received her MFA in poetry from the Iowa Writers Workshop in 1991. Her writing has been supported by Fellowships from Brown, Iowa, the MacDowell Colony, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts. She published her first chapbook with the Poetry Society of America.

**Judge:** Maggie Anderson