Before

Sarah Lyall*
Before
by Sarah Lyall

Before light-up sneakers glowed in the night
Before the AIDS epidemic
Before the Beatles invaded America
Before Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream
Before the Soviet’s sputnik
Before hula hoops twirled on hips
Before “In God we trust”
Before mushroom clouds filled the skies with smoke
Before Anne Frank scribbled softly in her diary
Before we went to motion pictures
Before we bought pre-sliced bread
Before the Wrights discovered flight
Before fluorescent lighting
Before we listened to the radio
Before Benz’s first automobile
Before Tesla and Edison warred over electricity
Before Darwin, Shakespeare, Columbus, and Plato
Before stones formed pyramids
Before a baby was born in a manger
Before the first wheel rolled
Before the first word was ever muttered
Before dinosaurs roamed the Earth
Before Pangea divided the continents
Before sediments laid the foundation on which we stand
Before fire burst into flame
Before water hit the shoreline
Before light
Before all that we know

There was darkness.
A blank slate, waiting to be filled.
A story, waiting to be created,
and this is the tale thus far.

Sarah Lyall graduated in the fall of 2017 with a major in English (creative writing emphasis) and a minor in Women’s Studies. She plans on taking a year off, and hopes to later continue her adventure at Iowa State University as a graduate student. In the mean time, she plans on catching up on the sleep that she missed out on as an undergraduate.