

Kenzie Rapaport is a nonbinary, autistic seventh grader who uses they/them pronouns and loves writing. They are twelve years old and live in a small town in New Hampshire with their mom and dad, older sibling Kay, and extremely fluffy dog Penny. Their top five favorite TV shows are *Infinity Train*, *Owl House*, *Kipo*, *She-Ra* (the 2020 one) and *Gravity Falls*. They also enjoy scooting, ice skating, and musical theater.

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**Thirteen Ways Of Looking At A Story**  
**(after Wallace Stevens)**  
**by Kenzie Rapaport**

I  
A story is a lie  
And a lie is a story.

And it was stories  
That saved my life,  
Their truths  
Forever changing  
my reality.

It was stories  
That broke the silence,  
It was stories  
That gave me light  
And it was stories  
That gave me joy.

II  
Imaginatio in imaginatione radicata est,  
imaginatio obscura et levis est

A story is rooted in the imagination,  
The imagination is both dark and light.

III  
The weight of words  
Is determined by the weight  
Of the silence that follows them.

#### IV

The length of a story  
Does not affect its greatness,  
But the choice of words  
Is what can render its readers  
Speechless.

The right word  
Can change  
The world.

#### V

The pages of a story  
Turn by the fire,  
Both crackling in unison,  
A comforting chorus.

A story is a memory,  
An orchestra,  
Existence in the making.

A haunting harmony.

#### VI

A child is lulled to sleep  
In the dark and cold of winter,  
A story brings sweet dreams.

And each of those dreams  
Become closer and closer,  
More and more possible,  
With each story read.

#### VII

A story  
Is proof  
Of human capability  
One does not have  
To go to the moon,

They can simply  
bring their readers to it.

## VIII

Like birdsong,  
A story does not have to be understood  
To be appreciated,

Nor does its significance  
Impact its beauty.

## IX

A story  
Is shards nearly forgotten,  
Shards of what is heard  
Of what is seen  
Of what is believed  
Of what is known.

## X

A valuable story  
That brings truth to fiction  
Is one of the few things  
That can survive through  
centuries, perhaps forever,  
Free of erosion  
Held together  
by an everlasting essence.

## XI

A story  
Is not just  
Words,  
But words  
That need to be heard,  
That scream to be heard.

## XII

A story is

A thousand years  
Of love and laughter  
A story is  
A thousand years  
Of pain and sorrow  
A story is  
reality  
At its clearest.

### XIII

From above,

A story is rather simple-  
A few sentences  
Scribbled in a notebook,  
A page filled with annotations  
A worn vessel  
Flooded with markings.

But for those who read  
and are changed by what they read,

A story is more  
Than a silly dream or a swirl of ink on scroll,  
A story is a fraction  
Of time and tears and joy,  
A story tells  
All there is to tell,

A story is  
Everything.