

Second Place

Category: Writing - Poetry
Age Division: 15 and Under

A World of Its Own

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Bales of hay and bags of shavings are loaded into the trailer
As saddles and bridles are squeezed into the overloaded tack room.
Horses are so covered up in cloth and sheepskin; they couldn't look any paler,
While people passing by see the horse trailer, see the truck, and just assume.
Miles of deserted highway roads fill the long trip.
The horses grow restless in their claustrophobic trailer stall.
Only 50 more miles to go as the truck and trailer pass the closest township.
Getting up at dawn is the only horse show downfall.
Waking up at 5 a.m. to venture out in the dark to blindly braid a mane,
Or hauling over-filled water buckets for what feels like a mile
Are only some of things we do for our horses that others see as insane.
Dressage riders appear crazy, but horses aren't a hobby, to us, they're a lifestyle.