Mining For Menthol

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Cigarettes remind me of you. The menthol cloud mushrooms its way in my mouth and up my nose to give my brain a handshake before billowing out my ears its nicotine thoughts, an internal fight gone unfought.

Those nights we spent by the fire not a drag left untouched by your charcoaled lungs. There is such grace in your domino smoking demise, like a lighter-led ballet that my pink insides stumble, cough and wheeze to imitate.

Something you spoke, breathed, it’s what I wrote. My poems cloud, unfiltered, with those conversations where we learned more about ourselves than we did about each other. Only to leave me stale breath and even more bitter words.

Elizabeth Opie is a senior in English. The Des Moines native spent some time in Colorado before coming back to ISU. She loves English because she loves to write.