

Age: 17, Grade: 11

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Category: Poetry

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### The Perfect Boy

I'm a prodigy who has It all  
But I still feel like I own nothing  
I have everything I've ever dreamed of  
I excel at everything I put my heart and soul into  
But I still feel like I'm missing something  
Something essential to my life  
I stand out on the ledge facing the daunting task before me  
Mountains of challenges so high they pierce holes in the clouds above them  
I scale their jagged sides with ease, but the top still feels out of reach  
I climb over them one step at a time until they are nothing but visions off in the distance  
I surpass them one after the other, but just as I reach the next one, it feels too challenging to climb, so I wait  
I wait and wait and wait.  
To find the motivation deep inside me to continue further  
But it just doesn't come to me  
Guilt fills my head, and a voice in the distance screams out at me  
"Laziness"  
"Laziness"  
That's all it says over and over again.  
I stare out at the challenges I've overcome  
All the things I've accomplished in my life  
They're all blocked out by the one mountain that I haven't climbed yet  
Anxiety grows inside my head  
It convinces me that I'm not enough that I'm not doing things right  
"It has to be perfect!"  
"It has to be done the right way!"  
"You need to do better."  
That's all I ever hear  
I pour my heart and soul into everything I do  
I give one hundred percent to everything I try  
I earn straight A's in every grade  
I always give to others  
I lead others who look up to me  
I write stories that are almost real  
I work extra hard to please my superiors  
But one simple mistake that's as harmless as a fly, and I fail at everything.  
I wish to choose the correct path that everyone else follows  
The path that's full of talent and success  
I need to follow each step with absolute perfection  
To start at the correct beginning  
I aim to be the perfect child  
I have access to all the skills I need  
However, I'm missing one crucial trait

One that will ensure my success  
And that trait  
That skill  
That tool  
Is my self-confidence