**Ones Who Dream**

I did not see them at first—

teaching lit, grammar—

except in speech class

the girl nearly broke down

each time she rose to speak.

Soaring, she took on drama.

*Here's to the ones who dream*

*Foolish as they may seem\**

She taught me attention,

to start seeing beneath

shaking hands, tremulous smiles

those too quiet, shaking;

those too loud, shouting—

visions stifled by terror,

passions cracked by rage.

*Here's to the hearts that ache*

*Here's to the mess we make\**

My heart had to expand

my eyes had to widen

to comprehend, nurture

these teenage dreamers

yet unsure of what to do

with all their imaginings.

*Here's to the ones who dream*

*Foolish as they may seem\**

 —Mary Lauck, 2018

*\* “Here's to the ones who dream
Foolish as they may seem*

*Here's to the hearts that ache
Here's to the mess we make”*

~from *”*Audition” in the movie *La La Land*

*composer Justin Hurwitz; lyricists Benj Pasek and Justin Paul*