

## Into the Woods

By Cara Erickson

I see green as I  
Run barefoot alongside  
Long, prickly grass.

I see a faint tint of red as the house  
I knew faded away  
the farther I ran from it.

I run on tan, that has  
Been used multiple times,  
Guiding me.

I see brown with roots  
And edges surrounding me.

I find yellow that  
Holds petals.

I feel pink around my  
Cheeks, trying to catch my  
Breath.

I sense something  
inside me,  
That is known as  
Hope.

I run until I can no  
Longer.

I find blue with edges  
Flowing downstream,  
Beside me.

I see orange as  
Tiny insects with wings  
Hover around me.

I want to run more,  
Away from my mistakes, but  
I am too tired.

They won't find me,  
Even if they want to.

I see black with wings,  
Flying above me, but it is huge, so  
I watch it while  
Walking.

I touch orange, as a branch appears and  
Hits me suddenly.

I yell,  
Upset and in pain,  
Thinking of going home.

The sweet embrace of my family  
Comforting me and  
Protecting me, covers my thoughts.

I still keep going regardless,  
Remembering the possibilities if  
I go back.

I think of red, the  
Expressions of their faces if  
I returned.

The troubles I caused, isn't something  
I want to see again.

I stop to find a  
Fluffy black creature hiding, with  
Long thin ears  
Searching for noise.

I quietly watch it, so  
I don't alarm it.

I feel weary after running for so long,  
so  
I slowly lower my body to  
Sit, and rest.

I move my bare feet to  
Maintain balance, but a  
Branch is in my way  
Making a noise, and the creature  
Runs away alarmed.

I get up to try to run after it,  
But as I do, the creature disappears.

I hear noises behind me that I  
recognize,  
Then shouts, and I  
Run once more.

They start running too,  
But I had a head start.

I look back to see where they are,  
but  
I realize they are catching up,  
So I run as fast as my legs can take.

I pass a blur of colors trying to  
Outrun them.

Soon, I come across a green area  
with a steep edge, and  
No long, brown roots there.  
I try to run as fast, but the edges  
Start slowing me down.

I accidentally trip, fall, and they run  
over to me  
Making me scared of what happens  
next.