Happiness

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Trying to describe happiness is like trying to define water.

Moisture? Dew? Rain on a summer’s eve?

75% of our body weight?

70% of the earth’s surface? We are surrounded by water,

yet we cannot capture its essence in words. Plato would say lives in the ethers,

the true idea of wetness.

the perfect form of water

But day after day we are chained to the cave,

watching shadows
dance in the embers.

How can language evoke the cool flush

define how one look beyond the cave
gives the fettered prisoner a chance
to live

to live

Imelda Wistey is a senior from West Des Moines, Iowa, who graduated in May with a degree in English literature and a minor in classical studies. She will be attending graduate school this fall. When not working on homework, you can usually find Imelda splashing around in a pool or reading a good book outside when it’s a nice sunny day.