

High School Writing Day 2009  
Found Poems from "The Kitchen Shears Speak" by Christianne Balk

**The Grudge**

The strangers slit the chicken's flesh  
with rigid hands.  
The joint stuck out through the head.  
I amputated from the back  
and separated the clawing arms.  
I can't break hold of the bent carrot or I die.  
I punished the cowards  
who slashed open everything.  
-West Platte High School

My heart must hold  
the unknown carrot  
and hide the lettuce I slice,  
what changed the chicken's wing  
into a rigid bone?  
I have thrown away flesh from winged fish.  
I forced one half a bird in my mouth.  
I know,  
I'm fat!  
-Maryville High School

**Caught**

Though trapped by rigid air,  
I uncouple prehistoric cowards  
gripped by hands  
one half bone, fossilized  
Again, forced the muscle to break away.  
Rusted like the joint,  
Made from unknown flesh,  
everything open.  
-Central High School

**Amputate Everything**

Strangers changed  
lettuce into muscle  
Rigid bone forced from fat itself:  
Close my eye; open my legs!  
Prehistoric Punished Pinions  
gripped slashed rose,  
bent the joint.  
STRIP!  
away the separate things!  
A fossilized, wings bird  
clawing through immobility.  
Break from fear  
and mouth rusted hearts.  
-Hannah, Ross, Sarah, Tyler, Seth, Elizabeth-Central  
High School

**The Grudge**

I'm the carrot with the  
rusted prehistoric chicken's  
fossilized bird  
This lettuce used from slashed  
fear from open arms  
One-half lizard punished  
severing eye from strangers  
gripped hands  
slit from clawing limb, separate  
mouth from head again!  
cowards amputate, slice  
flesh to die, though  
stuck immobile  
-MWSU English Majors

**Forced Throwback**

Strangers must amputate clawing fear  
immobile voice rose against the stone heart  
Slit, slice, clip  
being mostly changed  
punished itself  
-Central High School

**Coffeemate**

fish legs  
hold my unknown voice  
from trapped coffeemate  
what, this winged eye?  
clawing cowards/  
slashed one-half coffeemate  
strangers joint flesh  
gripped coffeemate  
  
carrot.  
-Park Hill High School

Amputated chickens  
thrown into a division  
fossilized by strangers  
forced to slit prehistoric  
fish. While, a rigid voice  
rose like a bear. Hands  
caught from being trapped.  
Clawing everything in  
fear from the carrot.  
-Shayne, Lauren, Amanda

While trapped fear fossilized,  
in my head,  
I'm made rigid.  
Unknown strangers punished,

rose again,  
Open arms hold everything,  
Changed heart.  
-Platte County High School