

## 6 AM

Everything is mechanical  
From the preset alarm of my phone  
Until the slam of the back door

But before the **alarm**, I can hear  
The creak of pipes in our old house  
And the roar of the neighbor's car  
And the television weatherman's extremely peppy voice  
**Am I the last one to awaken?**  
**Or....**

*Brrrrring!*  
Arise.  
Everything is mechanical  
No thinking allowed.

— Janel Brown, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade