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Senior, English with Licensure to teach

Title: "As Grasshoppers"

Rationale:

This work was inspired by John Milton's ability to take biblical stories and expand on their feelings and struggles with great skill and care. Another feature heavily represented in the poem is how Milton could use these stories to talk about contemporary and historical events of importance. But more importantly, adding at times very deeply personal commentary on his own life and experiences. With this poem, I was hoping to emulate Milton's marriage of the divine, the contemporary, and the deeply personal laid bare to verse.

As Grasshoppers

"... and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

Numbers 13:33

And Ca'leb stood before.

Fist en-clenched assaulted the airwaves with his message

"Freedom and democracy"

"hearts and minds"

Weapons of mass destruction. A quiet unyielding anger.

Beating of the drum.

Hoshea stands and says the milk and honey

are not for us to take. Land, death stricken

the very earth swallows inhabitants,

soil fertilized by blood

wars we could not possibly understand.

Yet the cry stands, "we go forward to defend freedom"

an evolution of chants which fuels centuries of massive destruction.

Milk and honey they know not what to do with.

We must because it is us who are more able than they.

Devoured outcry, lives careened

as grasshoppers to the great war machine.