

# *Sketch*

---

*Volume 80, Number 2*

2017

*Article 18*

---

## Tier 4

Michelle Voelker\*

\*Iowa State University

Copyright ©2017 by the authors. *Sketch* is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).  
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch>

# Tier 4

*By Michelle Voelker*

Before today, you were all but too familiar.

From the moment I slipped into this place of respite,  
a hidden door in the labyrinth safe from the outbreak  
outside, I was saluted by musty, dusty air.

I walked down the aisles, thousands of bare spines  
lined up in perfect rows as far as the eye could see  
bound by the cloth of time and forgotten like prisoners  
of a war long ago.

For hours I sat alone, cowering in the corner over the  
shrapnel of volumes past.

Nothing but the tick-tock-tick-tock of the clock and the  
drone of the lights overhead to keep me company in the  
barracks of this dungeon.

All of this propaganda for dreams of a brighter future.