

## on how only death can take away the impositions of society

And in the phony plastic world there lived a lonely plastic girl her plastic mouth ate plastic food and spoke her plastic attitude and plastic parents plastic friends would never let the story end her plastic death came suddenly a flaming plastic tragedy but none could save her plastic life not mother's rage nor surgeon's knife the plastic car and plastic train would never let her back again her plastic friends throughout their years stopped by to cry their plastic tears and in the silent plastic room there hung the plastic feel of doom the casket closed could not erase the plastic terror from her face and all the plastic guests could hear her plastic screams ring in their ears they could not hide could not escape her final plastic deadly fate they showered through the gloom above her memory with plastic love — But plastic guests with plastic tears and friends met throughout plastic years were never real enough to see the wooden coffin set her free.

Mim Kao (above) won the Sigma Tau Delta contest for best poem with "On how only death can take away the impositions of society." Kao says most of her poetry is either sad or sarcastic and is always about something that stirs up her emotions.

Society's games where people act fake are Kao's pet peeve. "The poem's about how sad it is that people can go through life being so fake," she says. More specifically, Kao says, the poem is about a girl she went to high school with who wore a Clinque counter's worth of make-up on her face.